

# THE UPDATE



## **Reveal Spiritual Life Survey**

*March 26-April 10*

Your spiritual growth is of vital importance to our church, whether you are just beginning to explore the Christian faith or you are a long-time follower of Christ. We want to do everything we can to help you on your spiritual journey. That's why we need your help. If you call LFMC your church home, we strongly encourage you to participate in the Reveal Spiritual Life Survey!

This survey, which asks questions about your spiritual life, will be available online from March 26-April 10. The Reveal Spiritual Life Survey is the best tool for helping each of us to know how to authentically pursue our faith. As your church leaders, we want to support you, so we're asking you to set aside time to take the survey. Survey findings will help shape our ministry efforts to move the people of LFMC closer to God. We know you are busy, but this is very important.

The survey must be completed in one sitting and requires about 35-40 minutes to complete. The survey link will be emailed to all whose email addresses are in LFMC Online, our church database/directory. A computer will be provided for use at the church for anyone who doesn't have Internet access at home.

Your input is crucial to the role our church plays in your spiritual development. Your responses are anonymous and are compiled by an expert third-party research organization that compares our responses with others' responses. This survey is an important tool to help us understand our church's role in your spiritual maturity. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution to this tool that will help us understand and plan our church's role in your spiritual life!

## Discipleship Ministries



### Primetimers

*Tuesday, Mar. 14, at noon in Rm. 24/25*

On February 14, sixteen happy people celebrated Valentines Day at the Primetimers luncheon. If you would like a good meal, wonderful fellowship, and an inspirational speaker, plan on joining us March 14. More information on that meeting a little later. (Oh yeah, you do need to be 50-or-better.) Not only did we have wonderful food, we were able to prepare Valentine's cards for Pastor Allie to give to the Awana kids on Wednesday evening. We had originally planned to give these to veterans in the VA Hospital, but it was decided to give them to the Awana kids.

Our special speaker, Ann Peuser, owner of Clinton Parkway Nursery, provided us with information about container gardening, how to grow vegetables and flowers in containers. It was very informative. Judy Rahn also told us about some of her experiences on her recent missions trip to Haiti.

We will do it again on March 14 with a potluck luncheon at noon. If you are a regular attender, you are asked to bring a main dish, a salad, or a dessert. First-time attenders will be our guest and do not need to bring anything. Ret. Col. Ernie Pogge, one of the members of the "greatest generation," will be providing us with information regarding his experiences in WWII and army life. This will be a most interesting presentation.

If you are 50-or-better, plan on joining us March 14. If you have questions, you can contact Ernie Dyer at (785) 393-3846 or [epdyer@att.net](mailto:epdyer@att.net).

## Student Ministries

### Chili Cook-off Recap

Thank you for your support for our teenagers! The Chili Cook-off was a huge success in our efforts to help send our teens off to the Free Methodist Youth Conference (FMYC) this summer. With about 100 people from church showing up to support us, we were able to raise a little over \$1,600. Praise God! With 18 students registered and a few more preparing to commit, the trip to FMYC is going to be an amazing opportunity for everyone going, both individually as we all engage with God and corporately

as we continue to connect as a youth group. We had 16 different entries for our Chili Contest. Give a congratulations to Robert Roome (3rd), Makenna Hayes (2nd), and Kelly Chase (1st) on their exceptional recipes (and maybe ask for the secret to making it yourself)! Thanks again for the big show of support for our teenagers and continue joining us in prayer for this summer event.

-Pastor Bryce





## FMYC

*June 26-30 in Fort Collins, CO*

FMYC is a week-long youth convention open to 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The Free Methodist Youth Conference has its roots in the Free Methodist Student Mission Movement which took place in the early 1900s. Since then, it has evolved and experienced several name changes. From Student Mission Movement, to Youth Advance, to Young People Mission Society, to International Youth Conference (IYC), and now to Free Methodist Youth Conference (FMYC). For the past several decades, FMYC has met every three years, and students from Free Methodist churches around the country and world gather together to develop authentic relationships with God and others, discover their potential for ministry, and connect students and leaders to the greater body of Christ! We want to see all our teens get away from regular structure of their lives for one week and experience the Holy Spirit move in great power!



