



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 your household of faith throughout the year 2024! I have been very blessed and happy to share with you in all that we have done together in the mission and ministry of Jesus! And now, in our last month of this year we are looking forward to wonderful Christmas festivities as a church, including our Children’s Pageant, Christmas Cantata, Moravian Love Feast, and Christmas Eve services.

So I want to take this opportunity to thank you for letting me worship alongside you as your pastor. The Lord has truly gifted me to share in all that you do, and there is no other place I would rather be, than right here with each one of you. You have continued blessing the community as hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and I look forward to our fellowship together. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a very blessed New Year. May God continue to smile upon our church and community in all that we do together!

God bless you all!

Rev. Mack McDowell



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Church News

Advent Worship Schedule & Events

Sun, Dec. 1st **First Sunday of Advent**

9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Blended Worship Service | Sanctuary

Sat, Dec. 7th **Blue Christmas Service – 3 PM | Sanctuary**

In the midst of all the wonder, joy, and celebration of Christmas, it's easy to forget that there are people for whom the idea of Christmas joy is not part of the season. Our Blue Christmas Worship Service provides a safe space for worship, honoring our grief and lament while praising God for His love, hope, and light that are still with us in our darkest times. Come as you are; dress is casual.

Sun, Dec. 8th **Second Sunday of Advent**

9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Blended Worship Service, Children's Christmas Pageant | Sanctuary

Sun, Dec. 15th **Third Sunday of Advent**

9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Blended Worship Service, Chancel Choir Cantata | Sanctuary

Sat, Dec. 21st **Advent Spiral Walk – 5 to 7 PM | Wesley Hall (Gym)**

A Spiral Walk is a calm, quiet walking path similar to a labyrinth, just simplified. You are invited to visit the four reflection stations and enjoy the candlelit spiral walk.

Sun, Dec. 22nd **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Blended Worship Service | Sanctuary
6:30 PM Moravian Love Feast | Sanctuary

The Moravian Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ. It is celebrated during the Advent Season with lessons, carols, music, and the sharing of buns and hot chocolate.

Tues, Dec. 24th **Christmas Eve**

4:30 PM Candlelight Worship Service | Sanctuary
7 PM Candlelight Worship Service | Sanctuary

Sun, Dec. 29th **First Sunday After Christmas Day**

9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Blended Worship Service | Sanctuary





Christmas Eve Nursery Workers Needed

We are in need of four Safe Sanctuary trained volunteers, two per service, to work in the nursery during our Christmas Eve services (December 24th, 4:30 & 7 PM). If you are able to help with one or both services, please contact [Heather Connor](#).

Maintenance Crew Members Needed

Like every property, our church is in need of regular repairs and upkeep especially as it begins to show its age. To support this need and offset upkeep costs, we are assembling a maintenance crew to help with smaller jobs such as spreading pine straw, pressure washing, trimming bushes and trees, installing door closures and knobs, small electrical jobs, and the occasional setup for special events. If you would be willing to volunteer as needs arise, please contact [Diane Crosby](#). All talents are welcome and cost of supplies will be covered by the church. Thank you for your helpfulness!



Coffee Time Refreshments

Due to the adjusted worship schedule for December, there will be no Coffee Time. Coffee Time will return as regularly scheduled in January with refreshments provided by the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Sunday School class. If your class or group would like to help in another month, please contact **Wendi Walsh** at 803-622-7053.

Special Kitchen Notice

As a reminder, please check behind yourself when taking items out of the fridge or freezers at the church to ensure the door fully closes. In November, a freezer door in the back storage area of the kitchen was found ajar and everything in the freezer was lost. If you had items in this freezer for a future event, please know it has been thrown away.

THE HOUSEHOLD *of Faith*

Do you have content you would like included in the Household of Faith?

Please contact Kaitlyn Handell at obrien.kaitlynm@gmail.com or 864-752-5627 by **December 16th** with any information you wish to be included in the next issue of the Household of Faith.



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.

Nursery (infant - 2k)

Nursery services are offered for infants and toddlers during the Sunday School period (beginning at 9:45 AM) through the end of the 11AM services. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Connor.



Children's Christmas Program

Dress Rehearsals: Sun, Dec. 1st – 5 to 6:30 PM & Sat, Dec. 7th – 9 to 11 AM
Performance: Sunday, Dec. 8th – 10 AM, Call Time – 9 AM

All children are invited to participate in this year's Children's Christmas program, A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant, by joining for rehearsals in the sanctuary in lieu of Sunday School on December 1st and 8th.

