



THE UMBRELLA

Lecompton United Methodist Church

Pastor Rob Ernest

402 Elmore Street, P.O. Box 91



April 2020

Sunday Morning Worship Services

Sally Landoll, editor

8:30 a.m. Early Service----10:45 a.m. Late Service

“I am about to do a new thing...”

David Burke called me a couple of days ago. David is the Content Specialist in the Communications Department of the Great Plains Conference office in Topeka. David is the guy who writes most of the copy for the Conference website and publications. He was compiling some stories about what a few churches in the Topeka District were doing differently since social distancing has become a thing. He was certainly not lacking in material. We are all doing something different, something new.

I am writing this on Friday, March 20, looking forward to (see: sweating) the live streaming of informal worship services on FaceBook Live for at least the next two Sundays at 8:30am. (My crystal ball tells me we will probably continue doing that for a while.) David specifically wanted to know about our food pantry, God’s Choice Food Pantry, which is open every third Saturday from 7:30 till 11am. (Evidently, GCFP is kind of famous in the District). We are doing something new there, too, with our pantry friends staying in their cars while a limited number of workers shop for them and deliver goods they have ordered straight to their vehicles—kinda like the pickup service at WalMart.

As I was reading David’s article on the Conference website telling about the many things churches are doing differently, it struck me how similar this must be to those first disciples who were left in a lurch when Jesus ascended. After the initial shock of not having him around physically, they had to figure out for themselves how to get the Good News out there. We, the “church”, are pretty much having to do the same thing. How do we do this since not only has Jesus left the building, but so has everybody else!?

I think God is getting a pretty good chuckle out of what adaptations we are making. After all, God has been telling us for a while that we need to get ready for something new. God told Isaiah, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

God did not cause COVID-19, but maybe God is using this season as a wake-up call for us to get in line with God, to do something new. Here is how Paul explained it to the Romans: “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

Because of this new season, we, “the church”, are finally being forced to adapt, serve differently, searching for that new way God is carving for us in this wilderness. It may take a while for us to find that new river in the desert. Some of us may never find it, or know exactly what to do if/when we do, but for those who love God and are called according to God’s righteous purpose, it is going to be a wonderful, scary, exciting NEW THING! It already is...

Thanks be to God!

Blessings on your head!

Rob Ernest
rnest@greatplainsumc.org
870-307-2712

Join Pastor Rob for Church Services on Facebook Live at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings. He will also be hosting a special Children’s Message on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook Live.

Happy Birthday

Tracy Marsh
Dennis Stauffer
Neita Bahnmaier
Billy Welch
Cheris Daniels
Gary Marsh
Jerry Oldham
Lauren Burgin
Mary Icenogle
Beau Daniels
Myrna Hartford
Billy Jo Smith
Wes Cottrell
Darin Delfelder
Peg Wenger
Steve Fugett
Rick Paslay
Belinda Wood
Blair Bahret
David Dark
Pat DeJaynes
Janet Bauman
Paul Hamersky
Dorothy Hetzel
Kelsey Howard
Sharon O'Trimble
Tony Roe
Judy Jones
Royall Hoffer
Mary Sue Sledd
Chrissy Goodrick
Emma Samson
Dylan Bahret
Kali Roberts
Kate Welch
Sally Landoll
Tammy Morris
Rance Roberts
John Salisbury
Suzy Bradley
Kristi Hartley
Elsie Middleton
Allyson Christman

Tyler Dark
Sarah McLees
Wyatt Schumann
Gina Clement
Jeff Morris
Barbara Retke
Jillian Goetz



Happy Anniversary

Gregg & Mary Sue Sledd
David & Marlene Jolly
Gary & Norma Jeane Miller
Billy Jo & Dorothy Smith
Dusty & Susan Dark
Scot & Gina Clement

Food and Fellowship

Community Fundraising Dinner

The Community Dinner will be canceled until further notice, please watch the board outside the church for announcements.

