

the **MESSENGER**

a publication of Lenexa United Methodist Church | March 2019



150 Years

MORE ON THIS YEAR'S
CELEBRATION, P. 10

We Have a New Pastor!

MEET EZEKIEL KOECH, P. 3

March Activities

CHILI AUCTION,
SCHOLARSHIP, AND
MORE, P. 11

church staff

Peggy Hillmon	LEAD PASTOR
Ron Bell	ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Jennifer Bryan	ECUMENICAL OUTREACH PASTOR
Mary Clow Ann Ober	CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Lisa Freeman	YOUTH MINISTRIES
Lori Campbell	PRESCHOOL/CDO DIRECTOR
Trey Bures Jenny Ewing Nan Hulett Blair Penney Liesel Stephens	MUSIC STAFF
Charity Becker Lauren Lanigan Linda Stokes Trudi Wenger	OFFICE STAFF

The deadline for the April issue of the Messenger is noon on March 21st. Email articles to office@lenexaumc.org. The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church.

NEW FACES AT LUMC



MEET **Ezekiel Koech,** OUR INCOMING PASTOR

When Ezekiel Koech was growing up in a village in Kenya, he was called by God to become a pastor. In his faith journey, he had the opportunity to travel to Asbury College in Kentucky for a year of studies and then would go back to Africa and become a minister. Alice, his wife, grew up in another Kenyan village. Alice also felt the call to ministry when she was in high school. Her family members, several of whom weren't Christian, were opposed to her plan to go to Bible college, but God's call was strong. Ezekiel and Alice were drawn to God's love—drawn to tell others that "God cares about you."

Because there were no openings in his home country, Ezekiel was offered a charge in the Great West District in Nebraska (which is now part of the Great Plains Conference). Although it wasn't Ezekiel's plan, it was God's plan, and Ezekiel said that "God kind of opened up and expanded my world view. I realized I could minister anywhere."

Today Ezekiel and Alice have 3 children. This year Roy graduates from Fort Hays State University, Abigail graduates from high school, and Zach is in the 7th grade. Ezekiel and Alice have both pastored in Nebraska. Ezekiel has been pastoring at Trinity UMC in Russell, Kansas for the past 4 years. Alice has taken some years off from being a pastor to be more present in the children's lives, but Ezekiel will become OUR pastor on July 1 of this year. The Staff Parish Committee met with Ezekiel, Alice and Zach on February 16. They are a family devoted to serving God and they feel blessed for this next challenge. As they walk in their spiritual journey, we are blessed to join them on this path and explore God's purpose for our lives through new ideas and new perspectives.

The Staff Parish Committee invites you to be in prayer for Ezekiel, Alice and their family as they prepare to transition from Russell to Lenexa.

Thanks be to God.

Cathy Boyd, Staff Parish Chair

NEW FACES AT LUMC (cont.)



Trudi Wenger will be joining the office staff, starting on February 26, as the Office and Communications Assistant. She brings to Lenexa United Methodist Church 32+ years of IT experience from the City of Lenexa. Trudi and her husband David lived for 22 years in Lenexa, where they raised 3 boys. Currently they reside in Eudora, Kansas. Trudi retired in June and is looking forward to new adventures.

We are grateful for the work Charity has done over the last year+ and will miss her in the office on a daily basis but look forward to still seeing her in a volunteer role.

LUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Operating Fund Contributions Received January 2019	\$33,791
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received	\$701
Income from Bequest	\$0
Total Operating Income Received January 2019	\$34,492

Mission Shares Paid January 2019	\$4,188
Mission Shares Paid Year to Date	\$4,188
Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date	\$4,188
Total 2019 Mission Shares	\$50,250

Capital Campaign update— we're under \$250,000!

