



Loda United Methodist Church
Cross & Flame
January 2019



The process of cleaning out my parent's home feels like an archeological dig. We have found things that have caused us to remember, both with laughter and tears. We have found things we have forgotten about. We have found things we didn't know about that have taught us about our parents. And we have found stuff that frankly we don't know what it is, where it is from or why we have it! But we have had to figure out what to do with each and every item!

Digging into scripture is just like this. There is much we are familiar with. Some we can't remember even hearing before. And some that makes us wonder why in the world it is in the Bible anyway? But we have to deal with each and every piece.

It would be nice if we could just focus on the scripture passages that inspire us and ignore the ones that confuse us or make us feel uncomfortable. However, 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 reminds us, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

We can't pick and choose. We can only keep digging, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom to understand how God is speaking to us. It is then, and only then, that we can start to make sense of God's story of amazing grace as contained in both the Old and the New Testament.

To help with that archeological dig into scripture, I have been asked to start a class called, "Bible 101", so we can work together to dig into scripture to find God's wisdom for us. This class will be a place for you to ask your questions and find the connection between scripture and our daily lives. We will answer basic questions. (What is a gentile anyway? *Anyone who isn't Jewish.*) And we will struggle together to figure out what the dimensions of the Tabernacle have to do with our lives today. (*You'll have to come to class for the answer to that one!*)

In order to schedule this class, I need to know who might be interested, so we can schedule a convenient time for all of us. Please let Pastor Rachel know if you are interested and what times might work for you. Then watch for announcements for the time and place for this study! Hope to see you there!

Pastor Rachel

The Dysart Family returns for another wonderful concert!

Sunday, January 20, 2019

7: 00 p.m.

Loda United Methodist Church

The Dysart Family offers Gospel Music fans unique, tight family harmonies, with a diverse and powerful selection of music, many of which are written by Kendra and LeWain Sr.

LeWain and Lorena Dysart, with their five children, began performing in various venues in 2006 and began releasing Projects in 2007. The Dysart Family, based out of Macon, Missouri, received several nominations for the Singing News Fan Awards and the Diamond Awards. They saw multiple radio singles do well in the Singing News Charts and other Gospel Music radio charts, reaching the Top 80 and Top 40.

The Dysart Family has had the privilege of sharing the stage with *The Gatlin Brothers, Legacy Five Quartet, The Mark Trammell Quartet, The Talley Trio, The Lesters, Gold City Quartet, Jeff and Sheri Easter, and Tribute Quartet.*



A free-will offering will be collected.

Please join us for great music, great fellowship, and for refreshments afterwards.

www.dysartfamily.com

2018 Mission Minute Calendar

January 14	Preachers' Aid Society \$294
February 11	Restorative Justice \$322
March 11	PBL Life Skills Class \$491
April 8	Hands of Christ Food Pantry \$352
May 13	Emma Wright, "Remember Nhu" \$560
June 10	PBL School Supplies \$411
July 8	Cunningham Children's Home \$648
August 12	Intervarsity, Todd Epps \$279
September 9	PBL Coats for Kids \$552
October 14	Food Baskets \$452
November 11	Food Baskets \$639
December 9	UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response \$401
March to the Manger-Outreach Scholarship Program	\$1,872

The two upcoming Mission Minute collections for 2019 are:

January — "Remember Nhu"

February—Restorative Justice



January 11—Human Trafficking Awareness Day

EMMA WRIGHT, "Remember Nhu"

Emma Wright, the missionary we help support through the "Remember Nhu" Mission Minute, will be speaking at our church January 27th on her ministry experiences of working with children of the "Remember Nhu" program in Cambodia.

Children live in the program's residential property to avoid the sex trafficking trade and the missionaries help them learn English and teach them about God's love. There are many success stories of girls learning their own tribal language along with English, so they are able to become self-sustaining and safe from the traffickers.

Emma is asking that we help her build a library of books for her students. She is looking for new or gently used books for children 10 and under. There is a basket in fellowship hall to collect the books. They will be shipped sometime in February so let's continue to show our love and support to Emma and "Remember Nhu".



To request prayers for yourself or someone else for the **Prayer Chain**, contact Sally Wolf at: smwolf8864@gmail.com
Your prayer concerns will then go out via email to our church family.
Also, please contact Sally with status updates.





We're on Facebook!!