Sunday School (3k - 5th)

We offer Sunday School programming for children from 3k through 5th grade. Gather at the purple awning room at 9:45 for music time with Ms. Lessie followed by a Bible lesson and other activities. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Connor.


LESSON TOPICS

Dec 1st	Christmas Program Practice
Dec 8th	Christmas Program Practice
Dec 15th	From the Manger Advent Study
Dec 22nd	From the Manger Advent Study
Dec 29th	From the Manger Advent Study

Sunday Evening Programming (3k - 5th)

Children meet for KidzWay (3k - 2nd and 3rd - 5th) for a time of play, creativity, wonder, and growing together in God. Parents are asked to drop off children at the playground.

Dec 1st **NO REGULAR PROGRAMMING**
Christmas Program Rehearsal – 5 to 6:30 PM

Dec 8th
 **Gingerbread Houses – 5 to 6:30 PM**
Children and their grownup are invited to decorate a gingerbread house to take home. Please RSVP [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to ensure we purchase enough supplies.

Dec 15th **Christmas Movie Night – 5 to 7 PM**
Children are invited for a movie and popcorn in Asbury Hall. Wear your PJs!

Dec 22nd **NO REGULAR PROGRAMMING**
Moravian Love Feast – 6:30 PM

Dec 29th **NO PROGRAMMING**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

Sunday Morning Programming
Adults with Safe Sanctuary Training



Sunday Evening Programming
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.



Christmas Game Night

Sunday, December 8th – 5 to 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall (Gym)

The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is by playing Christmas games for all to hear! The youth are invited for an evening full of Christmas games with some fun prizes for the merriest of the bunch.



Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15th – 5 to 7 PM | Wesley Hall (Gym)

It's all fun and games for the youth Christmas party! Youth will test their luck in games of chance for Todd's infamous Christmas Bag Bonanza and exchange gifts for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Sign up to bring a dish for the potluck at the link in the [youth newsletter](#).



Volunteers Needed for the Moravian Love Feast

Sunday, December 22nd – 6:30 PM | Sanctuary

Each year, youth and children help serve the bread and hot chocolate for the Moravian Love Feast. Volunteer servers are asked to arrive approximately 45 min. early (around 5:45 PM) wearing white dresses or white shirts with dark (navy or black) pants or skirts. Please contact **Katy Handell** at 803-917-9864 or if your student would like to serve.



2025 Winter Retreat – Register Now!

January 17-20 – Garden City Chapel | Cost: \$175

Youth are headed to Garden City Chapel for Winter Retreat 2025! We will have a weekend full of winter activities, some of which won't be revealed until we arrive to keep an element of surprise! Students will also spend time growing together and with God. Registration is now open at the link in the [youth newsletter](#).

VOLUNTEERS – NEEDED –

Adults and parents – your help is needed for Sunday night Youth programming! We still have several weeks where we need a volunteer to help run activities and, on some weeks, provide a snack. Find the sign up in the [youth newsletter](#) to see what weeks still need to be filled.



Adult Ministries

Prime Timers Annual Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 3rd – 11:00 AM | Country Club of Lexington, Cost: \$19



Prime Timers is a ministry at Lexington United Methodist Church for persons 50 years of age and older as well as for others who enjoy participating in these activities. The group will gather for their annual Christmas Luncheon at Country Club of Lexington on Tuesday, December 3rd. Lunch is \$19 per person and includes choice of club sandwich plate, chicken salad plate, or roast beef plate. Please contact **Linda Gladden** at 803-359-6263 to make your reservation. Payment is requested at time of reservation.

G.A.L.S. Widows' Support Group Lunch

Tues, Dec. 17th – 11:30 AM | Mediterranean Cafe, 326 W Main St.

God's Amazing Love Sustains (G.A.L.S.) is a support group for widows. The support group meets the third Tuesday of every month at a local restaurant for lunch and a time of fellowship. For December, the group will gather at Mediterranean Cafe. For questions or to RSVP, contact **Linda Gladden** at 803-920-0114.



Weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every Wednesday – 6:30 to 7:30 AM | Asbury Hall

On Wednesday mornings, the men of the church gather together for a time of prayer while enjoying a continental-style breakfast. All men of the church are invited to join for this time of fellowship and prayer. Contact **Tim Chandler** if you have any questions.

Lexington Methodist Women's Winter Tea

Sunday, January 5th – 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. Guests are encouraged to come in their tea time attire; fancy hats will be provided. No RSVP required.