## Young Teen 2 Camp

*June 19-23 at Durley Camp*

Summer is around the corner and so is Young Teen 2 Camp at Durley Camp in Greenville, IL! Young Teen 2 is for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade and takes place June 19-23. The cost for Young Teen 2 is \$205 per student. For more detailed information, as well as access to online registration forms, visit [durleycamp.org/youth-camps](http://durleycamp.org/youth-camps). The church will be providing transportation to and from camp.

## Children's Ministries

### Jr. Camp 2017

*June 12-16 at Rock Springs 4-H Center*

Jr. Camp is a week-long summer camp for children finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Located at Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, KS, Jr. Camp is a wonderful, safe, and fun environment for kids to begin to explore new hobbies, make new friends, gain more independence, and connect with God on a deeper level. Jr. Camp is not just for kids from the Lawrence area; kids connected with Free Methodist churches in Kansas and Nebraska come, too!

Who: Current 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends

Where: Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, KS

When: June 12-16

How Much: \$250 after March 1—\$100 deposit due with registration form. Balance due May 14. (Gift card accounts can be used to pay for deposit and camp.)

Registration Forms: Due May 14—available in children's lobby and at [lfmchurch.org/junior-camp](http://lfmchurch.org/junior-camp).

For more information, contact Pastor Allie or Bethany Engel (the Jr. Camp Director) in the church office.





## March in DU

Forgiveness is a reflection of the character of God.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded about God's grace and forgiveness.

God makes us white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)  
 God's mercies are new every morning.  
 (Lamentations 3:22-23)  
 God is faithful and just to forgive our sins.  
 (1 John 1:9)

When our relationship with God was broken beyond repair, God offered His only Son as the way to forgive us and restore the broken relationship.

Since we are created in God's image, we have the ability to offer forgiveness when people in our lives hurt us. God's love in us makes it possible for us to forgive others and work towards fixing our own relationships that break down from time to time.

Jesus made it possible for us to have God's forgiveness.

God's showed us just how much He cares about forgiveness when He made the ultimate sacrifice and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. While sin separates us from God, He offers grace and forgiveness as a gift for us to receive. We have been forgiven of so much, it's only right that we turn to those in our lives and offer forgiveness to them in return.

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about **Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.**

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Colossians 3:13.

In **Colossians 3:13**, we read, **“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.” (NIV)**

This verse, from Paul's letter to the church at Colossi, reminds us not only that God forgave our sins, but also that we should forgive others instead of holding grudges against one another. We pray that throughout March, families will let go of what they're holding against each other and choose to forgive. We think that this could be a powerful month in the lives of kids and families in our churches.

We will spend the month of March taking a closer look at the way forgiveness shows up throughout a few of the parables Jesus told His followers.



### WEEK 1

We start off the month learning about the lengths God will go to rescue His children.

In **Luke 15:1-7**, we listen to a story Jesus told about a shepherd that risked the entire flock in order to find and rescue the one sheep who has run off.

Bottom Line: **God forgives you.** We'll focus on God's love for us that went to great lengths to rescue us from our sin. Through this story of the Lost Sheep, we pray that kids will remember that God forgives us.



### WEEK 2

We continue our look at forgiveness with one of Jesus' most well known parables.

In **Luke 15:11-24**, Jesus talks about a kid who thinks he's got it all together. He demands half of his dad's money and takes off to spend it on himself. It's only when the money is gone he realizes he's made a HUGE mistake and needs forgiveness. He's got just one hope: that his dad will let him come home and be a servant.

Bottom Line: **Everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** Realizing one's need for forgiveness is a huge step for anyone. But through Jesus' story, we hope kids realize that everyone needs forgiveness, even them.