The Loda UMC is on Facebook and we're busy posting photos and announcing events that we hope you will find interesting. You can find us at: **Loda United Methodist Church**

"Like Us" and "Follow Us" if you're on Facebook. And, please "Share" some of our postings to your page so our announcements will reach a wider audience. *Thanks!*

When making a prayer request during our worship service, please fill out the form found in the pew pockets and place in the collection plate. By filling out the form, you are assured of a more accurate listing on our prayer list. →

PRAYER REQUEST

Person's Name to be prayed for _____

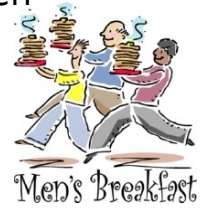
Reason for Prayer _____

Your Name _____

Relationship _____

Date: _____

The **Men's Breakfast** will be held January 20th at 7:30 a.m. with Carl Camp as the host. All men of the church are invited.



FEBRUARY

- 3rd: Communion, M & M Bake Off!
- 8th: 8:30 a.m. HCFP truck delivery
- 9th: 8:30 a.m. HCFP work day
- 10th: Mission Minute Collection: Restorative Justice
- 11th: 7:00 p.m. Ad Council meeting
- 17th: 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 1:30 p.m. Accolade (KT) service



We have collected \$20,977.85 in IGA receipts towards our \$200,000 goal, when we will then receive a \$1,000 check from the grocery store. So, please place your receipts in the collection plate. Thank you and thank you, IGA !



"Injustice anywhere is threat to justice everywhere"
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 21



Our December Collection needs for the **Hands of Christ Food Pantry** are:

- ◆ Cereal and Canned Fruit ◆

Please place your donated items in the wicker basket in the foyer/narthex.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



PBL Coats for Kids

Once again we are asking you to watch for clearance sales on winter coats. The last couple of years we have been able to get great coats to help with our Fall distribution of coats. Every dollar we are able to save in buying coats on clearance allows us to help even more next Fall.

If you see some coats on clearance but are unable to purchase them yourself, please contact Pastor Rachel or a member of the mission committee so we can take advantage of the savings!



Pictured above: Tedd King and Andy Kaufmann

Thanks to all who attended and generously donated to our benefit concert for Gabe Fairchild.

We raised \$3,175!

Our Choir presented and performed a beautiful Cantata titled "Holding on to Christmas" December 16th. Our thanks to the choir and the director, Annette Davis, for their time and effort involved. Narrators were Mary Dickinson and Jake Hitchens.



Where are you in your faith? Do you have questions, are you searching for God and want to get right with Him? The mission of the Visiting Team is to help answer questions anyone might have regarding their faith in God, to pray for or with the person the team is visiting, to learn if they have any physical or spiritual needs, to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them if they are interested. To make an appointment with the Visiting Team, please call the church office at 386.2237.

There are angels amongst us. Did you know? One named Les delivered a prayer quilt from the ladies of our church to me recently. The embroidered verse is paraphrased from my favorite song "On Eagles Wings" and Isaiah 40:32: "And God will hold me in the palm of His hand." What a thoughtful gift. Thank you all! And this angel also drove me to the Riverside Hospital. What a wonderful, caring church!

Love,
Judy Hearing

THANK YOU

My dear friends, thank you so much for your wonderful gifts and outpouring of love during this Christmas Season. And thank you for your patience and understanding that the season was a hard one for my family and me. Your love and prayers helped make this first Christmas without Mom a bit easier. Thank you!

Pastor Rachel

peace
begins with
tolerance
and
respect
for everyone

For all Loda

Township Residents:

Weekly Meals program —

Meals are delivered on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, starting at 11:30 a.m., to your home.

The delicious lunches are prepared by the Cissna Park Dairy Queen for \$4.00 each!

Call 386.2438 for a menu and to place an order.



The Mission Committee would like to thank our church family for your generous donations for food baskets. My grandsons, Addison, Avery, and Gavin helped deliver 10 food baskets which had a value of \$37.32 each. Every family was given an additional voucher for meat, milk, eggs, and bread totaling \$31.00. We were able to talk with each family and they expressed how much the food basket means to them.

Connie Ross, Mission Committee

Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.



M&M Bake-Off!

It's time to start making plans!

The Mission Committee is hosting an M&M Bake-Off in Sunday, **February 3**, as part of our congregation's ongoing efforts to meet our goal for "Our Conference, Our Kids."

We are challenging our chefs (you!) to grab some M&Ms and make your best recipe! The Church family will get to taste the results during fellowship time and vote on their favorites.