NEW Craft-a-Card Ministry

Thursday, January 14th – 1 to 3 PM | Craft Room below Wesley Hall

LUMC is starting a new ministry to create homemade greeting cards. These cards can go a long way in comforting those who are sick or grieving, celebrating a joyous occasion, or simply sharing God's love with our church family. This ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month. For questions or additional information, contact **Donna Dunnagan** at dunnagans@yahoo.com or 803-479-9290.



Outreach

Collect Items for the Holiday Food Drive

Join Mission Lexington as they collect items for the annual Holiday Food Drive! Collect the items listed below and return directly to Mission Lexington (216 Harmon Street) or place in the cart in the main hallway outside Pastor Mack's office. This is a fun way to teach your kids the importance of helping others in need! Any brand is acceptable, but please no glass containers.

- \$10 Gift Card (for ham or turkey)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Collards or Turnips (NOT Green Beans)
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed Stuffing Mix
- Boxed Cornbread Mix
- Gravy Mix Packet
- Brownie Mix



Mission Lexington assists families and individuals with life essentials (food, clothing, shelter), resources, and guidance. They offer a thriving thrift store, food pantry, mobile food pantry, donation center, social services, and administration offices. To learn more about the many services Mission Lexington offers, visit them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) or at their offices at 216 Harmon Street in downtown Lexington. **Mission of Mission Lexington, in the spirit of Matthew 25:40: "Glorifying God by serving our neighbors in crisis."**



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, December 2nd – 1 to 6 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.



Growing Needs for Snack Sack Ministry

As the holidays approach, Snack Sack is now providing meals to over 700 (and growing) students each week of the school year. These students are in 10 schools across Lexington Districts One, Two and Three and our mission is to ensure they have food to eat at home over weekends and holidays. As the weather gets colder, the number of students served will likely continue to grow and your support will be essential to sustain the additional needs. If any individual or group would like to volunteer with meal packing or distribution efforts for Snack Sack, please contact [Rick Cunningham](#). Monetary donations are also needed to support this important ministry!



Drink Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House

Children's Ministry is joining with The Shepherd's Center in collecting drink tabs for Ronald McDonald House. **Children** - bring your tabs to Sunday evening programming. **Congregation** - You're invited to drop your tabs in the box outside Heather's office.



Memorials, Honorariums & Birthdays

NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Dickman

113 Edinburgh Way
Lexington, SC 29072

Isabella Castilla

309 Plymouth Pass Drive
Lexington, SC 29072

John & Brenda Stevens

128 Rustic Crossing
Lexington, SC 29073

The Moore Family

Jake & Missy Moore with
children Jake & Calahan
2510 Cedar Grove Road
Leesville, SC 29070

BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Tracy Rowe
Kris Cato

12/2 Carolyn Johnson
Matt Maxwell

12/4 Cindy Bowman
Sutton Sinclair

12/5 Angie Cunningham
Deryl Barr
Sammie Brown

12/6 Jason Fortenberry
Bruce Fogle
Matt Cunningham
Ginny Kurtz
Barbara Bodie
Nicole Hayes
Vivian Robbins
Brad Montgomery

12/7 Meghan Field
Louis DeBruhl Jr.
Kathryn Duffie
Everette Denny
MyKenzie Britner

12/8 Todd Taylor
David Reynolds II
Gralynn Roberts
Michael Logan

12/9 Cody Turner

12/10 Alison Davison
Debra Lyles
Todd Brandes
Candance Craig

12/11 Jack Young
Brice Parnell
Olivia Grace O'Neal
Idris Kukuman

12/12 Donna Dunnagan
Craig Powell
Trish Palmer
Maddie Masters
Emma Masters
Kristen Richardson-Frick

12/13 Stephanie Loadholt
Charlie Robbins Jr.

12/15 Cameron Rainey
Ann Childers
Lois Stuber
Deanna McGee

12/16 Melanie Anderson
Steve Burnett

12/17 Kitty Spence
Kirk Lehman

12/18 Matthew Bowman
Kevin McGee
Cameron Smith
Eric Owens
Elijah Stewart

12/19 Edens Baker
Adam Britner

12/20 Vonnie Folk
Cliff Rivers Jr.
Edie Beckum

12/21 Douglas Crossman
Jenny Culler

12/22 Ann Cimburke
Summer Edwards
Sandra Young

12/23 Ruth Murphy
Donna Bashline

12/24 Donald Bickel
Joseph Whetstone
Luanne Brabham

12/25 Lily Laffin

12/26 Cam Hakim
Zoe Trezise Ayers
Jackson Goldsmith
Mack Blume
William Vernon

12/27 Barry Keith
Don Myers
Treislyn Davis
Penny Wilso
Jill Kunkle

12/28 Kimball Harrison Jr.
Zach Rankin
Levy Rogers Jr.
Sarah McKnight
Taylor Stevenson
Lorri Johnson

