



But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year at Logan First UMC is "Wait for It."

Are you good at waiting? I know I am not.

My impatience is exacerbated by my culture. I live in the country that invented "Easy Mac!" Why? Microwavable macaroni and cheese exists because we think it takes too long for us to make the blue box stove-top kind of mac and cheese that was the "convenience food" of my childhood. In our oh-so-American hurry from place to place, we often miss out on something valuable. After all, the best mac and cheese is the slow-baked, ooey-goey kind that takes an hour and an oven.

This is where the counter-cultural season of Advent comes in. A simple wreath with four candles stands in contrast to the holiday shopping displays that sprung up before Halloween. It calls us to slow down, pray and reflect. It guards against "Easy-Mac faith."

As we count the days and weeks to Christmas, we are reminded of people who waited in darkness longing for the Light of the World to come. Our hearts hear the hopeful words of the prophets. We marvel with Mary at the angel's appearance. We contemplate the true meaning of the incarnation.


The prophet Isaiah promised that those who wait on the Lord will be renewed. My prayer is that during the next four weeks we will be re-energized as we encounter God's love and grace in a fresh way.

The good news is worth the wait!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Beth Ann

Start a new Christmas tradition. Beginning on December 1st, read one chapter of the Book for Luke each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing who and why we celebrate!



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The Finance Corner

In the world of the First Church Financial Ministry, 2019 is almost in the books. Overall it's been a good year, we should end the year with a nice checking account balance, which should bode well for getting 2020 off to a strong start. Thanks to everyone for their pledges and their prayers. As I have said many times before, we are truly blessed by a congregation of strong believers.

God Bless,
Jerry Miller, Finance Chair

Trustee Report

Tasks completed by the Trustees in November:

Parsonage maintenance:

- Water system has been improved with a new pressure tank and removal of unnecessary redundant water Softener
- Three dead trees have been removed and brush cleaned up on property.
- Snow blower moved to garage for pastor.
- Lawn mower being processed to put in storage mode until needed again.

Church maintenance:

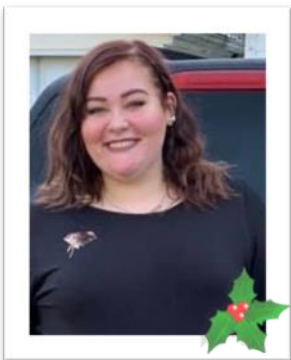
- Bathroom stall door latch replaced
- Fabric purchased for Chapel pews.
- Scheduled carpet cleaning in Chapel.
- Scheduled pew cleaning in sanctuary.
- Repair/replacement to the panic hardware on the Sanctuary doors is being quoted.
- Shroud over Fin tube unit in one classroom was reattached.

Steve Longenecker,
Trustee Chair

JOY Circle

JOY Circle will meet on Wed, Dec 11, at the Westside Diner at *11 AM for the annual Christmas luncheon. Please bring a \$5 wrapped gift. Jayne Sullivan will have the program.

*PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE



Welcome Ali Williams!
First Church officially welcomes Ali Williams as our new worship leader for the 10:45 AM service.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

On Christmas Eve, we will receive a special love offering to be given to the local Salvation Army for children in need.



Holiday Stress Reduction

We've all been there, excited to spend extra time with our family and friends over the holidays, but overwhelmed with the production and logistics of it all. Many of us set unrealistic expectations and end up exhausted and stressed. Here are some tips to help each of us set the stage for a joyous holiday.



1. View the holiday as a time to reconnect with the positive people in our lives.
2. Accept help from loved ones and share responsibilities.
3. Plan activities that will bring laughter and smiles.
4. Don't forget to take care of yourself. Stop and notice the little things. Go for a walk outdoors on a sunny day and listen to the sounds of nature.
5. Overlook the unnecessary and pare down your expectations.
6. Focus on good memories and what you have in common with others.
7. Reflect on the parts of your life that bring you joy.
8. Recharge your battery by reading a book, listening to music or enjoying your favorite hobby.



