

Lexington UMC Household of Faith



Living God's Word~
Sharing God's Love

December 2019

Inside this issue:

Advent Studies	8
Advent Worship and Activities	2
Angel Tree Ministry	3
Birthdays	9
Blue Christmas	4
Cantata	6
Caroling	7
Children's Ministry	7
Coffee Time 2020	3
Epworth Angel Wish	3
4th/5th Grade Party	7
Habitat Honor	8
Labyrinth	5
Love Feast	6
Member News	9
Reverse Advent	11
Snack Sack	3
Taizé Service	2
Thank you	7
Youth	9



Parson to Person

Bill Hybels, former pastor of Willow Creek Church in Chicago, Illinois, tells how some years ago a new staff member asked him how he had the gall to ask people who were already busy at work or in the home to get involved as volunteers at church. Listen now to that conversation:

"I mean, don't you feel a little guilty doing this?" he asked. "Isn't it hard to heap such a burden on people?" He had a point. But I knew of a bigger point: "During the next few months you're going to meet people who stand at drill presses, ten hours a day, five or six days a week. When they go home at night, few of them sense the pleasure, meaning, and purpose of life they've heard advertised in commercials for beer or computer systems. They're godly, conscientious people, and they feel thankful for their jobs. But they don't find satisfaction for their souls at the drill press. And you're going to meet fine, hardworking people in real estate who show thirty homes a week. If they're lucky, one buyer will make an offer, but they're not lucky every week. Though they love showing property and helping families find the right home, they do not arrive home at night filled with deep inner joy over the latest showing.

You'll meet many workers. Some of them love their jobs; they feel stimulated and energized by their work. Some of them even leave their workplace each day knowing that they have honored God by their work and their love for people. But few of them would say: "This is what life is all about."

I look directly into the eyes of my young friend. "You and I get to invite these people to be used by God in ways they never imagined. "No," I said, "I never really feel guilty inviting people to become volunteers in our church. Never." We were not created to chase the wind. We are created to join God on a mission. And God has work gloves on." (Bill Hybels, *The Volunteer Revolution*, pages 11-13)

The lights and music of the Advent and Christmas Season invite us all to be volunteers who share the Good News of Christ's birth. His birth is the only thing that transforms the world because it is "God among us" as we live and breathe. It is a time for putting difference aside. It is a time for healing relationships. It is a time for forgiving those who need it and seek it as well as forgiving those who are not seeking it. It is a time to prioritize the church and to make it as important as all the other events we choose to attend. It is a time to teach the Christmas Story to children. They will not get it on their own. It is a time to teach about the love of God. It is time to have Jesus born into your hearts as we are touched by a story that is as old as time itself.

So we do not mind asking busy people to volunteer and give themselves to the mission of the church. God has work gloves on. **Why not join in?** December 8: The 11:00 a.m. worship service will focus on the children's program. Make plans to come and support them. The 8:30 a.m. service will remain in its regular worship hour. December 15: The 11:00 a.m. service has the choir sharing its annual cantata. The 8:30 service will remain in its regular worship hour. December 24: 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. we will share worship and Holy Communion and Candlelight. Holy Communion on Christmas Eve is an amazing time for people to gather and share the means of grace. While there are parties during the season that heighten joy...on Christmas Eve we come and kneel before the Holy. It marks us as Christian disciples who see the joy of the world in a different light.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all.

Ken Timmerman

Jesus, help us get ready
for your birth. Help us
see past the shiny
decorations in all the
stores and to
remember that we're
waiting for you. Amen.

Amen.

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the Christ child at Christmas. There are many activities planned at LUMC to find the joy of the season:



December 1—3, Walk with God Advent Labyrinth
What is a labyrinth? See page 5

December 4—Last Wednesday Night Supper for 2019



December 8— 8:30 am traditional service in Sanctuary

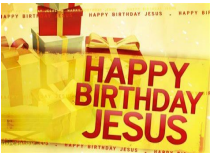
11 am—“God’s Gift to Us.” Children’s Christmas Pageant , Wesley Hall

No pre-school nursery or Children’s Church, children are encouraged to attend this service.



December 10-- 12:10-12:40 pm Taizé Service

Spend some time joyfully singing Taizé songs, listening to scripture lessons, and praying.
Service last 1/2 hour.