12/29 Mike Gregory
Sutton Betcher

12/30 Mary Corley
Ken Parnell
Colin Martin
Briggs Johnson
Conner O'Neal

12/31 Pat Smiley
Chris Bussell



Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
1 9:00am -9:45am Christmas Pageant Practice 9:00am -9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am -11:00am Blended Worship Service 5:00pm -6:30pm Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	2 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Kelly's Gymnastics 1:00pm -6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting	3 10:00am -11:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am -12:00pm Prime Timers Luncheon 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 2375 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Service 7:00pm -8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 507 7:00pm -8:00pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	4 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	5 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards	6 9:00am -11:00am Shepherd's Center Board Meeting 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:00pm Worship Band Practice	7 9:00am -11:00am Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 3:00pm -4:00pm Blue Christmas 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting
8 9:00am -9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am -11:00am Blended Worship Service-Christmas Pageant 5:00pm -7:00pm Gingerbread Houses 5:00pm -6:30pm Youth Group-Christmas Game Night	9 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Kelly's Gymnastics 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting	10 10:00am -11:00am Staff Meeting 11:30am -1:30pm Suzanna Wesley Circle Christmas Party 1:00pm -3:00pm Build a Card Ministry 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Service 7:00pm -8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 507 7:00pm -8:00pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	11 6:30am -7:30am Men's Weds. AM Group 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm -8:30pm Questers Group	12 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-Bears Pack Meetings	13 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:00pm Worship Band Practice	14 10:00am -11:00am Book Club 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting
15 9:00am -9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am -11:00am Blended Worship Service-Cantata 5:00pm -7:00pm Christmas Movie Night 5:00pm -7:00pm Youth Christmas Party	16 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 11:00am -2:00pm Preschool Teacher's Luncheon 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Kelly's Gymnastics 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting	17 10:00am -11:00am Staff Meeting 11:30am -1:30pm G.A.L.S.-God's Amazing Love Sustains 2:00pm -3:00pm LRE-Lexington Reaching Everyone 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 2375 6:30pm -7:30pm Tuesday Evening Service 7:00pm -8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 507 7:00pm -8:00pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	18 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class	19 9:00am -12:00pm Preschool 5 day 4's Christmas Party 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards 6:00pm -8:00pm Girl Scout Unit 648	20 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:00pm Worship Band Practice	21 5:00pm -7:00pm Spiral Walk 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting
22 9:00am -9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am -11:00am Blended Worship Service 5:30pm -6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm -7:30pm Moravian Love Feast	23 PRESCHOOL OUT 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting	24 CHRISTMAS EVE - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED, PRESCHOOL OUT 4:30pm -5:30pm Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 6:30pm -7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm -8:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED, PRESCHOOL OUT	26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED, PRESCHOOL OUT 10:00am -11:30am Line Dancing 2:00pm -4:30pm Prime Timers Cards	27 PRESCHOOL OUT 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 6:30pm -8:00pm Worship Band Practice	28 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting
29 9:00am -9:45am Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am -11:00am Blended Worship Service	30 PRESCHOOL OUT 10:30am -11:30am Exercise Class 12:00pm -1:00pm Amazing Athletes 12:00pm -1:00pm Kelly's Gymnastics 7:00pm -8:00pm AA Meeting	31 PRESCHOOL OUT 10:00am -11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm -6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm -8:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 507 7:00pm -8:00pm Zoom with Pastor Mack	<p><i>Click here or scan the QR code for the most current event calendar.</i></p> 			





Lexington

United Methodist Church

309 E Main Street | Lexington, SC 29072

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. James McDowell, Senior Pastor jsmcdowell@umcsc.org | Cell: 803-719-0559
- Rev. Meegian Gossard, Associate Pastor magossard@umcsc.org | Cell: 803-507-4549
- Heather Connor, Children's Pastor heather@lexumcsc.com
- Todd Handell, Youth Pastor todd@lexumcsc.com
- Diane Crosby, CUMCA, Administrator dcrosby@lexumcsc.com
- Sunshine Tucker, Preschool Director sunshine@lexumcsc.com
- Bonnie Pruitt, Director, Chancel Choir bonniepruittlexumc@gmail.com
- Lessie Polk, Director, Children's & Youth Choirs lespolk@aol.com
- Taylor Glomb, Organist trglomb@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH US



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Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.