Strong relationships and connections help us manage all kinds of challenges whether they are self-inflicted or not. Be open and be kind to those around you, as you don't know what unspoken burdens may be on their hearts. If you are lonely or sad, try starting a new tradition. Do your best to be optimistic for the future and recognize it as a hard times lesson. Lean on those who love you as you do the same for them.

Most of all, let the love of Jesus shine through in your words, your smile and simple acts of kindness. Nurture one another and express gratitude every day. Happy birthday, baby Jesus, you are the reason for this holiday season!

Merry Christmas and warm wishes,

Heather

JOY Circle- Cancer Care Ministry

The women of Joy Circle are sponsoring the Cancer Care Ministry for December 2019. We need at least 300 individual snack or drink items. Please bring your offering of snacks and put them in the Red Wagon in the Narthrex. Our deadline is Dec 8. Scripture verses will be placed on each item. Please call Nancy Hamilton with any questions. Thanks to all who share in this ministry.



Snack Items: Applesauce cups, chips, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, oatmeal pies, nut snack packs, Rice Krispy snacks, (store bought) cereal bars, dried fruit packs, fruit cups, 4-6 oz water bottles, cans of Sprite, 7UP, or Ginger Ale. All items should be pre-packaged, in snack & single servings.



Holidays can be hard for those struggling with grief, loneliness or illness. Please feel free to take several of the Blue Christmas invitations for friends or family who are having a hard time, and offer to come to the service with them. Invitations are on the table in the Narthex.



In December, KIDS Club will meet on Sunday, Dec 8, at 10:45 AM. Special programming will replace KIDS Club on the Dec 22.

Third Thursday

3rd Thursday is First UMC's outreach to families enrolled in the Children's Ministry. If you would like to know more about this outreach, contact Jerry Miller or anyone on the LEAD Council.

Cookies for LCM Christmas Program

This Christmas LCM has 85 families coming to the annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8, 2019. The children will present special music for their families. This is a great opportunity for First UMC to share the joy of Christmas by providing cookies for the families after the program. A sign up sheet is on the registration table by the café. Thank you for blessing our LCM families!



Concerns & Schedules

Prayer Concerns

Don Hamilton
Liz Billman
Art & Donna Cook
Bob Barr
Don Bartlett
Family of LaDonna Gaiser

Nursing Homes

McKinney Place

Beverly Hess

Woodbridge

Mike Doering

Military Service

Braxton Baker
Jacob Kaley
Alex Karnafel
Matt Karnafel
Oakley Lewellen
Joshua Lyons
Tim Strubell

Praying Together

To help us partner with you in prayer, please submit all requests in writing so we can add the names to our written prayer list. Thank you.

Church Leaders

Our Bishop

Bishop Julius Trimble

Conference

Superintendent

Rev. Lori Blinn

Associate

Superintendents

Rev. Rob Seewald

Rev. John Randall

Church Cluster

Crosswind UMC

Pastor Nick Robinson

First UMC

Pastor Beth Ann Cook

Main Street UMC

Rev. Colleen Hardin

Wheatland Ave UMC

Bert Stover

Door Hosts & Sunday Volunteers



Ushers & Greeters

	Education Wing	Nursery Hallway	Narthex Hallway
10:45	Joyce Sandberg	Conna Kitchel	Larry Kitchel

1st Service Volunteers

Scripture Reader: Teresa Popejoy

Communion Prep: Steve & Kit Clary

Café Servers:

Dec 1-

Dec 8-

Dec 15- Conna Kitchel

Dec 22- Combined Service

Dec 29- Combined Service



Christmas Bell Ringing

First UMC has signed up for two different days to ring the bell for The Salvation Army at Big Lots. The days are Wed, Dec 4, and Wed, Dec 11. The sign up sheets are on the table just off the Sanctuary. Place an X beside your name if you want a reminder call. Thanks to all who volunteer.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