Ladies Luncheon

This month's Ladies Luncheon will be canceled in April. Watch the May newsletter for information concerning the next Ladies Luncheon date.

Goldenrod Luncheon

The Goldenrod Dinner will be canceled in April. Watch the May newsletter for information concerning the next Goldenrod Luncheon.

Bible Study with Kim Stewart

Kim's Saturday morning group meets at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. They are studying "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver.

Territorial Capital Museum

The Territorial Capital Museum will close its doors to visitors through April 6th. At that time, we will re-evaluate whether to remain closed or re-open. We will continue to conduct business for the museum and the historical society but hours will be limited. Emails and phone calls will be tended to daily so use those methods to contact us. We will get back with you as soon as possible.

To keep you engaged with us, we will be sharing on a daily basis at: <https://www.lecomptonkansas.com/> some of the wonderful items we have in our museum. Watch for them!

Nurture and Outreach Team News

By the Numbers:

We assisted 46 families in March which equates to:

- **151 individuals**

The Just Food Cruising Cupboard served 29 families in March which equates to:

- **100 plus individuals**

A new way of doing things...

With Covid-19 we had to try something new with our food pantry in March. We had families stay in their vehicles and fill out an order form for the items they wanted. A volunteer took the shopping list and went inside to fill their order. While this took more time, it allowed volunteers and families to minimize exposure.

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped unload and carry products out, clean the pantry area and carts, fill shopping lists, sign in families, and provide parking lot patrol. We couldn't have made this new way of doing things go smoothly without you.

The food pantry is still scheduled for the third Saturday in April. More information will be provided if that changes. Keep an eye on the church web page and Facebook for updates regarding the pantry and when Just Food will be back in Lecompton. Thank you for your patience and support.

Why We Help?

These difficult times are made more difficult for our families in need. We do our best to assist those in our community. Thank you to those that continue to support this ministry with your time, effort, and donations.

Blessing Boxes

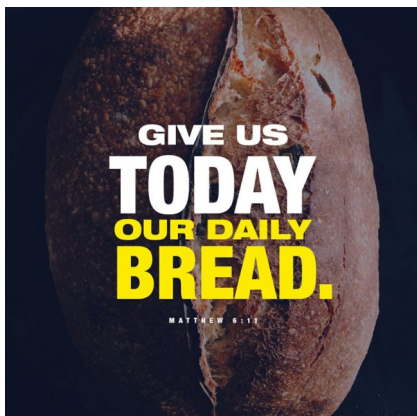
The Blessing Boxes at the church and the elementary school are indeed a blessing. They are being used and are being restocked a couple of times during the week. Remember, that these boxes are for non-perishable items and your donations are always welcome.

Cooking Classes and Cruising Cupboard

Kid's Cooking Classes and Adult Cooking Classes will be rescheduled for a later date. Watch the Just Food website for announcements concerning cooking classes and Cruising Cupboard visits to Lecompton.

The Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is temporarily closed. We will make an announcement on Facebook or the church website when we re-open.



Devotions from the Great Plains Conference

Did you know that our conference has a daily devotion online? The website link is: <http://gp-email.brtaapp.com/archivearea/218>. Sometimes I am left with a page that needs filling and this time last year this page was filled with a news article about the flooding in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. This year, the coronavirus tops the list of our worries. The devotion below is one of many inspirational devotions shared on the website. This one, I felt was particularly timely to what many of us might be feeling and going through at this moment.

Great Plains Daily Devotional for 3/19/2020



Psalm 27:1

Of David.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Today's Devotional

Starting this week, I, like many other of our conference staff, have started working from home. That has come with its own challenges, including having a child at home with me. In these uncertain times there are those who say we are overreacting and those who say we are underreacting and there doesn't seem to be much middle ground.

We question whether as Christians we give into the spirit of fear or go about our lives with our faith as our shield. Again, there doesn't seem to be much middle ground.