## WEEK 3

We continue Jesus parable of the Lost Son in **Luke**

**15:21-32**. Although the son returns ready to work off the

money he took from his father, the father welcomes his Lost Son home, and even throws a giant party! But not everyone's too happy about this. The kid's older brother has obeyed dad all his life—without a single party to show for it. He's sulking in the backyard until his dad shows up. And if big brother isn't willing to let this whole thing go, he'll miss out.

Bottom Line: **When you don't forgive, you miss out.** The same thing is true for us. When we don't forgive we have the potential to miss out on all that could happen through that relationship. God can give us the strength we need to forgive. And when we do, we get to find out the amazing things that God can do when we decided to forgive.

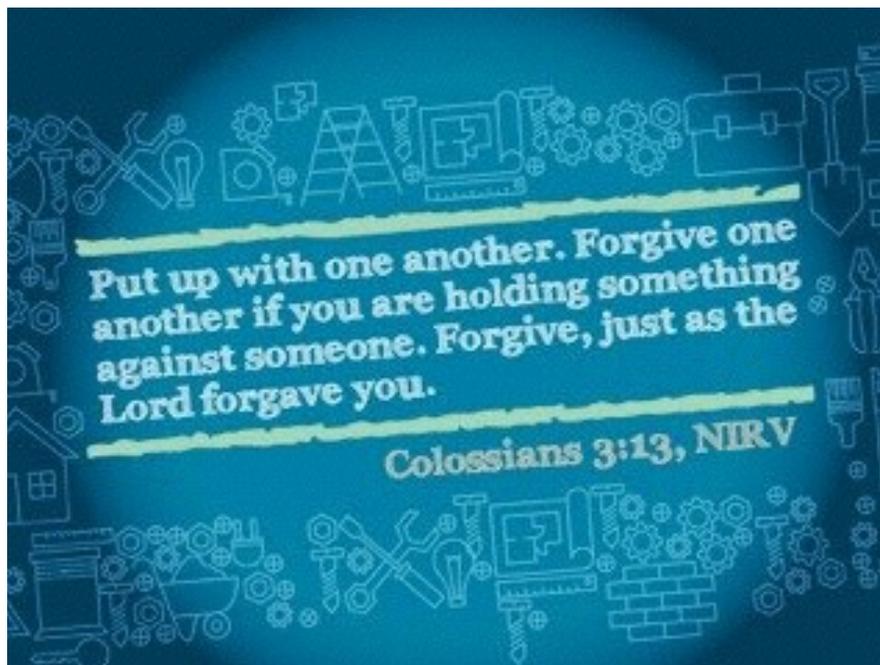


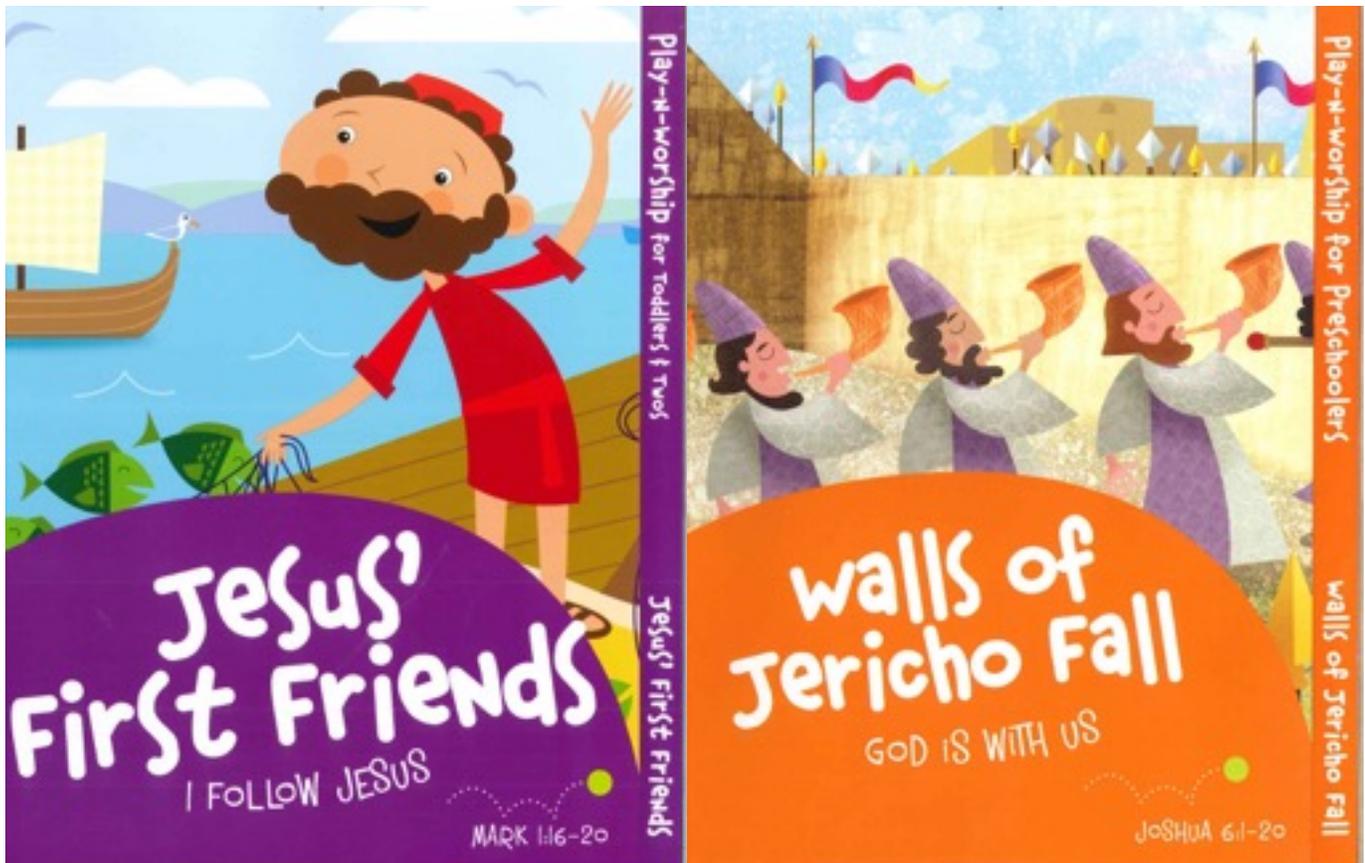
## WEEK 4

We finish the month with another one of Jesus' parables in **Matthew 18:21-35**. Jesus tells the story of a servant who

likes to live it up—even though he's weighed down by MILLIONS of dollars in debt! This servant gets a big break when the king forgives his debt. You'd think he's got it made—until he finds a man who owes him a few bucks. You'd think he'd pay it forward and cancel the debt, but that's not what happened. He gets caught when he didn't forgive others like the king forgave him.