December Bible Reading Plan

1 Corinth.12-14	11 1 Thess. 1-5	21 James 1-5
2 1 Corinth.15-16	12 2 Thess. 1-3	22 1 Peter 1-5
3 2 Corinth. 1-4	13 1 Timothy 1-4	23 2 Peter 1-3
4 2 Corinth. 5-8	14 1 Timothy 5-6	24 1 John 1-5
5 2 Corinth. 9-13	15 2 Timothy 1-4	25 2, 3 John, Jude
6 Galatians 1-6	16 Titus/Philemon	26 Revelation 1-3
7 Ephesians 1-3	17 Hebrews 1-5	27 Revelation 4-8
8 Ephesians 4-6	18 Hebrews 6-9	28 Revelation 9-12
9 Philippians 1-4	19 Hebrews 10-11	29 Revelation 13-16
10 Colossians 1-4	20 Hebrews 12-13	30 Revelation 17-19
		31 Revelation 20-22

December Events and Meetings:

- Sun, Dec 8** Little Children's Ministry Christmas Program
3 PM, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
- Tues, Dec 10** Finance Team, 6 PM, Parlor
- Wed, Dec 11** JOY Circle, 11 AM, Westside Diner
- Sun, Dec 15** Blue Christmas Service, 6 PM, Sanctuary
- Sun, Dec 22** Joy! Cantata, Combined Service, 9:30 AM
- Tues, Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services, 7 PM & 11 PM
Zo Christian Church Service, 12 PM, Chapel
- Wed, Dec 25** Zo Christian Church, 2-5 PM, Fellowship Hall

Standing Meetings/Studies

Mondays

- 7:00 AM Men's Fellowship, Parlor
10:00 AM Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office

Tuesdays

- 9:30 AM Bible Study, Parlor
11:00 AM Prayer Meeting, Sanctuary
1:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays

- 5:00 PM Bell Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 PM Choir, Fellowship Hall

Birthdays

- Dec 4** Don Bartlett
Dec 5 Michael Martin
Dec 6 Sheri Geisler
Dec 7 Jennings Hall
Carmen Jones
Dec 8 Robert Julian
Doris Regan
Dec 9 Carol Evernham
Mary Sutton
Dec 10 Rich Wild
Dec 13 Nancy Beachler
Dec 19 Sheila Host
Dec 20 Sara Whitcomb
Dec 21 Abby Geer
Dec 27 Sally Baker
Dec 28 Samantha Baker
Dec 31 Sandy Stuart

*Happy
Birthday*



Anniversaries

- Dec 2** Mark & Sally Baker
Dec 3 Michael & Deborah Swartzell
Dec 14 Beverly & Richard Babb
Dec 18 Louis & Theresa Baker
Dec 20 Bruce & Mary Stuart
Dec 23 John & Sharon Jones
Dec 24 Brad & Cynthia Deane
Tad & Pat Wilkinson

Christmas Wreath & Flower Orders

Have you ordered wreaths and Poinsettias for the Christmas season? Poinsettias are \$17.50 and wreaths are \$32.00. Sign up at the registration table.



Little Children's Ministry News

The holidays have arrived and LCM is busy preparing for upcoming festivities. We ended November with a Thanksgiving Feast and a building full of Pilgrims and Indians. The children were taught the meaning of giving and to be thankful. We are very thankful for all of our LCM families!



Little Children Ministry's mission for December is to provide gifts to LCM families in need. We have chosen 5 families (15 children). Joy Circle was so kind to adopt a family of six! To provide gifts to these families, we wanted to include the children of LCM. We began raising money by selling popcorn on Fridays. We will also sell ornaments, made by our LCM children, to hopefully raise more money for this project. The ornaments will be for sale outside of the sanctuary on Sunday, December 1st and December 8th, and in the lower hallway during the week. Suggested donation is \$1, and donations are always welcome.