December 11—5:30 pm

Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Wesley Hall: See page 7 for details



December 15—11 am Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

5:30 pm Moravian Love Feast, Sanctuary See page 6 for details



December 17—6:30 pm Blue Christmas Service See page 4 for details

December 22—Regular Sunday morning schedule



December 24

Candlelight and Holy Communion Services : 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00 pm

December 25—28 church offices closed, open 30, 31 for last minute giving



December 31—no Tuesday night service

January 1-3 church offices closed



If you chose to give an Epworth child a Christmas gift, please be sure to bring your gift to the church by **December 8**. Remember to include the tag you picked up and **do not wrap** the present. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Torbett: 803-629-7126 and/or ldtorbett@gmail.com



When Mom or Dad goes to prison, a child may feel lonely



ANGEL TREE

A Program of Prison Fellowship

and forgotten—especially around the holidays.

If you'd like to help with this important ministry, please pick an angel from the tree that is located in Asbury Hall **beginning December 1**, and put your name & phone number on the check out sheet.



There will be about 40 tags to choose from; as well as caregiver gifts: A small box of candy, flash light appropriate for a man or woman.

Shop for your child and bring your wrapped gifts with the angel attached to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 15. We will also need some Santa helpers to deliver the gifts for about 30 home deliveries.

Contact Chuck (687-3748) or Candy (687-3884) Brennan with question or if you'd like to help deliver.



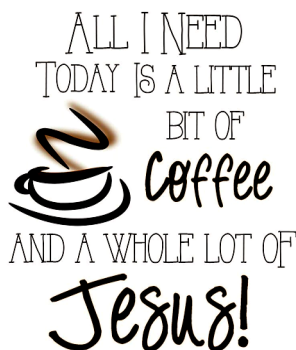
Opportunity for giving locally:

Our church support of the Snack Sack Ministry is very strong—giving your time packing the meals; unloading the delivery trucks; and delivering the meals to our schools.

Your donations allow the purchase of the food that we deliver, the materials that we use to carry the food to each school and the bags that each child uses to carry the food home. Without each of you, Snack Sack would not be successful.

We always need funding. Please help.

Rick Cunningham



Coffee Time 2020

Groups are needed to provide **light snacks** during Coffee Time in 2020. Adult Sunday School classes, small groups, and others are invited to choose Sundays that you can provide snacks and make the coffee. Your group is welcome to sign up for a month or several weeks.

If you would like first dibs on a Sunday in 2020 to provide for this important ministry, please contact Krista Stillwell at chicka9375@gmail.com or 803-429-5823

Blue? Yes, **blue** as in the **blues**. As in "I am feeling **blue**."

Blue Christmas

*Honor your
loss*

*...embrace
God's hope*

For those of us experiencing loneliness, sadness and loss, the Christmas season can be difficult—we can feel singled out by the programmed happiness of “the most wonderful time of the year.” But we are not alone. Many people experience at least some sadness and loss in this season. All of us have experienced loss. Please join us in a simple worship of song, readings and a reflection of God’s hope for us and presence with us in feeling what we feel. All are welcome!

A worship service of remembrance and hope

December 17, 6:30 pm

The approaching Christmas holidays does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards for many people. Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays.

Dealing with the death of a loved one; facing life after divorce or separation; coping with the loss of a job; living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future; feeling pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations; and a number of other human situations make the parties and merriness painful for many. Join with others in this service of comfort and hope—consolation that you are not alone in your grief—and that others care, most especially Christ.





Start the Advent season with a **WALK WITH GOD**

Use the labyrinth to pray for *Peace, Hope, Love and Joy*

BEGIN ADVENT WITH A PEACEFUL PRAYER WALK, ACCOMPANIED BY CANDLELIGHT AND SEASONAL MUSIC. LIKE THE PATH OF THE LABYRINTH, THE DAYS OF ADVENT DRAW US EVER CLOSER TO THE HEART OF LOVE, GOD'S GIFT OF JESUS

Labyrinth will be available—

Sunday, December 1, 2 pm till 6:30 pm

Monday & Tuesday, December 2 & 3, 10 am till 6:30 pm

FIND A TIME TO WALK AND BEGIN YOUR ADVENT WALKING WITH GOD

Interactive Prayer stations will be set up around the Labyrinth, child friendly

Watch our labyrinth video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUVf-GyNSxU>



What Is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is not a maze. It has only one path to the center and back out. It has no blind alleys or dead ends as mazes have. The path twists and turns back on itself many times before reaching the center.