Bottom Line: **Since God forgave you, you should forgive others.** Forgiveness is full circle. God chose to forgive us when we had a huge debt against Him because of our sin. Because we are forgiven of so much, when others hurt us, we should respond with forgiveness in return. We pray that kids will start to realize how they can forgive people in their life.



**March in Twos...****and in Threes and Fours**

## Missions

**Haiti Trip Recap**

On January 28, fifteen missionaries traveled together to Haiti for a week of service at the Kids Alive children's village. Our travels were smooth and uneventful, and we arrived in Cap Haitien around 2:30 p.m., local time (which is the same as Eastern Standard Time, in case you were wondering). We were met at the airport by John Paracles, the sponsorship coordinator and team host for Kids Alive Haiti, and Erin Higgins, a kindergarten teacher at the school there. (You may remember that Erin was in Lawrence last summer.) We were delayed in customs, as the customs agent decided to look through each one of our bags—fortunately we were not asked for any additional money. But, soon we and our bags (which included fourteen suitcases full of donated items provided by LFMC) were loaded into the Kids Alive “tap-tap” and we were on our way to a local restaurant, where we had a chance to sit, rest from our travels, and enjoy a late lunch together with our hosts before heading to the team house. The Kids Alive cooks brought dinner to us in the evening, and we had an orientation meeting with our team hosts. Since we had been up since the wee hours of the morning, most of us turned in early after that.