In addition to these activities, the annual LCM Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 8, at 3 PM. A reception will immediately follow in the Fellowship Hall where families will be able to enjoy cookies and punch. If you can donate cookies for the reception, we would greatly appreciate it! Santa will be busy with his elves on the day of the program, but he will be making a surprise stop at LCM to see the children and give out candy canes.

LCM will be hanging stockings again this year. For the past several years, after Thanksgiving, we hang stockings for each employee. (There are 22 LCM and 3 First Church employees.) If they have their own room, the stockings are outside their classroom door. The break staff will have stockings outside of the main office. Stockings for the staff have been a way for parents, staff, and children to express their gratitude at Christmas time. Please feel free to leave the staff a Christmas card, goodies, or a little note to show your gratitude for all they do throughout the year!



The Bloomz communication program was a success. All of the classrooms have been provided a tablet. We are very excited to grow with this new means of communicating with the families.

The new LCM Project for 2021 is "Project Indoor Playground." We would like to transform the playground that is currently off of the cafeteria into a more productive and learning environment for all ages. We will update you on the centers that we are considering and the overall cost at a later date.

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ LCM Christmas Program: 12/8
- ◆ Christmas Holiday schedule: LCM closed 12/23-1/1/20

Sincerely,

Belinda Jordan, Director

LCM STAFF

Director - Belinda Jordan

Administrative Assistant - Nicole Hacker

Treasurer - Julie Slater

First United Methodist Church

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Communication

Phone: 574.753.3491

Email: loganfirst@comcast.net

Web: www.loganfirst.org

Church Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

LCM Office Hours: M-F, 6 AM-6 PM

Sunday Services

8:15 AM - Worship/Traditional

9:30 AM - Sunday School/Fellowship

10:45 AM - Contemporary Worship/*The Stand*

2:00 PM - Zo Christian Church

Bible Studies

Men's Monday Fellowship - 7 AM, Parlor

Tuesday - Women's Study- 9:30, AM, Parlor

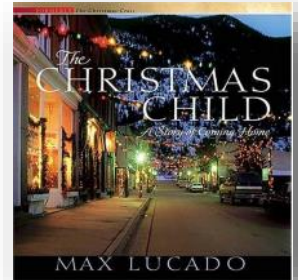
Church Staff

- ◆ **Pastor:** Beth Ann Cook
Phone: 812-550-4736
Email: revbethanncook@gmail.com
Instagram: [revbethanncook](https://www.instagram.com/revbethanncook)
- ◆ **Administrative Assistant:** Lori Shewman
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- ◆ **LCM Director:** Belinda Jordan
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- ◆ **LCM Administrative Assistant:** Nicole Hacker
Email: lcmsec@comcast.net
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Elaine Hall
Email: loganfirsttreasurer@comcast.net
- ◆ **Financial Secretary:** Penny Schaefer
- ◆ **Worship Leader:** Ali Williams
- ◆ **Media Coordinator:** Luann Hamilton
- ◆ **Pianists:** Deb Binford, Jeff Smith, Elaine Hall

Books of the Month

This month we're highlighting books by two well known authors, Max Lucado and Liz Curtis Higgs.

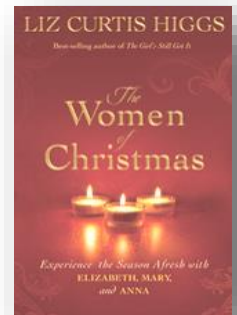
*The Christmas Child,
A Story of Coming Home*
By Max Lucado.



A Chicago journalist find himself in a small Texas town on Christmas eve. Lonely and alone he discovers the past hold his key to the future.

The Women of Christmas
By Liz Curtis Higgs

Following in the footsteps of Elizabeth, Mary and the widow, Anna, you too can prepare for the Savior to enter your heart, your mind and life in a vibrant, new way this season.



Our Vision

REACH | EQUIP | SEND

Our Mission

*The mission of the church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.*