\$244,008.09! This is the amount of outstanding debt we have on the education building. As we close in on our June 150th Celebration, if we can't eliminate it, we want to at least have this amount as small as possible. New donations, new pledges, and acceleration of existing pledges are all welcomed and encouraged between now and June 30th. Every month, we now pay \$722 in interest. Want to help us by paying a month's interest? There are "I have a 'Special Interest' in LUMC" forms printed on green paper available outside of the sanctuary. Your financial support of our church and this 150-year-old ministry is greatly appreciated!



LUMYOUTH HAPPENINGS

upcoming events

LUMYOUTH PLAY "COPS & ROBBERS"

Sunday, March 3 | 5–7 pm

LUMYOUTH SERVES PANCAKES!

Ash Wednesday—Wednesday, March 6



LUMYOUTH SPRING RETREAT

Friday, March 8—Sunday, March 10

LUMYOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, March 17 | 5–7:30 pm

LUMYOUTH FUN WITH CARY

Sunday, March 24 | 5–7 pm



OUTDOOR GAMES AT ROCKBOTTOM

Sunday, March 31 | 5–7 pm



in other news...

LUMYouth Lenten Breakfasts have moved to Sunday Mornings at LUMC!

All middle school and high school youth are invited to join Lisa for some home-made cinnamon rolls and light devotionals at 8:15 am in the loft, starting on March 17th, and continuing throughout Lent.

Worldwide



WORLD SERVICE FUND

***“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’” —Isaiah 6:8, NRSV***

Did you know the General Board of Church and Society maintains a searchable database of books (<https://www.umcjustice.org/sacred-worth-books>) that teach that every child is wonderfully created in God's image?

Our earliest understandings of ourselves and our self-worth often reflect what we see around us. The first images we see as children are those of our closest family members and community, and books and other forms of media. What happens when the majority of the images that society projects do not portray the strength, beauty and brilliance that God created? Books that reflect the diversity of God's creation help decrease the bias children learn as they grow older and enable children to see themselves represented and a part of the tapestry of life that God has given us.

Thanks to our congregation's support of the World Service Fund through our conference mission share, the Board of Church and Society finds new ways to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the church, the community and the world. Thank you!

ON

Methodism



UMCOR SUNDAY

We will observe UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) on March 31.

When disaster strikes around the globe, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is prepared to act. Since 1940, UMCOR has responded to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

Giving on UMCOR Sunday is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because of our gifts, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today.

WORDS ON WORSHIP

THEME FOR EPIPHANY:

Filled

MARCH 3—Transfiguration Sunday

“Filled With Glory”—Luke 9: 28–36

Peggy Hillmon preaching. Communion at both services. Joy Bells at both services—Praise Bells at 9:00, Celebration Bells at 10:30.

THEME FOR LENT:

Places Along the Way

The season of Lent is a time of reflection and repentance as we journey to the cross with Jesus. We begin with a reminder that from dust we are made and to dust we shall return, as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. We then follow Jesus into the desert, where he claims his identity in order to help others claim theirs. Along the way, the disciples, a Samaritan woman, the vineyard laborers, and the blind men beside the road are given new identity through Christ. We are encouraged to identify those places in our own lives where disappointment, struggle and pain have kept us from experiencing the fullness of life God offers and open ourselves to that new life in Christ.

MARCH 6—ASH WEDNESDAY, 7:00pm

Service in the Underground. Confirmation Class helping.
Ron Bell preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band performing.

MARCH 10—1st Sunday in Lent

“If You Are...”—Matthew 4: 1–14
Peggy Hillmon preaching. Growing In Grace Children’s Choir and Chancel Choir at 10:30.

MARCH 17—2nd Sunday in Lent

“Why Could We Not...?”—Matthew 17: 14–21
Peggy Hillmon preaching. Communion at 9:00. Chancel Choir at 10:30.

MARCH 24—3rd Sunday in Lent

“Come and See”—John 4: 1–42
Ron Bell preaching. Chancel Choir at 10:30.

