



THE HOUSEHOLD *of Faith*

A WORD FROM PASTOR MACK

Blessings to you, sisters and brothers in Christ at Lexington United Methodist Church! There have been some very wonderful happenings in our household of faith throughout the past year, with even more to come in 2024! As we receive our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Meegian Gossard, I want to thank all who have made it possible to continue our ministry so successfully for almost six months without an Associate Pastor in 2023.

It could have been very difficult for me as a single pastor in such a busy, active church, but many people stepped forward to help in big ways. My sincere thanks especially to our Children’s Pastor, Heather Connor, our Youth Pastor, Todd Handell, and our Business Administrator, Diane Crosby for helping to shoulder all that had to be done since June of 2023.

Also sincere thanks to our SPRC Chair Bill Dunnagan in helping conduct interviews of prospective candidates. Every leader of our church helped me in wonderful ways, and I am very grateful.

Please join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 as we welcome Rev. Meegian Gossard in Wesley Hall at 5pm for dinner and a chance to become acquainted! (See page 3 for RSVP details.)

May God continue to smile upon our church and community in all that we do together!

God bless you all,

Rev. Mack McDowell

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come: The
old has gone, the new is here!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MEEGIAN



Hello Lexington UMC!

I'm looking forward to serving as your new Associate Pastor. One of my favorite things about being a UMC Pastor is the opportunity to spend a season with a congregation. As we walk through life together throughout this season, we'll experience highs and lows. It is an honor and privilege to share life and ministry with all of you. We'll learn more about each other throughout our time together. To start, here are the top ten things to know about me.

1. My parents created my name because my mother's side of the family is Norwegian, and my dad's side is German. When they were thinking about having children, they wondered what a little "Germeegian" would look like. Thankfully, they settled on Meegian.
2. I heard the call to ministry when I was 17 years old. I was youth president and preached a sermon for Youth Sunday. As I walked down the aisle after the service, I felt that God was calling me into ministry.
3. I'm from Aiken, SC, 31 years old, an only child, and my birthday is February 3rd.
4. When I was sophomore in high school I participated in a Chrysalis Flight at LUMC.
5. I received my undergraduate degree from Clemson University. I attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University for seminary.
6. I started pastoral ministry in 2017. My first appointment was serving as the Associate Pastor at Lyttleton Street UMC in Camden.
7. I love being the Associate Pastor because I can provide support for the Senior Pastor and sometimes take some things off their plate.
8. My father is retired and still lives in Aiken. My mother passed away in 2015.
9. I'm more of an indoor person than an outside person. I enjoy crafting, watching TV and movies, going out for coffee or a meal, and hanging out with friends and family.
10. Right now, I live in Northeast Columbia. I'm planning to move to the Lexington area once the lease for my apartment is up in June (mostly because I don't want to deal with the commute on I-20 while I'm at LUMC, haha).

In conclusion, this new season or chapter of LUMC's story is starting. I'm excited to walk along with you, Mack, and the staff during this journey. If you would like to contact me, my cell number is 803-507-4549 and my email is magossard@umcsc.org.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Meegian Gossard



Church News

January Worship Schedule

In January, we will return to our regular weekly worship schedule. We offer four weekly worship services along with other opportunities to engage in God's Word in community with others.

SUNDAYS

- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship – Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship – Wesley Hall (Gym)

TUESDAYS

- 6:30 PM Traditional Worship – Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Zoom Bible Study
Join Pastor Mack for his weekly Bible study series based on the scripture readings for the week.

Mid-Week Meal

Join us once a month on Wednesday Nights for a Mid-week meal. The meal will be catered so you must RSVP to attend. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to RSVP. The meals will take place on the following dates:



January 10th
5:00 PM

February 7th
5:00 PM

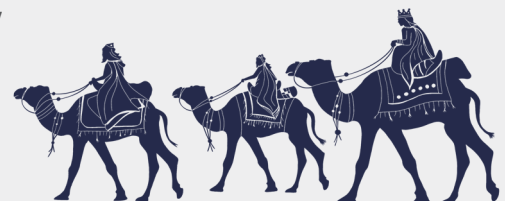
March 13th
5:00 PM

LUMC 175th Anniversary & Homecoming Celebration

Lexington United Methodist Church was established in 1850. In 2025, we will celebrate 175 years of living God's Word and sharing God's love. To celebrate the rich history and growth of Lexington United Methodist Church over the years, we will celebrate with a special Homecoming event. Mark your calendars for this momentous occasion on **Sunday, September 7th, 2025.**

EPIPHANY & BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

Epiphany – also known as Three Kings' Day – is a Christian feast day which falls on **January 6th**. It is a special date for many Christians as it's when people celebrate how a star led the Magi – also known as the Three Kings or the Wise Men – to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born. In 2024, Baptism of Our Lord will be celebrated on January 7th, the first Sunday after Epiphany. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal'. In this season, we celebrate when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world while reflecting on the affirmation of Jesus' nature as fully human and fully divine at his baptism.