Pastor Rachel has the M&Ms, so see her to sign up for the challenge. If you don't wish to bake, start saving your quarters, as those are the only votes that will count!

Thank you all for joining us for the Walk Through Bethlehem this year! It was a pleasure having you and we hope you enjoyed interacting with Cunningham kids. We are so grateful for your continued support!

*Taylor Tureskis
Cunningham Children's Home*

Dear Loda United Methodist Women,

Thank you so much for the care package. It means so much that you are all thinking of me, and the snacks will definitely help with all the meals I will be skipping during finals. I can't wait to see you all.

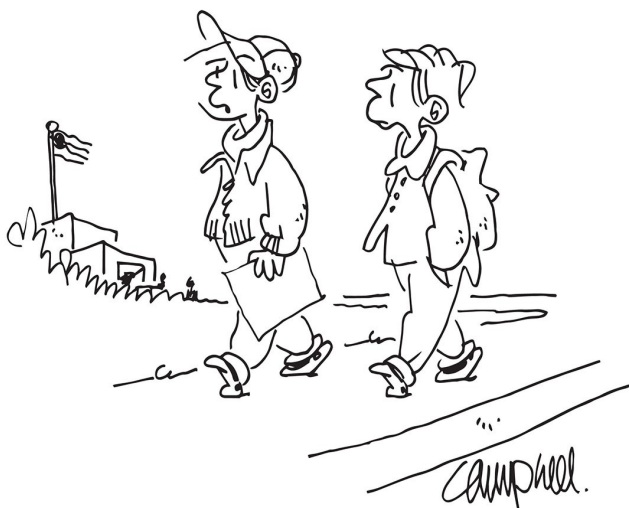
Connor Kaeb



Dear LUMW,

We were so happy to receive our care packages during finals. It was kind of you to think of us at this time. The snacks, gift cards, and fun items were a welcome treat from studying. Thanks for your continued support.

Dalton and Jaxson Coplea



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



A finance report was not available at the time of publication.

Just a note:

There was no Ad Council in December, so no minutes to include in this newsletter.

Prayer Reminder: UMC General Conference

February 23 -26, 2019, there will be a special session of the United Methodist Church General Conference, which will be making significant decisions about the future of the United Methodist Church. As delegates from around the world prepare for this historic event, our prayers are needed more than ever!

To learn more go to www.igrc.org and www.umc.org

The United Methodist Church: Looking for a way forward

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

Rather than making one proposal, the commission has developed three different proposal for the church to consider. There will be a special session of General Conference in February 2019 to explore and possibly adopt one of these proposals.

Since the commission's report is 93 pages long, I will not attempt to sum it up in just a few words. However, I do encourage you to look at some of the resources and become familiar with what is happening and what it might mean for us in the near future.

Below are two links that will take you to the United Methodist Church website and information on the Commission and the Special General Conference. In addition, you will receive along with this month's newsletter, a PDF developed by the Great Plains Annual Conference that offers a thumbnail sketch of each plan and its implications for the church on a number of levels.

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

Our own conference website, www.igrc.org, has links to resources used by our Bishop during recent informational sessions.

If you have any questions after reading up on the Special Session of General Conference, please feel free to contact Pastor Rachel.




BAPTISMAL RENEWAL SUNDAY

On Sunday, January 13th, our morning worship will focus on renewal and rededication as we share in a Congregational Service of Baptismal Remembrance. Baptism is a sacrament shared throughout Christianity. No matter what denomination baptized us, no matter how old we were, and no matter how much water was used, on January 8th we will remember that we were marked in baptism as God's own beloved children.

This is also a wonderful Sunday for those who have never been baptized to come forward and declare their faith. If you have not been baptized and are interested in learning more, contact Pastor Rachel.

Loda United Methodist Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	
6 Communion Epiphany	8	9	10	Jan Ward-B 11 8:30-10:00 a.m. HCFP Truck Delivery	128:30-11:00 a.m. HCFP "Loda UMC Day"	
13 Mission Minute collection Baptism Renewal 1:30 p.m. Accolade/ Heartland Service	15	16	Jay Ross-B 17	18	19	
20 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Dysart Concert	22	23	24	25	26	
27 Emma Wright, Guest Speaker	29	30	31	Carol Camp-B Alan Lee-B Mark Coplea-B		

Loda United Methodist Church, established 1857

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Facebook: Loda United Methodist Church

Pastor Rachel Stockle

217.710.2899 PastorRachel@mediacombb.net

Worship Service 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School Classes 11:00

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