MARCH 31—4th Sunday in Lent

“A Fair Wage?”
Peggy Hillmon preaching. Joy Bells at both services—Praise Bells at 9:00, Celebration Bells at 10:30.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

join us for sunday school!

9:00 A.M.

Nursery: Birth–3 years old

Kids' Court: 4 years old–Kindergarten

Kids' Kingdom: 1st grade–6th grade

10:30 A.M.

Nursery: Birth–4 years old

Kids Connect: 5 years old–6th grade

Note: The first Sunday of each month, Kids Connect will stay in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. worship service to experience worship and communion.



upcoming activities

LENTEN FAIR

Wednesday, March 6 | 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Join us in Schneeberger for pancakes and children's crafts from 5:30-6:30pm before the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with children's activities, contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Sunday, April 14 | 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Invite your neighbors to our Easter Egg-Stravaganza on April 14th from 11:45am-1:30pm. We need volunteers to donate breakfast casseroles and to help run games and egg hunts. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org.

VBS 2019: TO MARS AND BEYOND

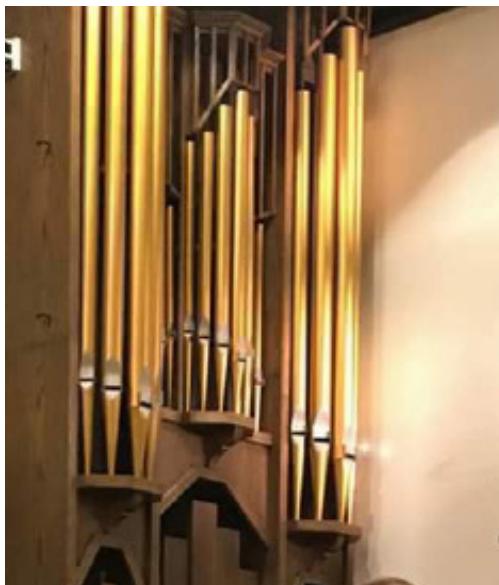
June 17–21 | 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

VBS is open to 4 year olds through incoming 6th graders. Registration forms are available in the church office or online. The Early Bird Registration deadline is May 26th.

If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, contact Mary now to get first choice of which classroom to help in. Application forms for paid aftercare workers are available in the church office. Applicants must be at least 16 years old.



LENEXA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH— JOURNEYING TOGETHER FOR 150 YEARS



Did you know that the organ we enjoy every Sunday was made just a few miles away in Lawrence, Kansas? The 2-manual and pedal pipe organ was ordered from The Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence in May 1980, at a cost of \$49,320. The organ is opus 2020 of the Reuter Organ Company (meaning it was the 2,020th organ built by Reuter since they began making organs in 1917), and it contains the equivalent of 11 ranks—a total of 716 pipes. The organ was dedicated September 27, 1981 with Dan Abrahamson, Associate Tonal Director in Charge of Voicing at the Reuter Organ Company and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Lawrence, playing at the dedicatory recital. The organ is just one of the many things that you can learn about in the book *Methodism in Old Town Lenexa: The History of Lenexa United Methodist Church 1869–2019*, which is being

written in celebration of our Sesquicentennial anniversary. Look for order information this spring, and make sure you are planning to join us for the celebration in June! This is the tentative schedule for the day.



Saturday, June 29, 2019 – Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park Grand Pavilion

6:00 p.m.—Bring your own picnic supper. Games for children will be provided.

7:00 p.m.—Historical reenactment with visits from Octave Chanute, the five women who founded our church and former pastors.