Children's Ministry

LUMC promises to surround our children with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. Our intention is to minister to the needs of all children and provide them with a caring community where they may be nurtured in a dignified and loving manner. For all the latest info regarding upcoming events, visit lexumcsc.com/childrens-ministry.

KidzWay (3k - 2nd) & Breakout (3rd - 5th)

Children meet for KidzWay & Breakout for a time of play, creativity, wonder, and growing together in God. Parents are asked to drop off children at the playground.

Jan. 7th NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Jan. 14th NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Jan. 21st **The Giving Snowman & Alpaca Project – 5 to 6:30 PM**

There are many ways to give back and share God's love with others. Children will be making fleece scarves to contribute to the Alpaca Shoebox program ([read more on page 7](#)). Snacks provided.

Jan. 28th **International LEGO Day – 5 to 6:30 PM**

What does LEGO have to do with the Bible? Children will explore this idea and engage in LEGO play time. Snacks provided.

Children's Christmas Program

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 2023 Children's Christmas Program, *The Mysterious Animal*, possible: Lessie Polk, Candance Craig, Justin Craig, Katy Handell, Craig Ness, and all our weekly volunteers, plus the grownups who got their kids to rehearsals each week.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteers are needed to help support our Children's Ministry programs. Click the titles or scan the QR codes to sign up.

**Children's
Sunday School**
Adults with Safe
Sanctuary Training



**KidzWay &
Breakout**
Adults with Safe
Sanctuary Training



Acolytes
for Traditional
Services





The Youth Ministry at Lexington United Methodist Church seeks to serve all students in grades 6th through 12th grade. For all the latest info regarding upcoming events, scan the QR code to view the [monthly youth newsletter](#) or visit [lexumcsc.com/student-ministry](https://www.lexumcsc.com/student-ministry).



EXTREME Winter Kickoff

Sunday, January 21st – 5 to 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall

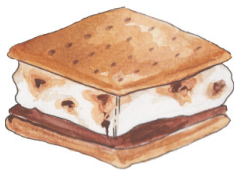
Youth are kicking off Sunday nights for the Winter semester. Things will get EXTREME...



Winter Retreat D.U.D.

Friday, January 26th to Saturday, January 27th | Lexington, SC

For the 2024 Winter Retreat, the youth aren't going anywhere! They are Doing Unknown Destinations (D.U.D.) with surprise activities all around Lexington, SC. This is going to be one Dazzling, Unique, Delightful D.U.D. of a youth retreat! Cost will be \$50 per student. Sign up to attend at the link in the [youth newsletter](#).



Sunday S'mores

Sunday, January 28th – 5 to 6:30 PM | The Thain Home

Let's have s'more fun! Youth will gather at Rick and Stephanie Thain's home for s'mores around the fire pit and fellowship together.



PICTURED ABOVE - Youth Christmas Party: Youth and Adult Volunteers had a wonderful time sharing a potluck meal, swapping gifts with a White Elephant gift exchange, and playing games to bid on & win prizes in Christmas Bag Bonanza.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

If your student is in 8th grade or above and hasn't completed confirmation class, then now is the time to sign up. Classes will begin late January and confirmation Sunday will take place early May. If your student wants to participate, or you want to learn more about the confirmation process, please email **Todd** at todd@lexumcsc.com.



Adult Ministries

LEXINGTON METHODIST WOMEN

Winter Tea

Sunday, January 7th – 2 to 4 PM | Asbury Hall

All women of the church are invited to enjoy some refreshments, tea and fellowship with the Lexington Methodist Women. No RSVP required, just show up!



The Shepherd's Center of Lexington's mission is to provide older adults (55+) with opportunities to be engaged with each other and their community by offering a variety of social, service, and life-long learning activities.



The Four Pillars: A Special Program

Thursday, January 25th – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM | Lexington United Methodist Church

Cost: \$10 & 1 canned good for Mission Lexington's Food Pantry



The Shepherd's Center of Lexington Board of Directors has been working on a strategic plan, a renewed vision, and mission and we are excited to share them with you during this program. The four focal points to both are GROW, LEARN, CONNECT, and SERVE. Similarly, in retirement some consider there to be four pillars: HEALTH, FINANCES, FAMILY, and PURPOSE. With these pillars in mind, we offer you this one-day special program.