The labyrinth symbolizes a journey to a predetermined destination (such as a pilgrimage to a holy site).

A labyrinth was constructed in stone in the floor of Chartres Cathedral near Paris, around the year 1200 A.D. The faithful could make a pilgrimage journey to the cathedral and complete it by walking the labyrinth as the final symbol of a journey to the Holy Land. Our labyrinth is modeled after the Chartres labyrinth.



How to Walk a Labyrinth

Today, there is no set ritual for walking a labyrinth. The basic advice is to enter the labyrinth slowly, calming and clearing your mind.

Open your senses and focus on the process of taking slow and deliberate steps. Bring to mind a prayer or spiritual question to contemplate during the walk to the center.

Reaching the center, pause to reflect, pray, and listen for an answer, and then begin your return journey.

Walking a labyrinth in this way can be surprisingly calming and clarifying for your thoughts. Even if you don't have a spiritual side, the slow, intentional walking in a quiet place on a set path allows for a level of focus that can be difficult to find in a busy life.



John Wesley first experienced a love feast among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, in 1737. His diary notes: *"After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love-feasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."*

It quickly became a feature of the Evangelical Revival and a regular part of Methodist society meetings in Great Britain and throughout the English-speaking world. As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism.

If you've never attended one, it is a very different sort of worship service based on the early agape meals of New Testament and Apostolic times at which Christians would gather to share food and fellowship as they sang, prayed and bore witness to the great love of God in Jesus Christ.

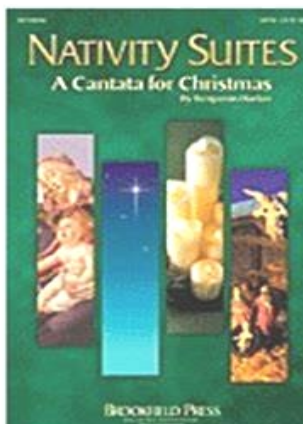
The Love Feast nourishes the soul, give us pause and inspire; and transport us to sacred realms and add beauty to our often complicated lives.

John Wesley instituted this service in the Methodist church after the Moravian pattern:

During the love feast a small meal of a bun and mug of coffee is served. "A simple, ritual meal where hymns are sung, special music shared, and scripture is read." The Christmas Love Feast is made special with the addition of candles, lit at the end of the service as a reminder of the light of Christ's love.

The Love Feast was brought to Lexington UMC by Dick and Carole Fearington in 1981. It has become a Christmas tradition at Lexington UMC. This year will be our 38th Love Feast.

Join in this service on December 15 at 5:30 pm.



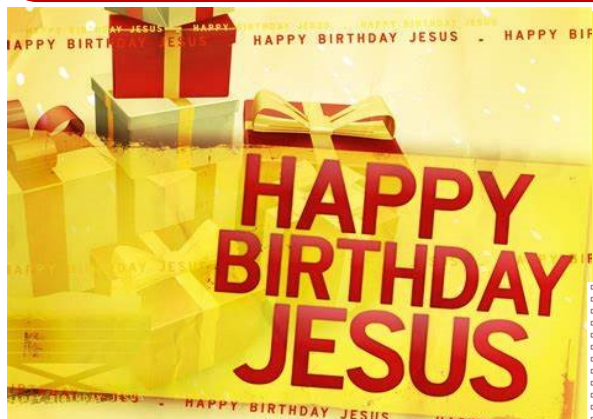
On **December 15** at the **11 am traditional service**

we will hear of God's gift through song and musical accompanists.

Don't miss the Chancel Choir performing

Nativity Suites by Benjamin Harlan





Wednesday
December
11



6:00 pm
Wesley Hall
Pizza Supper

Bring plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly
for Snack Sack



"God's Gift to Us."