Sunday morning, we were picked up and taken to Hope Baptist Church, a large church that works closely with Kids Alive, where we enjoyed hearing a beautiful children's choir and a sermon preached almost entirely in Haitian Creole and French, though the pastor kindly greeted the white visitors in very good English and we were given sermon notes in English as well.

After church, we went back to the team house, changed clothes, and headed to the Kids Alive children's village for a tour of the compound, a visit to the work site, and a community walk. Though most of the team had been to Haiti before, there were five first-timers, and this was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn more about Kids Alive and see where the children live, both inside the compound, and in the community nearby.

On our community walk, we saw several of the Kids Alive kids who don't live on the compound, including some of the kids that some of us sponsor—they joined us on our walk.

The community walk provides an opportunity to see how difficult life can be in Haiti. We saw homes made from concrete block, but also homes made from mud and sticks, and even just branches and tarps. The children often sleep on a mat or a blanket on a dirt floor.

During our walk, we met an older woman who is the grandmother of Kirby, one of the kids at the KA school. She told us (through our interpreter) that she was afraid she was going to be evicted from her home, because she didn't have the \$50 for her five-year lease. As it turns out, a team member from previous trips who couldn't be with us this year had sent \$50 and asked us to "bless someone in Haiti" with it, so we asked Robenson Gedeus (Director of Kids Alive Haiti) to make sure she received the \$50 for her lease.

On Monday morning, after breakfast and team devotions, we arrived early at the school to watch the flag-raising ceremony, a weekly ritual at the school involving singing, Scripture recitation, and the raising of the national flag. The team was introduced to the children, and then we were off to our work site.

Most of the team worked on the new school construction, laying concrete block, but three of our team members worked each day at the old school, conducting vision screenings with the

children. A local (to us) optometrist, Dr. Paul Brinckman, had trained several members of our team to do basic vision testing in the weeks leading up to our trip and agreed to analyze the data our screeners gathered, in hopes of being able to treat those who needed some vision correction or other treatment. The vision screening team (Kim Riffel, Susan Anderson, and Angie Bird) tested over 170 kids during the week we were there.

The rest of the team worked each day at the new school construction site, and laid more than 3,000



blocks on the perimeter walls and partition walls of the second floor. We worked closely alongside a fairly large Haitian crew this year, and though there was an obvious language barrier, we at least got to know many of the Haitians by name. Except for brief periods of cloud cover, most days were sunny, hot and humid, but we did our best to stay well-hydrated and protected from the sun.

Laying block is hard work, but it is rewarding to see the walls grow taller and to see rooms, windows, and doorways take shape. And, it is a blessing to know that soon the new school

will be full of children, even more children than KA can accommodate for school now.

Each day we had lunch at the old school, prepared by the school cooks—they took very good care of us and fed us well. There was a lot of rice and pasta and vegetables, sometimes meat, and always a very sweet grapefruit juice concoction that was cool and refreshing. On Tuesday, our lunchtime was extended so that those of us who brought gifts for our sponsored children could take some time to give them to the kids. On Thursday, we split up into pairs and ate lunch in the various homes of the residential children with their families.

On Friday, we were able to take the morning off and travel about 45 minutes north to a small...

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...beach resort where we rested, swam, and enjoyed another meal together before we went back to the KA compound for the weekly chapel service. The chapel service is planned and executed by the children themselves—they choose the songs, lead the singing, play the music, read the Scriptures, and conduct most of the service. At this service, team member Richard Erickson spoke to the kids on behalf of the team, encouraging them to work hard at school and also to get to know Jesus. We all had an opportunity to tell a little about ourselves and say goodbye to the children—this is always one of the more tearful times of the trip—and then we were off for one last evening at the team house.