When I fear that our sense of meeting in the middle has gone, I remember to look at those who are coming up with new ways to serve others. Churches that are packing meals for school children, finding new ways of using technology to meet and gather safely, and other creative ways to be the hands and feet of Christ gives me immeasurable amounts of hope. And hope is what a lot of us need desperately right now.

I aspire to live in that middle space. The space that doesn't give into fear but acknowledges the challenges and the reality of what is going on around us. The space where we consider our neighbors needs and balance them with the needs of our family. The space that we can show we are Christians by our love as the hymn says.

How can you be the hands and feet of Christ in these challenging times? Can you pick up groceries for a neighbor who is at risk? If you are suddenly working from home could you take the money you would spend on gas or eating out and give to your local food pantry or church outreach? Let us find ways to reach out to those who need it the most by showing them the love of the church in these uncertain times.

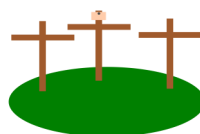
Lisa Soukup
Communications Administrative Assistant
lsoukup@greatplainsumc.org

Prayer for Reflection

Father God, whisper words of encouragement to those who are feeling lost, and helpless. Inspire our churches to be creative in new ways to worship and reach out into their communities to show your love and be your hands and feet in this world.

Lecompton United Methodist Church
402 Elmore Street, Lecompton, KS

785-887-6327 lecomptonumc@gmail.com



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 Bible Study with Kim 9:00 a.m. Zoom
5 Palm Sunday Join us for services on Facebook Live! 8:30 a.m. Service will be posted on the church website	6	7	8 Children's Message 11:00 a.m. Facebook Live	9	10	11 Bible Study with Kim 9:00 a.m. Zoom
12 Easter Sunday Join us for services on Facebook Live! 8:30 a.m. Service will be posted on the church website	13	14	15 Children's Message 11:00 a.m. Facebook Live	16	17	18 Bible Study with Kim 9:00 a.m. Zoom
19 Join us for services on Facebook Live! 8:30 a.m. Service will be posted on the church website	20	21	22 Children's Message 11:00 a.m. Facebook Live	23	24	25 Bible Study with Kim 9:00 a.m. Zoom
26 Join us for services on Facebook Live! 8:30 a.m. Service will be posted on the church website	27	28	29 Children's Message 11:00 a.m. Facebook Live	30	1	2 Bible Study with Kim 9:00 a.m. Zoom

Church Services

Until further notice, church services will be held using Facebook Live. These videos will be available on the church website by the Monday following the church service. Special announcements concerning Holy Week will be made on the church website (www.lecomptonumc.org) and the LUMC Friends Facebook page. If you are in need of assistance in accessing the church service, please contact Vickie Marino at 785-887-6385.

Bible Study classes will be held using Zoom. Contact Pastor Rob or Kim Stewart for more information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Lecompton United Methodist Church



Pastor Rob Ernest

P.O. Box 91

Lecompton, KS 66050

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Prayerful Request

Why give?

As people of God we give because God has given so much to us. God doesn't need our money, but he does want what it represents: our purposes, passions, and priorities.

We give to make a Kingdom impact locally in Lecompton, across the country, as well as globally through mission efforts.

We give to increase the Kingdom through our generosity to help others find and follow Jesus!

Here are four ways to give:

- 1) Mail a check (not cash) to LUMC, POB 91, Lecompton, KS, 66050;
- 2) Set up a regular bank draft with your bank. Your bank will mail a check for you to the church; you set up the amount and schedule for when they will send it--weekly, monthly, etc.
- 3) Drive through banking at First State Bank in Perry, tell the teller you would like to make a deposit in the Lecompton United Methodist Church account. They will take care of that for you and give you a receipt. You do not have to know the account number.
- 4) Use the "Secure Online Giving" link on the front page of our website, www.LecomptonUMC.org. Here you may use your credit/debit card or your PayPal account.

Watch Pastor Rob on Facebook Live this Sunday! Service will be posted on church website by the Monday after the event.

If you would like to sign up for an electronic version of The Umbrella or if you have news to send, email Sally Landoll at:

landollks@embarqmail.com