

Community News

At the crossroads... where the cross meets the community



Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church
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April 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK

LAY SERVANTS FOR APRIL

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

252 BASICS

BIBLE BLACK BELT

YOUTH EVENTS

FAMILY MINISTRY EVENT

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

ECUADOR UPDATE

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

RIVER OF LIFE

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED METHODIST MEN

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

YOUNG AT HEART

CONNECT WITH LEADERSHIP

COMING UP

Beth's Blessings

After winter resurging with a vengeance in March, we are ready for spring to bring on the blue skies, green grass, baby animals, and flowering plants and trees...even if we have to slosh through "April showers" to get there. This year, the church season of Lent spans the month of March and continues into April until Easter Sunday on April 16. The term *lent* comes from the Old English, *lencten*, which means spring. So the church's celebration of the high holy and festival day of Easter coincides with the spring season of the earth, bursting forth with new life after winter's hibernation. During Lent, our souls also go through a clearing season, preparing for the flourishing of joy in Jesus' bursting forth from the tomb. Easter's resurrection is such a flowering of life for all creation, the eternal fruit of God's love.

God's desire for creation's salvation is for our flourishing in the enjoyment of a beautiful garden, always fragrant and verdant with life. Genesis describes our very beginning with God happening in a garden - *The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.* (Genesis 1:12). It's a lovely beginning, sadly marred and scarred by our failure to tend, care for, and truly appreciate the gift of such a life-giving garden.

In a beloved scene from the musical, Mary Poppins, (which we look forward to enjoying together on April 30) Mary, Bert, and the Banks children take a hopeful hop into some chalk art drawings in the park. Their vision of the whole world and themselves suddenly transforms with a wash of vibrant color, sound, and dance through the verdant rolling hills of flowering trees, birds, and butterflies. It's all accompanied by a giddy whistling and singing - *When the day is grey and ordinary, Mary makes the sun shine bright! Oh, happiness is bloomin' all around her. The daffodils are smiling at the doves....* It's a magical, 1963 technicolor vision of joy sweeping over all creation, bringing wholeness, happiness, and bright hope for the future. That is the feeling of Easter! That is God's desire for all creatures great and small, all life to be filled to overflowing with joy everlasting!

From Genesis' opening scene in the garden, through the whole arc of the story of God's love, the Bible's final scene is a similar vision of springtime flourishing - *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb... On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ...And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light.* (Revelation 22:1-5) This month of spring's blooming, whether the cultivated azaleas in the former nursery that is now the Augusta National Golf Club or the daffodils popping up as an early spring surprise in this Garden City of the South, we are surrounded by the beauty of God's beloved garden. God creates all this for our enjoyment, so let us bask in its fragrant embrace, now and forevermore.

Blessings for Lent and a Happy Easter!

Beth

"Poppin' Into Spring" | Family Ministry Event | April 30 | 5:00 pm

Worship

8:00 am Sanctuary
10:00 am Sanctuary
11:00 am Warehouse

Children's Worship is available during all Sunday services.

"Worship is a way of seeing the world in the light of God."
-Abraham Joshua Heschel

April 2 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

No Communion in anticipation of Holy Thursday, April 13

HOLY WEEK

April 9 | Palm Sunday

Children will process waving palms signifying Jesus' triumphant entrance to Jerusalem.



April 13 | Holy Thursday

First of Three Days of Solemn Remembrance
Holy Thursday includes remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples.



April 14 | Good Friday

Worship of prayer and reflection on the death of Christ and penance and special devotion for the believer.



April 16 | Easter Festival Worship

We celebrate the joy of Easter with Festival Worship, flowers in white and abundant colors, special music, guest trumpeter, proclaiming the good news of the Gospel - Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen Indeed!

7:00 am | "Sonrise" Worship | Cemetery - Chapel
8:00-11:00 am | Mission Pancake Breakfast
9:00 am | Easter Worship | Warehouse
10:00 am | Easter Egg Hunt | Lawn Area
11:00 am | Easter Worship | Sanctuary



April 23 | Regular Worship Schedule

April 30 | Fifth Sunday | Children & Youth Sunday

Children K-5th grade lead Sanctuary worship services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.
Youth lead the Warehouse worship service with music and drama at 11:00 am.



