Louisburg United Methodist Church

April/May 2024

Connecting People, Cultivating Faith, Celebrating Community

Sally's Office Hours:
Mon.–Thurs 9 am to 12
913-837-2374
sally.greene@louisburgumc.org

Pastor Kathy's Office Hours:
Mon–Thurs 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
kathy.symes@louisburgumc.org
913-669-6979 (Kathy's cell)

Greetings friends!

Can it be May already? The calendar says so but it seems as though 2024 is moving so quickly I can barely catch my breath!

May is always an incredibly busy month. This evening is the National Day of Prayer service at 7 pm at the Middle School. Mother's Day is May 12. The Baccalaureate is May 15th @ 7 pm. The Louisburg High School graduation is May 18th.

I will also be holding a Pastor's Chat following worship on May 19th. This chat is specifically being held for those who might be interested in the joining the church or learning more about the United Methodist denomination.

Annual Conference will be held in Kearney NE from June 6-9. Annual conference is the annual business meeting of the Great Plains conference.

Our Conference consists of churches in all of Nebraska and Kansas.

Marilou and LaVonne have also set the dates for Vacation Bible School. The theme this year is Camp Firelight and will be held July 15-18 for preschool up to those entering 5th grade. There will be more information about VBS next month but please put it on your calendar to set those dates aside! VBS at Louisburg UMC is simply amazing and you do not want to miss it!

And finally I am sharing with you a couple of pictures from our son's wedding which took place on April 27. We welcomed Ellie into our family at a small and beautiful ceremony which only included their parents, grandparents and Drew's children–Lynzee and Andrew. I appreciate Rev. Jim Hopwood covering for me that Sunday so I could spend time away celebrating with them.

Blessings,

Pastor Kathy

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Volume 2, Issue 4

Family Spotlight: Marilou Simmons

Marilou grew up in Panama where her family was active in church. She credits vacation Bible School as part of the reason she was called to work in Christian Education. She started volunteering in church at age 12. Her father suggested Christian Education as a vocation. Marilou moved to the United States for college and graduate school where she majored in Christian Education. While she also works at Fat Brain Toys in Overland Park, she has always felt called to work in church ministry. Marilou volunteers at a thrift store in Gardner and at a social services center in Kansas City. She has a daughter Keara, who lives near her in Kansas City. Marilou loves being part of the faith community at LUMC.

Jeannie & Jim Tooley greeting everyone with big smiles each Sunday morning!

Marilou had the kids sample different foods which would be found at a Seder Meal for Passover.

Seen Around the Church!

Welcome to the Family Sierra Seck!

On Easter Sunday Sierra Seck was baptized into the family of God! And not only was it Easter but it was also Sierra's first birthday. Sierra is the daughter of Taehlor and Bryan Seck and the little sister of Reata.

It was a joy to have so many witness Sierra's baptism and to have so many of Sierra's family joining us.

Baptism in the UMC is a time to remember our own baptism and to vow to love and support Sierra in her Christian walk. I look forward to seeing Sierra grow up in the church!

New Member Sunday

On Sunday April 21st twelve adults joined the church! These 6 couples have been attending, and volunteering, for quite some time. In some cases they've been around for years. The Book of Discipline does have a method (we are *Method*ists after all) for bringing in new members and that hadn't been done yet. So, to make everything official they all came before the congregation to publicly state their vows. It was a joy for me to be able to officially welcome them into the Louisburg UMC!

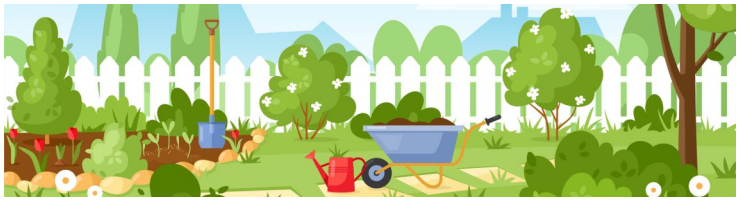
On Sunday May 19th I will be hosting a Pastor Chat for anyone who has questions/is considering becoming a member. This will also be open to anyone who has questions about the United Methodist Church in general. I will open with some general information and then open it up for questions. Marilou will be here as well so if you have children she will keep them busy having fun!

From left to right:

David & Diane Sands, Kelly & Brent Buchanan, Pat & Roxanne Flaherty, Ali & Rueben Hamman, Janet & Dan Muldrew, Jill & Jeff Dozier

Gardening Clean Up Volunteers Needed!

May 11th 10 a.m. to Noon



We have a beautiful campus! Volunteers are needed to help with the Spring clean up.

Our first Saturday clean up will be Saturday May 11th from 10 to noon. We will be weeding, pruning and planting all around the church grounds. Depending on the number of volunteers this may take more than one session.

If you are available to help just show up with your tools! All help is appreciated.

New date due to Don Stowell's memorial service.