Children's Christmas Pageant
Wesley Hall

One 11:00 a.m. service December 8

No Children's church,

No nursery or preschool nursery

All 11 am worshippers,

please join in this
beautiful service



ALL 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS
ARE INVITED TO OUR

BREAKOUT CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
5-7PM

THE FORD'S HOUSE
111 HEDDON DRIVE

Join us for food, games, and a
white elephant (\$10 max) gift
exchange! Please email
jennifer@lexumcsc.com to RSVP
and to sign up to bring a dish!



I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, calls, and emails during my bout with shingles. The LUMC congregation is so loving and caring. I feel so blessed! Sandra Brabham



Dickie Gardner and the Lexington Eagles Special Olympics team would like to thank LUMC for the use of the bus for our trip to Myrtle Beach for the SC Special Olympics Fall Games.



High School Retreat: December 6-7 in Greenville



December 15—Christmas Party

Advent Study Opportunities

The Open Door Sunday School Class (009) will be studying *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience* encourages and explains how to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. Beginning December 1.

The B.A.S.I.C. Adult Sunday School class will be starting an Advent study on December 1. They will be reading and discussing *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine. B.A.S.I.C. meets in MC005 and welcomes anyone who might be interested in this study.

In 1992 Rev. Fred Reece said to Mike Mitton, who was chair of the Church & Society team at the time, “I know of an organization that we need to be involved in, look into Habitat for Humanity”. So, Mike did and he began working on homes in Columbia, taking church members along.



In 1995 Habitat planned a Blitz Build in Lexington, building 10 homes in one week. It was then that the real journey began for the Mittons. Mike and Susan joined the Family Selection Committee. This committee visits with potential home owners to learn about them: their housing situation (whether it is safe, affordable, and decent); and their commitment to the program (houses are not free—there are sweat equity hours that must be done and mortgagees to repay).

Mike also helped organized a Lexington Collation of Churches, which has helped build at least 18 houses in Lexington County. Our church members have played a lead role in this collation, something we should be proud of. The collation has been morphing of late, but the hope is that it can be reinvented into something more.

During all this time Mike and Susan have continued to serve on the Family Selection Committee, as this is where God has led, changing families lives one at a time.



On November 15, at the Habitat Gala Mike and Susan were recognized at Habitat Heroes for their years of service to and for Habitat. This was an unexpected honor and they were very humbled to receive this award.

Habitat is always looking for volunteers, the Family Selection Committee would love to have you at part of this important ministry. If you would more information, please talk to Mike or Susan, or check the website:

<https://www.habitatcsc.org/individuals.html>



Happy December Birthdays:

Page 9

12/1 Rowe, Tracy Cato, Kris	12/8 Taylor, Todd Logan, Michael Reynolds, David	Rainey, Cameron Bodie, Bill	Mack, Nancy
12/2 Johnson, Carolyn Maxwell, Matt	12/10 Craig, Candace Bennett, Allen Brandes, Todd	12/16 Brown, David Burnett, Steve Gourley, Hannah	12/23 Murphy, Ruth Seeby, Kathy Bashline, Donna
12/3 Edens, Ashley Setzer, Dianne	Grubbs, Kristin Davison, Alison Lyles, Debra	Boylston, Vicki Anderson, Melanie McGill, Jim	12/24 Brabham, Luanne Bickel, Donald
12/4 Bowman, Cindy Bradham, Gregory Sinclair, Sutton	12/11 Gatch, Dolores Young, Jack O'Neal, Olivia	12/17 Spence, Kitty Rish, Gary	12/25 Hutson, Ron 12/26 Goldsmith, Jackson Vernon, William
12/5 Severson, Briana Brown, Sammie Pierce, Teresa Macaulay, Frank Macaulay, Deryl Reynolds, Harvey Cunningham, Angie	12/12 Palmer, Trish Masters, Maddie Masters, Emma Kerwin, Joey Athey, Jim	12/18 Brabham, Sandra Smith, Cameron Owens, Eric Bowman, Matthew McGee, Kevin Collins, Del	Wicker, Eli Blume, Mack Hakim, Cam
12/6 Landry, Weatherly Fogle, Bruce Robbins, Vivian Bumgardner, Deb Montgomery, Brad Hayes, Nicole Kurtz, Ginny Bodie, Barbara	12/12 Powell, Craig Dunnagan, Donna 12/13 Loadholt, Stephanie Robbins, Charlie	12/19 Britner, Adam Baker, Edens Pendergrass, Samuel	12/27 Randhawa, Amber Wilson, Penny Keith, Barry Kunkle, Jill Myers, Don
12/7 Lowery, Lillian Coleman, Elsy Britner, MyKenzie Duffie, Kathryn Seeby, Frank Field, Meghan	12/14 Lovell, Phillip Jack, Michael Pautz, Willis 12/15 Stuber, Lois McGee, Deanna Childers, Ann	12/20 Beckum, Edie Rivers, Cliff Setzer, Tony Folk, Vonnie 12/21 Crossman, Douglas Culler, Jenny Atwood, Stephanie Giles, Colton 12/22 Young, Sandra Edwards, Summer Cimburke, Ann	12/28 Johnson, Lorri Rogers, Levy DeBerry, Sarah Stevenson, Taylor 12/29 Gregory, Mike Betcher, Sutton 12/30 Johnson, Briggs O'Neal, Conner Martin, Colin Parnell, Ken Corley, Mary