April Lay Leadership

APRIL 2

8:00 am Worship Leader: Grant Nichols
Ushers: Debbie Guy | Hank Parker
Acolyte: Olivia Delucia
9:00 am Coffee Fellowship: Bonnie Johnston
10:00 am Worship Leader: Grant Nichols
Ushers: David Bruyninckx | Ed Culley
Acolytes: Meredith Meador | Caroline Meador
11:00 am Worship Leader: Lisa Powell
Coffee House: Nettie Jordan | Cathy Neal

APRIL 9 PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am Worship Leader: Laurie Ickes
Ushers: Tommy Martin | Jimmy Morris
Acolyte: Tim Best
9:00 am Coffee Fellowship: Bonnie Johnston
10:00 am Worship Leader: Cary Woodworth
Ushers: David Bruyninckx | Ed Culley
Acolytes: Daniel Broome | Sara Irwin
11:00 am Worship Leader: Sonny McDowell
Coffee House: David & Lisa Powell

APRIL 16 EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 am Worship Leader: Kimberly Norville
Coffee House: Kiki Orum
11:00 am Worship Leader: Vicki Parker
Ushers: David Bruyninckx | Ed Culley
Acolytes: David Marshall | Gavin Marshall
Tim Best

APRIL 23

8:00 am Worship Leader: Craig Doxey
Ushers: Stanley Percival | Brewtie Lawton
Acolyte: Ben Sweat
9:00 am Coffee Fellowship: Bonnie Johnston
10:00 am Worship Leader: Gene Hair
Ushers: David Bruyninckx | Ed Culley
Acolytes: Brooke Dingman | Christian Norville
11:00 am Worship Leader: Kiki Orum
Coffee House: Melissa & Madison Chesser

APRIL 30 CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY

8:00 am Worship Leader: Nancy Brown
Ushers: David Hinner | Claude Harper
Acolyte: Bennett Tharpe
9:00 am Coffee Fellowship: Anita Plue
10:00 am Worship Leader: A Fifth Grader
Ushers: David Bruyninckx | Ed Culley
Acolytes: Aubree Jones | Makayla Jones
11:00 am Worship Leader: Jill Pratt | A Youth
Coffee House: Jennifer Powell | Stephanie Spivey

Get To Know Your Committees

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees supervises and maintains all property belonging to our congregation. The primary purpose of the trustees is to oversee all church buildings, grounds and facilities to enable the visions of the congregation and the ministries to carry out God's plans for our church. The trustees must ensure we provide sound stewardship principles whenever making decisions effecting our church. It is our responsibility to ensure everything from our facilities, property, equipment and all furnishings along with other property are properly maintained.

The Board of Trustees has multiple legal and administrative functions:

- oversee, maintain and supervise all local church property
- oversee and maintain the church parsonage
- report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment, investments, and resources
- receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation; make certain all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly
- ensure the articles of incorporation of the congregation are kept up to date
- be responsible, in conjunction with the pastor, for all use of the church buildings and grounds
- maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies
- submit annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance, improvements, and new property purchases
- be accountable to the charge conference and to the church council

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Trustee Workday | April 22 | 7:30 am - Noon

Many projects that need willing hands



Adult Sunday School | 9am or 10 am

Sundays | 9:00 am

Annie Lewis Bible Class | Cary Woodworth | Rm G407

Mary Crook Bible Class | Sandra Harper | Rm A204

God Loves Us! The lessons this quarter, written by Sarah McGiverin, invite us to consider God's love in specific ways: its everlasting, caring, saving nature; its pervasive preserving, renewing and sustaining character. Its fullest expression we especially celebrate this season, when we boldly affirm, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Growing Christians | 9:00 am

Fred Moore | Chapel Rm 103

Using "The Wired Word" this class looks at current events as they relate to scripture. Discussion group style.

Seedbed | Adult Sunday School Class

Bonnie Johnston/Kip Woodworth | 9:00 am | Rm G407

Sonny McDowell | 10:00 am | Rm G407

We are currently studying the Gospel of John, through daily Bible reading and a short devotional, with three questions that help us apply the scripture in our daily lives.

Sunday mornings, during both Sunday school hours, we gather to discuss what we have read and share with each other the meaning of the scriptures in our own lives. The experience feels much like what "house churches" might have been like at the dawn of the Christian movement.

If you share our deep desire to understand and live out the Gospel, then join us on this journey.

Learn more and sign up for daily devotional readings for this class at: www.seedbed.com | Reading tab | Daily Text.

Mission Hall

The Mission Hall is by the Fellowship Hall. There are designated baskets in the Hall under the Mission Display tables that indicate where to place your donated items. Please donate as you are able. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt | April 16

We need contributions of plastic eggs and candy (no chocolate). Specially decorated boxes may be found in the Fellowship Hall and the Warehouse for your contribution to this festive event.