That evening after dinner we were treated to a house concert from the “Real Boys,” a vocal/rap group of teenage boys who live on the KA compound. Their performance was mostly in Creole, but they translated lyrics for us. Their original songs were about their love for the Lord and their dependence on Him, and about their pride in their Haitian heritage, and their hope for their country. We ALL bought copies of their brand-new CD. Afterwards, we had a team debriefing session where we shared what we had learned and talked about the highlights of our time

in Haiti, and then we started packing for the trip home. Saturday morning, we loaded up in the tap-tap with our luggage and set out for the airport, stopping at the tourist market along the way for some souvenirs. Then we began our trip home, stopping first in Miami, and finally arriving in Kansas City well after midnight.

Everyone was tired but grateful to have had the chance to experience Haiti, to get to know some of the children, some of the house parents, some of the KA staff, and to see God at work in a very hard place. It is hard to imagine having a positive, hopeful attitude in such a poor place, but we saw it again and again. God is definitely up to something in Haiti.

We are so thankful for the prayers and support of our church family. We believe that your prayers helped keep us safe and healthy, and helped us to have eyes to see the things that God wanted us to see there. Maybe you'd like to come next time?

*Doug Heacock, on behalf of the 2017 Haiti team\**

*\*Susan Anderson, Angie Bird, Taylor Bird, Richard Erickson, Doug Heacock, Kenna LaRue, Taylor Manning, Judy Rahn, Kim Riffel, Rick Riffel, Randy Roy, Amber Temple, Stephanie Temple, Larry Wedman, Tasha Wertin.*





## Family Promise

“By viewing compassion as an obedient response to our loving Father, we avoid the constant temptation to see it as a noble act of self-sacrifice.”

“To offer the lost art of hospitality, to come alongside families in the program during a very difficult period in life, to see God actively at work in the lives of so many and to meet people in all walks of life who strive to make the world a bit brighter - this models instructions from Micah 6:8: ‘And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.’” -Dana Ortiz, Executive Director

*Have you ever wondered how to make a difference in someone's life?*

Family Promise, a faith-based program, has a variety of ways you can help homeless children and their families right here in Lawrence to move to having permanent housing.

*Food Ministry & Meal Fellowship with Participants in Church Rotation*

LFMC serves quarterly (Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.). You can provide food or you can “host,” which simply means serving the food and eating with families. It's life-changing to observe the tenacity of these hard-working families. For more information regarding food, contact Kara Perry at [kpyacker@yahoo.com](mailto:kpyacker@yahoo.com) or (785) 423-2702.

### *Call to Community*

If you'd like a long-term relationship with a family, FP's Call to Community program may be for you. You partner with a family and meet with them at least twice a month. The purpose: to simply come alongside this family to offer encouragement and friendship—a highly successful program that can always use more volunteers.

### *Provide a Meal for Monthly Support of Fellowship/ Instruction Meetings*

Graduates of the program enjoy weekly meetings for continued fellowship and instruction. Members of our church provide a meal once a month for about 30 people. We could use your help!

### *Donations*

Because of the success of the program, families are frequently being placed into housing. FP accepts donations of certain furniture and household appliances.

### *Grocery Card Gift Program*

FP case managers have noticed an increase of hunger in the families they counsel. Sometimes there isn't room for them in the program at that time. FP has begun to give out grocery gift cards to help with this need. You can donate the cards in denominations of \$30 or less.

For more Family Promise information or training, contact Brenda Flynn at [bflynn169@gmail.com](mailto:bflynn169@gmail.com) or (785) 550-5422.

## Family Promise Wish List

Diapers (especially sizes 4-6)  
Diaper Wipes  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
Antibacterial Wipes  
Dish and Laundry Soap

Dryer Sheets  
Body Wash  
Shampoo and Conditioner  
Kleenex  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Hand Sanitizer  
All-Purpose Cleaner

Toothbrushes (all sizes)  
Toothpaste  
Dental Floss  
Paper (for printers)  
Ink Cartridges (HP 950 & 951, HP 74 & 75)  
10-count Bus Passes

# Heartland Food Pantry Items Needed



Place items in shopping cart in LFMC lobby March 1-31.