Member News:

Gifts in memory of:

Betty Peters
(Barbara Booth's mother)

New Life In Christ Class



Coulter James Young
son of
Taylor and Erin Young
November 11, 2019



Michael Blackwell
134 Laurel Springs Trail
Lexington, SC 29072

Donna McKenna
223 Portsmouth Drive
Lexington, SC 29072

Cam Patterson
884 Old Orangeburg Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Scott & Rosemary Riles
37 Indian Creek Trail
Lexington, SC 29072

Gifts in honor of:

Barbara Bodie
John & Joyce Bumgarner



Donna Lesperance
November 21, 2019

*Blessed are those who
mourn, for they will be
comforted. Matthew 4:5*

2019 DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NEW TOY FOR GIRL UP TO AGE 6	2 CAN OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	3 CAN OF TUNA	4 BOTTLE OF SHAMPOO	5 BOX OF CEREAL	6 CAN OF VEGETABLES	7 CAN OF FRUIT
8 BOX OF MACRONI AND CHEESE	9 PACKAGE OF DISPOSABLE RAZORS	10 CAN OF BEANS	11 NEW TOY FOR BOY UP TO AGE 6	12 PACKAGE OF PASTA	13 SPAGHETTI SAUCE	14 TOOTHBRUSH
15 TUBE OF TOOTPASTE	16 PAIR OF NEW MEN'S SOCKS	17 JAR OF APPLESAUCE	18 ONE BAR OF SOAP	19 ONE NEW SHOWER TOWEL	20 CAN OF TOMATO SOUP	21 BOX OF RICE
22 ONE DEODORANT STICK	23 JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER	24 ONE COMB OR HAIRBRUSH	25 DONATE \$20 to IBNC Join Neighbor Society with monthly \$20 donation	26 THANK YOU	 Mission Lexington	

A Reverse Advent calendar encourages you to give love and charity throughout the Advent season leading to Christmas.

Families may be familiar with traditional Advent calendars and use them at home to guide their devotional time in the days before Christmas. Parents may use interactive Advent calendars with their children, opening a different box or door each day to reveal a tiny present.

A Reverse Advent Calendar works the opposite way. Instead of unveiling a new gift each day, the calendar asks participants to “give” a different item beginning the first Sunday of Advent. For instance, on the first day, the calendar might say to give a new pair of socks and ask for a can of tomato soup on the second day.

Most of the requested daily donations are small, simple and relatively inexpensive. At the same time, the calendar can also designate one or more days to give monetary donations for charities that prefer to assist with operational expenses or purchase certain items. For instance, many food banks need funds available to purchase fresh, healthy produce.

Reverse Advent calendars are a wonderful tool for supporting local ministries such as Mission Lexington.

Just think about it.



Lexington United Methodist Church

309 E Main St
Lexington, SC 29072

Return Service Requested

*"The root of Jesse will come ...
in him will the Gentiles*

Hope
Romans 15:12, ESV



We're on the web:
<http://www.lexumcsc.com>



lexumc



@LUMC_SC



Lexington United Methodist

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