Family Ministry Spring Event has need of:

- single serving bags of chips
- 12 oz cans of beverages (soft drinks, waters)
- single serving wrapped desserts (i.e. Little Debbie's)

Donations may be dropped off in the Mission Hall baskets marked "Spring Event"



Women's Bible Study

1st & 2nd Corinthians | Mondays | 12 pm

Optional Potluck 11:30 am

Youth Building | Led by Vicki Parker

Contact Vicki Parker: 706.833.1665 | bluealm@comcast.net

Adult Bible Studies | Wednesdays | 7 pm

History of the Bible

Gregg Jordan | Room G402

An ongoing study of the cultures in which the Holy Bible was developed. Open to new students.

Contact Gregg Jordan: 706.829.4826 | greggj@knology.net

Drop - In Bible Study

Vicki Parker | Room G204

A midweek group study of God's Word. Currently in the book of Colossians.

Contact Vicki Parker: 706.833.5990 | bluealm@comcast.net

Coming May 7

Encounter Jesus | Sundays | 6:00 pm

Seven week study that encourages us to walk with THE Jesus of the Bible, not just the Jesus we want him to be. The author, Carolyn Moore, will be present the first night to introduce the study. Study Guide suggested donation: \$18.

See the introductory video at: <https://vimeo.com/34676829>

Family Promise, Lewis Memorial UMC and YOU!

by Darla Irwin

Family Promise of Augusta is a ministry that we support at Lewis Memorial UMC. We partner with a local agency and other churches in the CSRA to help serve homeless families from surrounding areas to achieve lasting independence. This is accomplished by providing safe shelter, meals, guidance and fellowship for the families in the program. Family Promise supports up to three families or a total of fifteen people at any given time, all year long and has for many years. The goal is to keep families together, teach them to be self-sufficient, and to keep children safe.

Lewis Memorial hosts these families, our guests, 3-4 times per year, on our property and with the help of volunteer members from our congregation. We do this by "hosting" as little as 1-2 hours shifts during "Family Promise Week" at the church. Hosting can be defined as volunteering for a shift at the church, providing a meal, spending a night and/or by sharing the love of God while our guests are in residence for the week. Hosting can be served by anyone (as long as 2 adults are present at all times) such as a family, two families working together, the Youth Group, a Circle of Sisters, the United Methodist Men's Group, etc. It would be great if all ministries would join together to support each other!

Volunteers are requested to sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Various responsibilities include "move-in Sunday" that requires relocating the Sunday school furniture in classrooms so that we are able to convert them into private living space for our guests by rolling in beds and the families' totes/belongings; providing meals (lunch or dinner) throughout the week; and reversing the process the following Sunday. We also need church members to spend the night at the church in our Host Room to be a point of contact should the families need anything.

Requirements to volunteer with this ministry:

- A willing, loving heart
- An earnest desire to help and love God's people
- Safe Sanctuaries Training (see Cindy Vinson)

We are not guaranteed tomorrow, nor are we "promised a rose garden." There's always going to be "a little rain sometime." In other words, we are all going to experience tough times in our lifetime. We should find comfort in Matthew 6:25-34, where Jesus tells us not to worry about what we are to eat or drink; God loves us more than the birds in the air and the flowers in the field; He will provide for us, but first we must seek the kingdom of heaven. How are we to do this? By loving and serving God and his people! Jesus instructs us to, "Love one another," in John 13:34 and lets us know in Matthew 25:40, "By serving the least of these," you are truly serving the Lord. What a blessing!

Lewis Memorial UMC continues to be the hands and feet of Christ through this ministry. We are the vessels God chooses to use by housing, feeding, hosting and sharing with our guests.

Which part are YOU and where can YOU fit in?

Contact Darla Irwin, Family Promise Coordinator: 706.799.5144



Serve

Want to serve at Lewis Memorial? Here are a few opportunities...

United Methodist Men (UMM) Service Projects

4th Saturdays

UMM offers their services to our community to help with projects in and around your home. If you have a need, or know of someone who is in need of help, please contact Roger Kessing at 706.564.1971 | rogerkessing@gmail.com.

Substitute Sunday School Teachers:

Contact Sheryl Brown: 706.860.2774 | brown041@comcast.net

Want to help worship guests?

Provide new guests with literature and answer questions.

Contact Anita Plue: 706.830.8750 | anitaplue31@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

252 BASICS SUNDAYS AT 5 PM

APRIL FOCUS

GOOOOOOOOOAL! - HUMILITY

Humility is a response of the character of God.