To learn more about the event and view the agenda, [visit the Shepherd's Center website at www.sclcx.org](http://www.sclcx.org) or scan the QR code. To register, print out [this form](#) and return with your payment to the location listed on the form.

Adventures in Learning Winter Session

6-Week Session on Thursdays Beginning February 15th | Lexington United Methodist Church

Adventures in Learning offers college-type classes and cultural enrichment. Each session is developed by a local committee of Shepherd's Center volunteers and led by class instructors who themselves are mostly retired older adults or community experts who bring their special interests and backgrounds to enrich lives and keep minds strong and vibrant. These outstanding courses and topics are coupled with unforgettable content and camaraderie.

Booklets for the Winter 2024 session will be mailed and posted on the [Shepherd's Center website at www.sclcx.org](http://www.sclcx.org) in mid-January.



Outreach Opportunities

ALPACA SHOEBOX



The Alpaca Shoebox (I'll pack a shoebox) program supports Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child mission. The shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies are shipped to local partners around the world to give to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease as a means of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to the generous support of church members, in 2023 **Lexington United Methodist Church** was able to collect enough items and funds to pack 150 boxes and pay for shipping expenses (\$10 per box; \$1500 total). Thank you to all who donated items, purchased soup from the fundraiser in October, and helped us pack shoeboxes (LUMC Children's Ministry and LUM Preschool).

We ask for your continued support in 2024 through your prayers, your gifts, and your service. To support this outreach ministry you can make a donation by putting "Alapaca Shoebox" on the memo line or by placing donated items on the collection cart in the main hallway. Contact [Trudy Huffstetler](#) or [Vicki Boylston](#) with any questions.



The packed shoeboxes were placed on the altar to be prayed over before being mailed.



LUM Preschool helping pack shoeboxes.



Mazlyn Davis collected items for Alpaca Shoebox for her birthday party.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 22nd – 2 to 7 PM | Asbury Hall

Each pint of blood the American Red Cross collects can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community. Donors can sign up [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.



BLESSING BOX

There are many people in our community who benefit from items placed in the Blessing Box. The box is regularly restocked by committed volunteers, but we need your help keeping it filled so we continue to bless all God's children.

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Vienna Sausages
- Tuna Packets
- Canned Spaghetti



Memorials, Honorariums & Birthdays

MEMORIALS

Lois Vanderstelt

Terry & Daisy Hicks

Cynthia Satcher

Robert & Kelly Satcher & family
Brian & Tammie Amick

David Teague

Michael Lewis
Scotty & Debbie Bell

Wade Jackson

Mary Hazelton

Bob & May Ackerman

David & Cheryl Ballentine

May Ackerman

Charlie & Jo Mayer
Otis & Melissa Rawl
Hugh & Maro Rogers
John & Joyce Bumgarner
Jim & Connie Brock

Jim Athey

Cherie Bowers
Linda Gladden
Terry & Daisy Hicks
Ben Satcher, Jr.
Janet Tarbox
Becky Falls
John & Joyce Bumgarner
Don Bickel
Jim & Connie Brock
Kerry McDonald

HONORARIUMS

Mary Brasche, Raye, & Coco

Kevin & Lee Brasche

Suzanna Wesley Circle

Bobbie Athey

LUMC's New Members

Church Congregation

The Bodie Family

Pat Riley

John & Joyce Bumgarner

Jamie & Jenny Bumgarner

BIRTHDAYS

1/1

Tracy Steele
Julia Johnson
Larry Hayes
Mark Edmonds
Chris Stanford

1/2

Jim Gregory Jr.
Shelley Lyles
Gaines Roberts
Tamara Selzer
Arlo Lehman

1/4

Jerry Gatch
Mike Gatch
David Ropp Jr.
Beth Keith
Swapna Kumar

1/5

Berniece Phillips
Judi Powell
Jennifer Stevenson
Amit Kumar
Elizabeth Denson
Bradley Dargan Gore

1/7

Barney Williams
Ken Fentress

1/8

Dylan Kicklighter
Pam Hayes
Zackery Moats

1/9

Adam Backman
Matt Cooper
Will Copeland
Brooks Torbett
Chuck Crouch Jr.