Sunday, June 30, 2019 – Lenexa United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m.—PEANUTS Worship and Reunion | Underground

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—Heavenly Half Hour

10:30 a.m.—150th Anniversary Worship | Sanctuary

Great Plains Conference Bishop, Ruben Saenz, Jr., preaching. Cornerstone Time Capsule Opening. Specially Commissioned Music by our Chancel Choir

12:00–2:00 p.m.—Free Catered Fried Chicken Dinner, Farewell to Pastor Ron. Pastor Peggy's Retirement. 150th Anniversary Celebration Program

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.—Building and Historical Displays available for Viewing

UPCOMING EVENTS



LUMYOUTH CHILI LUNCH & AUCTION

Sunday, March 3 | 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

10–10:30 a.m.: "Buy It NOW" during Heavenly Half Hour
11:30 a.m.: LUNCH is served ("to-go" meals available)
Noon: Loud auction begins
12:30 p.m.: Silent auction concludes

Chili, chili dogs, loaded baked potatoes, and ice cream will be served. Cost is \$5 per person. Cash, checks and ShelbyNEXT (mobile payment) will be accepted.



ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Wednesday, March 6 | 5:30–6:30 p.m.

LUMYouth are once again serving up oodles of yummy pancakes, sausage, and bacon in Schneeberger Hall. For this batch of pancakes, we mix it up a bit and offer blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes! Your kids will also enjoy the Lenten crafts provided by Children's Ministry. And yes, this meal is free for everyone. Invite your friends!

GUEST SPEAKER— MINDY CORPORON

Sunday, March 3 | 9:00 a.m. | Wesley Room

LUMC is pleased to welcome Mindy Corporon as a guest speaker during the 9:00 Sunday School hour on March 3. Mindy founded the **Faith Always Wins Foundation** following the tragic murders of her father and son in a hate crime by a white supremacist whose goal was to kill Jewish people. Since that time, Mindy's passion has been to promote understanding, encourage kindness, and embrace diversity across races, religions, and cultures. She will speak to us about her foundation and about Give SevenDays—Make a Ripple, Change the World, an annual event that remembers those who were lost and, in their memory, seeks to create a wave of positive change for the future. Please join us for this informative event.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

The application for the LUMC 2019 Post-Secondary Undergraduate Scholarship will be available soon. If you are a member of LUMC, have at least a 2.5 GPA or a GED, have been accepted to an accredited institution and will be a full-time student, you are eligible. In addition to the application, you will need to write a 300–500 word essay on your post-secondary plans and provide two letters of recommendation and an official school transcript. Contact the church office for an application. Don't miss this opportunity!

VBS DONATIONS WANTED

We're in need of the following items for VBS this year: Empty, clean yogurt cups, old CDs or DVDs, and toilet paper tubes. If you have some to contribute, please bring them to the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

All are welcome to join one or more of these great classes!

SPECTRUM

9:00 a.m., Room 122

The Spectrum class will begin a Lenten study in March using Max Lucado's book, He Chose The Nails. We meet at 9:00 a.m. and all are welcome to join us.

FOUNDATIONS

9:00 a.m., Room 105

Continuing lessons and guest speakers relating to building a firm faith foundation.

PATHFINDERS

9:00 a.m., Asbury Room

Pathfinders are studying AdsamHamilton's "24 hours that changed the world".

PULSE

10:30 a.m., Room 105

Pulse is exploring "Holy Contradictions", a collection of essays based on human sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

DASHERS

10:30 a.m., Asbury Room

Discussion centered around the day's sermon and what it means for you.

LUMC LADIES' BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesday of each month, 12:00 p.m., Wesley Room

The Ladies Bookclub will meet Wednesday, March 20 at noon in the library to discuss *The Hearts of Men* by Nickolas Butler. Copies are available at the county library. It is a very interesting read, and we should have a great discussion! Visitors are welcome! Questions? Contact Linda Stoker at *lstoker98@gmail.com*.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring is here! We are looking forward to warmer weather, longer days, and flowers beginning to bloom. Our classrooms will be busy with activities that go along with the new season.

The Daddy-Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, March 30th, 6:00pm. This event is always a great time for the girls and their dads!

SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH 10TH!!!

Set your clocks ahead one hour at bedtime, March 9th.