God has no beginning and no end. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe. He deserves all of our worship and praise for what He has done and continues to do in our life.

On the other hand, we are humans, created by God. And while we are the crowns of God's creation, we are nothing without our Creator God.

Yet so often, we act like we are God. We allow our pride to take over and forget that our strengths or accomplishments would not exist without God. The only proper response in light of God's greatness is to respond with humility in our interactions with the people around us.

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility.

Jesus is the Son of God. And in the beginning, Jesus was part of creating the heavens and the earth. And as the Son of God, there is nothing in Heaven or on earth that isn't under Jesus' command. Yet Jesus chose to become one of us. He was born as a baby and walked among us. He developed calloused hands as He worked in a carpenter's shop. The dirt of the road caked His feet as He traveled to show love to others. Jesus willingly left the majesty and glory of Heaven to laugh and cry as He fully became a human.

Jesus' ultimate act of humility on Earth was His sacrificial death. He could have called down an angel army to protect Him, but instead, allowed Himself to be wrongly accused and arrested. He could have been worshipped with a gold crown and royal robes, but instead wore a crown of thorns.

Jesus deserved praise and adoration, but sacrificed Himself for us.

We live in a world that's all about putting ourselves first. Jesus lived in a world like that too. He could have looked out for Himself, called 10,000 angels to come and rescue Him. But He didn't. Out of His love for us He chose the humble route and put us first. It cost Him everything.

Putting others first will cost you something: your time or money. Maybe it will cost you some pride. But when we choose to follow Jesus with our lives, believing that His death and resurrection made it possible for us to be right with God, the least we can do is put others first even if it's a bit uncomfortable and costs something.

We think it's important, especially at Easter, for us to help our kids and families discover more about humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

Our Memory Verse for April Philippians 2:3.

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." (NIV)

This verse is part of a passage that describes Jesus' humility. Jesus left everything He deserved to humble Himself to save us. As we respond to Jesus' love, we can show humility as we love on those around us.

As we celebrate Jesus' life, death, and resurrection this Easter season, we'll be taking a closer look at the way humility shows up throughout the end of Jesus' time on earth.

2017 Safe Sanctuaries Classes
May 2 | 7:00 pm | G407
June 27 | 6:30 pm | G407

Creative Learning at 252 Basics

April 9, 2017

We start our discussion about humility in John 13:1-17 where we find Jesus and His disciples celebrating Passover in the upper room. Jesus wanted to give His disciples an example of what it meant to be a servant leader. With humility, Jesus washed His disciples' feet. He served them by doing the job of a servant.

Bottom Line:
I can put others first by serving them. Kids will learn that they don't need to wash their friends' feet to show humility, but they can serve them and put them first. We pray this will be a powerful week for kids as they see how much Jesus did for them and how they can respond to Him by how they treat others.

April 23, 2017

In Matthew 26:36-56, we take a look at the very garden where Jesus showed unbelievable understanding of how important it was to put the will of the Father ahead of His own. Jesus knew why He came to earth. While He prayed for His Father to make another way, ultimately Jesus knew that He had to let go of what He wanted for the sake of saving the world from sin.

Bottom Line:
I can put others first by letting go of what I want. At some point in our lives, we'll be faced with a decision to give up something we want for what someone else wants. For Jesus this was a matter of life and death. While that may not be the case for us, showing humility in these situations is still important. We pray that kids will realize that showing humility is often more important than getting their way.



252 Basics "Family Supper"

Children's Church

Contact: Sandy Ivey 706.294.5788
| dasa0586@yahoo.com

Children's Church is a time for your child to express themselves in worship through songs, games and activities that focus their attention on God.

On Communion Sundays, we encourage your child to return to the Worship Service, to partake in communion with you as a family. Please be sure your child picks up a special "Take Me To Communion" card from one of the ushers.

Children's Sunday School

Contact: Sheryl Brown 706.860.2774
| brown041@comcast.net

First Hour | 9:00 am
Deep Blue | 3 years - 2nd grade
Faith Weaver | 3rd - 5th grades

Second Hour | 10:00 am
One Room Sunday School | K-5th grades

Check the Sunday School wall mounts for classrooms.

252 Basics

Contact: Cindy Vinson 706-513.7623
| cindy1@lewismemorial.com

Sundays | 5:00 pm | PreK - 5th Graders

Learning about the Bible, faith, and mission through song, crafts, play, and teaching. See article on page 6 for more details.