1/10

Brent Hawkins
Ava Blume

1/11

Tim Groves
Adam Howard
Amy Cook
DeSean Keefer Logan
Brynn Hahne
Alice Young

1/12

Joel Gonzalez
Taylor Young Jr.
Brian Dunbar
Todd Carroll
Jenilee Armstrong

1/13

Caroline Taylor
Dana Tucker
Lori Fite Rose
David Morris
Paxton Knight Cunningham
Jonathan Wojtylak

1/14

Spencer Brooks
Ashley Thompkins

1/15

Troy Rivers
Linda Hyde

1/16

Samantha Kibler
Molly Laurence
Harley Britner
Maeve Larion

1/17

Llora Miller

1/18

Ashley Culley
Wanda Pettus
Dan Osborne

1/19

Nelson Spence
Brandon Roshto

1/20

Margaret Oswald
Kristi Fogle
Thomas Leonard

1/21

Jennifer Stanford
Alice Hott
Lurene Carlson
Mary Dawkins Merrell

1/22

Barbara Booth
Lori Torbett
Lilly Groves

1/23

Michael Wessinger
Margie Spence
Beth Altenberg
Cora Field
Jessica Gore

1/24

Robyne Gross
Celeste Burner
Vince Clayton

1/25

Linda Gladden
Jim Kruger
Anna Armstrong

1/26

Becky McCormack
Richard Hendrick
Traywick Duffie
Doris Frye
Katelyn Turner
Mike Johnson
Brian Hahne

1/27

Maree Gilliam
Pat O'Cain

1/28

David Davison
Andy Preston Jr.

1/29

Tracy Howard

1/30

Dan Brailsford
Tobi Harmon
Erin Cogswell
Bette McKenney
Sara Stone
Olivia Robinson
Jaimee O'Neal

1/31

Russell Cammann
Victoria Wahl



Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED PRESCHOOL OUT 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class	2 PRESCHOOL OUT 11:00am -12:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm -3:00pm LRE Lexington Reaching Everyone 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:00pm -7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 2375-Leah Smith	3 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	4 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards	5 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:30pm Worship Band Practice	6
7 8:30am -9:30am Traditional Worship Svc 9:30am -9:45am Coffee Fellowship Time 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00am -12:00pm Contemporary Worship Svc 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship Svc 2:00pm -4:00pm LUMW Winter Tea	8 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Preschool Dance	9 9:30am -11:30am Cards R Us card making 11:00am -12:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Svc 7:00pm -8:00pm Troop 507 Scout Mtgs. 7:30pm -8:30pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	10 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 5:00pm -7:00pm Mid-Week Meal-Welcome to Our New Associate Pastor 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	11 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards 6:15pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop #2207 6:30pm -7:30pm Pack 507 Den Meetings	12 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:30pm Worship Band Practice	13
14 8:30am -9:30am Traditional Worship Svc 9:30am -9:45am Coffee Fellowship Time 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00am -12:00pm Contemporary Worship Svc 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship Svc 3:00pm -4:00pm Emmaus Reunion Group	15 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Preschool Dance	16 11:00am -12:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm -3:00pm LRE-Lexington Reaching Everyone 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:00pm -7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 2375-Leah Smith 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Svc 7:00pm -8:00pm Troop 507 Scout Mtgs. 7:30pm -8:30pm Questers Group 7:30pm -8:30pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	17 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	18 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards	19 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:30pm Worship Band Practice	20
21 8:30am -9:30am Traditional Worship Svc 9:30am -9:45am Coffee Fellowship Time 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00am -12:00pm Contemporary Worship Svc 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship Svc 3:45pm -4:45pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm -6:30pm KidsWay/BreakOut/Youth-Winter Kickoff	22 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Preschool Dance 2:00pm -7:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	23 10:30am -12:00pm Suzanna Wesley Circle 11:00am -12:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Svc 7:00pm -8:00pm Troop 507 Scout Mtgs. 7:30pm -8:30pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	24 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	25 9:30am -3:00pm Shepherd's Center Educational Event with Lunch 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards 6:15pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop #2207 6:30pm -7:30pm Pack 507 Den Meetings	26 Youth Winter Retreat-Lexington, SC 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:30pm Worship Band Practice	27 Youth Winter Retreat-Lexington, SC
28 8:30am -9:30am Traditional Worship Svc 9:30am -9:45am Coffee Fellowship Time 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00am -12:00pm Contemporary Worship Svc 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship Svc 5:00pm -6:30pm KidsWay/BreakOut/Youth-Smores at the Thain's	29 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Preschool Dance	30 11:00am -12:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:00pm -7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 2375-Leah Smith 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Svc 7:00pm -8:00pm Troop 507 Scout Mtgs. 7:30pm -8:30pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	31 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice			





Lexington

United Methodist Church
309 E Main Street | Lexington, SC 29072

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

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Mark 1: 7-11 (NRSV) John proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."