5 Highlights from the Board

1. Old Business: Music Coordinator flyers have been posted. There was discussion about the best ways to advertise the Garage Sale. Pool table is still available.
2. Policy Work: A Crisis Communication draft was presented. It will be voted on at the May meeting so that members of the Board have time to review the policy and give input. The Safe Gatherings policy draft will be sent out by Pastor Kathy so that it may also be voted on in May.
3. Financial discussions covered: updating the church credit cards with new user names and balances. Shelley Whiting, treasurer, provided updated detailed financial reports. We are current on our Mission & Ministry payments to the Conference. We are approaching the 50% mark on spending, monthly monitoring will continue.
4. Trustee chair Doug Eble reported on the parsonage heat pump that has a leak. Two quotes were requested. Discussion concerned the cost of replacement and how the cost would be covered. As it is not a budgeted item it will paid out of the reserve fund.
5. Outreach report was received by Jean Carder. The City Park Spruce Up & Home Buddies day is taking place on Saturday 4/13. Volunteers are always needed! Also the Great Plains Conference is requesting additional volunteers to be trained and serve on the Early Response Team (ERT). This is conference initiated; teams are sent to locations as needed. See Jean for more details.

Taken from the April 9th Board mtg

(Once approved, the full minutes are available in the narthex (lobby) on the Connection Table)

Pastor Chat : May 19th Following Worship

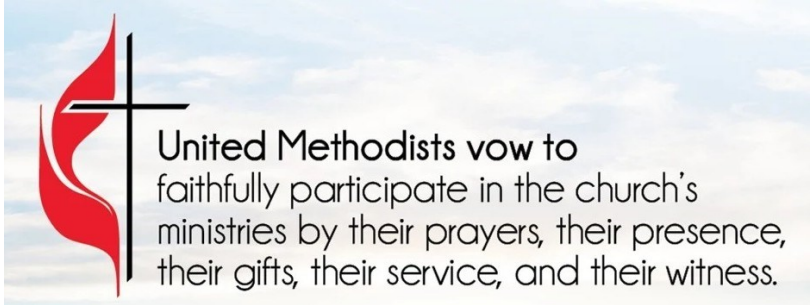
Do you wonder who we are as United Methodists? Or what the Louisburg UMC church has available for you and your family? Or how you can become more involved in the church?

I remember what it was like walking into a new church when Kevin and I moved when our kids were younger.

In a few weeks I will be available following worship to try and answer those questions and any others you might have.

Marilou, our children's ministry director, will be available to be the kids and keep them busy while we talk.

If this Sunday doesn't work for your family just give me a shout and we can work out another time to meet.



Building Committee Report

The Building Committee wanted to update our report to let everyone know what progress has been made since we began meeting this year.

First we sent out requests for quotes to area architects and contractors. As of May 1 we have met with one company, KC Contractors. We sat down with them and shared the original architectural drawings. We also discussed what the original needs/hopes were for the expansion.

For the most part the purpose of the building has not changed. In short, we would like a multipurpose building that would serve the church as we continue to grow and serve the community. The building would include classroom space, a open plan area that can be used as a gymnasium but also be converted into a worship space, storage space, a stage area and more restrooms.

As a growing church we should always be looking forward, planning as to how we can continue to serve the congregation and the community. Because of the vision shown by members several years ago, some fundraising has already been done and some members still faithfully contribute to the building fund. The question for us becomes 'are we still willing to look forward so that we will be prepared for growth ?'

KC Contractors have since given us their vision of the new building and they also sent subcontractors to the church so that they could begin putting together quotes for the various jobs.

As soon as we have enough information to warrant a church meeting we will set one up. In the mean time feel free to speak with any members of the building committee. Building Committee Members: Pastor Kathy Symes, Russ Satrom, Diana Moore, Tait Olson, Jeff Hutsell, Dick Reynolds and Mike Mesh.

Garage Sale Report

On Saturday April 20th tables and clothes racks were moved outside so that we could host a garage sale during the city wide garage sale days. Our goal was to raise money for Missions within the church. We raised $1038.15! No decision has been made yet on how the money will be distributed.

Nadine Horst and Shelley George had a table set up specifically for Tusonge Missions. Her table made $184.97. If you would like more information about the Tusonge Children's Ministry and our role you can go to the website: www.tusongeministries.org. I am planning on going to Uganda to visit the Tusonge kids in August of this year. I'm really excited to be able to see what everyone has been talking about and spend time with the leaders and the kids!

It took many people a lot of hours to set it up, manage it and clean up after. We want to thank those who donated items for the sale and for those who also had tables of their own and donated to our fund.

Big thanks goes to Heather Wilson for all her work organizing us! And we also want to thank those who helped in one way or another: Carol & John Coffey, David & Diane Sands, Roxanne & Pat Flaherty, Deby Van Gothem, Teri Seward, Hailie Lowe, Ron Strand, Jeannie & Jim Tooley, Pam Pranschke and Brendon Pranschke.

It was a long day but there was a lot of laughter as we spent time getting to know each other in a different way.

LOUISBURG
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

249 N Metcalf
Louisburg KS 66053

Office Phone:913-837-2374
Text: 913-521-5673
Pastor's Cell 913-669-6979
Email:
Office: sally.greene@louisburgumc.org
Pastor: kathy.symes@louisburgumc.org

Office hours:
M, T, W, T: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

May

2: National Day of Prayer Service 7 pm @ Middle School

5: Donut Sunday

12: Senior Sunday, Mother's Day, Worship at the Care Centers 1:30 & 2:15

14: Board Mtg, 6:30 pm

18: Louisburg High School Graduation

19: Pastor Chat following worship

27: Memorial Day, Office closed

Weekly:

Sunday: Journey Sunday School 8:15 a.m.

Monday: Confirmation 6—7 pm

Mon—Thurs: Good Morning God! 9:30 am

Tuesdays: Care Team 10 a.m.

Wednesdays: Dominoes 1 p.m.

June 6-9 Annual Conference/Kearney NE

June 9: Mission Sunday