Children's Choir

Sundays | 6:00 pm | Choir Room
This month our children will be preparing for Fifth Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary services.

Bible Black Belt

Wednesdays | 7 pm | "Scripture with a Kick"

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it."
- Proverbs 22:6 (CEB)

Join other 2nd through 5th graders each Wednesday, during the school year. Bible Black Belts is an active Bible study for children. Each month the children are challenged to memorize five verses and a "big" concept of Church Life.

Through activities, games and drills, your child will store God's Word in their heart. Black Belts are provided, and each month at testing time, children will earn a stripe.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship



Sunday Afternoons
Confirmation Class | 4 pm | Youth Building
Youth Worship Team | 4 pm | Warehouse
Elev8 UMYF | 5 pm | Youth Building
Wednesday Nights
Bible Study | 7 pm | Rm G107
Youth Council | April 23 | 2:00 pm

YOUTH SUNDAY

April 30 | Warehouse Worship Service
Drama | Music

Youth lead worship on April 30 in the Warehouse through the use of music and drama. Rehearsal times are at 4:00 pm on Sundays: April 9 | April 23

RIVER OF LIFE

Youth Mission Trip | June 7-11

Lincolnton, Georgia is the destination for students to participate in various work projects (painting, building, yard work, roofing*) for outreach to shut-ins in the Lincolnton community. (*The roofing teams are for 16+ years old.)

Rising 7th graders through 12th graders.
\$110 (There will be fund-raising events)
Registration forms and \$25 deposit due April 23th
See Grant Nichols for forms.



Grant Nichols, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
706.495.0699 | youth@lewismemorial.com

Young Adult Gathering



Brush up on your trivia skills and come join the fun as the Young Adults gather at 3 Guys Pizza on Sunday evenings for fun, food and fellowship.

Bring your bulletin and receive a free order of "garlic knots!"

April 9 | April 23
3 Guys Pizza · Trivia | 6:45 pm

Missions

Ecuador Mission Trip

June 30 - July 9, 2017
Santo Domingo, Ecuador



God's Voice

- by Laurie Ickes, first-time Ecuador Mission Team member

When I was a toddler, I remember sitting on my dad's shoulders and looking out over a sloping hillside in the Rocky Mountains where our house was perched, feeling the sun and wind on my face, and knowing God at that moment.

However, other experiences along childhood's way crowded my soul into a small dark corner of my being, overshadowed by a mounting mass of input from the outside world. The "have to's, should's, and ought's" grew as I daily searched through all the incoming information to answer my questions about how to be good, smart, pretty, accepted, how to belong, how to be successful. As the information mounted, there was nothing solid inside to withstand this crushing pressure from the outside. Meanwhile, my early relationship with God had crashed hard against my institutional church experience, and in the cacophony of emotional noise, God's voice became more distant. In early adulthood, someone who would seem to have everything necessary to succeed, failed miserably at life.

Under the pall of guilt over my inadequacies and failures, the re-building began, but this time from the inside-out. It took years and God's gift of Jeff's love; I learned much and grew wiser. Though God had never ceased speaking to me through His creation, a relationship with Jesus was more elusive because over most of my life, I had not experienced that kind of love in relationships; I was afraid of people. And much later down my road came Lewis Memorial, singular, unique in my life of church experiences.

Last year when I heard Sharon Nichols speak about Ecuador, I heard Jesus speaking in her words, I felt the power and majesty of God's calling—the wind in my face and the warmth of sunshine—telling about new worlds, the wonder of all His people and His creation in far away places, about the love that can be shared in that meeting and in the shared celebration of Him. Love: unity INSIDE with Him.

Nurture

FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEAL

Wednesday, April 12 | 6:00 pm | Ecuador Mission trip
Meatball Subs, Chips, Salad and Dessert

The cost of the meal is a donation to the Ecuador Missions Trip. Meal reservations by Noon, April 10. Please contact the church office via phone or email and BE SURE to indicate the number of Adults and Children who will be eating.

April Events

April 2-10	Spring Break
April 13	Maundy Thursday
April 14	Good Friday
April 16	Easter Sunday
April 30	Fifth Sunday "Poppin Into Spring" Family Ministries Event

April Meetings

April 2	Missions-Ecuador Team
April 9	Children's Council
April 10	Legacy Committee
	Board of Trustees
April 17	Finance Committee
April 18	Evangelism Committee
April 23	Youth Council
April 24	Administrative Council
April 25	Women's Retreat Meeting

“Save the Dates”

MAY	
2	VBS Orientation
4	Safe Sanctuaries Training
7	National Day of Prayer
14	Celebration of Life
21	Mother's Day
	Graduation
	Promotion Sunday
29	Pray for Me Launch
	Memorial Day



Mark your calendars
VBS WEEK
July 16-20

Mother's Morning Out

We are welcoming spring in all our classes in Mother's Morning Out. In April, our chapel time with Rev. Beth will focus on the Easter story. Our Easter Egg Hunt will be the week before Easter. Come by and see our wonderful artwork on display in the classrooms!

This year we have enjoyed several fun “outings” with the children.

- Making pizzas at Little Caesars
- Steed's Dairy
- Fire Truck
- Reed Creek animal presentation & scavenger hunt

Registration for next school year and the Summer Program is ongoing! If you would like to enroll your preschool child, contact Joanne Percival: 706.863.0986 | joanne@lewismemorial.com.



Tuition information is available on our website:
www.lewismemorial.com

Fellowship

EVERY TUESDAY

Sisters Group

1:00 pm | Parlor

A gathering of sisters in Christ to uplift each other in spirit.

THIRD TUESDAYS

United Methodist Women (UMW)

7 pm | Room F204

Women gathering for prayer, study, fellowship, and mission.

SECOND THURSDAYS

11 am | Fellowship Hall

Young at Heart | \$ 5 meal and entertainment

Join with seniors for a fun time of fellowship and food.

SECOND SATURDAYS

United Methodist Men (UMM)

8:30 am | Panera Bread | Evans

Monthly breakfast fellowship

ALTERNATING SUNDAYS

Young Adults

6:45 pm | 3 Guys Pizza Trivia

A gathering for those post high school to thirty to share faith and support each other in life's challenges.



Come join in the fun!

“Mary Poppins” Movie Night Outdoor Screen

“Sing-a-long” on Stage

Food

(Hotdogs & Hamburgers fresh off the grill)

Families encouraged to bring potluck side dishes)

Games

Photo Booth

(Costumes are encouraged!)

Contests

Family Sidewalk Art

AND

“A Spoonful of Sugar”

Ice Cream Churn contest

Prizes!

Stewardship Vision

Avg. March Worship Attendance: 265
Ytd. Gifts to Operating Budget: \$103,312.77
Ytd. Operating Budget Expenses: \$127,638.36

There is always a story behind the numbers. These numbers tell us that our income is not meeting the expenses of our operating budget in this first quarter of the year. The budget covers three basic components of operations of the church: salaries; facility maintenance & utilities; and ministry programs. The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the annual budget adopted by the Administrative Council. We are attentive to this shortfall, both with respect to compiling an efficient budget and with respect to monitoring our spending within it.

These numbers also tell the story of a congregation at a crossroads, literally and figuratively. We seek to be faithful stewards of the blessings God has given us individually and to be faithful to our collective mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are all concerned for the impact this shortfall in giving will soon have on the pursuit of our mission. But, because God is faithful, we are hopeful in our calling to bear witness to the good news of the gospel from this crossroads.

The Finance Committee invites us to respond in faith.

Pray | We encourage all individuals, families, and small groups to pray for the financial health of this congregation daily and each time we gather together. Prayer is conversation with God, listening as well as talking. Let us listen together for God's direction through our fear, so that we will fulfill God's vision for this congregation, not our own.

Give | We will have a campaign this spring to retire our mortgage debt (about \$110,000) and pay for repairs to the Sanctuary building due to termite damage, the full extent of which will not be known until repairs begin (\$40,000 - \$80,000). This will result in a savings of over \$3000 per month in our budget. Give to this campaign, and increase your giving to the operating budget as prayer and the Holy Spirit inspire you.

Engage | Full reports of the operating budget are available monthly, and Finance Committee meetings are open for any interested person to attend. We encourage you to share your ideas for stewardship, both ways to increase giving and ways to increase efficiency in spending. We are trying a smaller worship bulletin based on a suggestion from a member of the congregation who visited the March Finance Committee meeting.

Witness | Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be always on God's faithfulness to bless us with all the resources we need to fulfill God's mission at this crossroads. God's blessings abound, which always include peace, hope, love, and joy!

Beth Sanders, Senior Pastor
Susie Adcox, Finance Chair
Jeff Carter, Stewardship Chair

Connect

"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."
-1 Corinthians 4:1

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Rev. Beth Sanders, Senior Pastor
rev.beth@lewismemorial.com
404.285.7207

*Cindy Vinson,
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