<p><b><u>Personal Hygiene</u></b>                  Body Wash                  Toilet Paper                  Paper towels                  Deodorant                  Shampoo, Conditioner                  Laundry Soap</p> <p><b><u>Boxed Food</u></b>                  Hamburger Helper                  Crackers                  Oats/Instant oatmeal                  Pancake mix                  Rice-a-Roni</p>	<p><b><u>Canned Food</u></b>                  Mandarin Oranges, Peaches,                  Pineapple, Mixed Fruit                  Canned Spinach or Beets                  Tomatoes (Diced, seasoned, with                  green chilis)                  Beans-Garbanzo, Chili, Kidney,                  Baked, or Refried</p> <p><b><u>Other Canned Food</u></b>                  Canned or Creamed Soups                  Canned Chili                  Canned Meats                  Canned Tuna or Chicken</p>	<p><b><u>Other Food items</u></b>                  Spaghetti Sauce                  Cereal                  Applesauce                  Jelly                  100% Fruit Juice                  Condiments                  Popcorn                  Salsa                  Instant Rice                  Sugar                  Flour                  Vegetable Oil                  Wheat Crackers</p>
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Misc.



## Volunteer Brunch

Saturday, Mar. 4, 9-11 a.m. in the FLC (gym)

To all of you who have generously given your time and effort by volunteering at LFMC, we thank you for the enormous impact you have had in all areas of ministry!

We want to show our appreciation by inviting you and your family to our Volunteer Brunch on Saturday, Mar. 4, from 9-11 a.m. You can come

and go whenever you want!

Please accept our invitation and allow us to do something for YOU! A lot of ministry goes on in our church, reaching all ages, interests, and needs. You faithfully show up time after time. Our volunteers—you!—are what make it all happen! Please let us show you, in this small way, how much your efforts mean to us.

## New Attenders Luncheon

Sunday, Mar. 5, 12-1:15 p.m. in Rm. 24/25 (near the gym)

If you are new to LFMC and would like to find out more about our mission, values, and ministries, you are invited to our New Attenders Luncheon. This is a great big-picture information time, and you will have an opportunity to ask the pastors any questions you may have. Pizza and drinks will be provided.





## Time Change is coming!

*Sunday, Mar. 12*

Mark your calendar! Set a reminder on your phone! Put a sticky note on the mirror! And, make your coffee extra strong! On March 12, Daylight Saving Time will begin, and we will all need to set our clocks an hour ahead.

## All-Church Workday

*Saturday, Apr. 1, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.*

We hope you will join us for an all-church workday to spruce up our facility as we head into spring and prepare our facility and grounds to welcome guests on Easter. Our Trustees are organizing the outside work, and there might be inside cleaning as well. There will be plenty to do, so please plan to come, even if you can't be here all morning. As the scriptures say, "Many hands make light work!"



## Free KU Baseball Tickets

*Sunday, April 2, 1:00 p.m. at Hoglund Park*

Our church has been given 100 free tickets for the April 2 KU-Texas baseball game. Priority for tickets is given to children and teens, and the adults that bring them. (This is not a drop-off event.) Tickets will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. If you'd like to take your family and friends, please contact the church office at (785) 842-2343 or [office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org) to reserve your tickets.

## Gift Card Fundraiser Program

Want to pay for Jr Camp, FMYC, or missions trips without spending extra money? Use the gift card fundraiser program. It's easy and can make a huge dent in out-of-pocket expenses. *(You can help others pay for events, too!)*

**How does it work?** Buy a gift card, and 2-14% of the total goes into fundraiser account, ready to use for any church-sponsored event. You choose whether it goes toward your family, another family, or a ministry (eg. missions or children/youth).

### What can you use them for?

Just running to the grocery store? Get gift cards to purchase your groceries! Traveling? Get gift cards to pay for gas, airlines, or hotels! Shopping? Get gift cards to pay for purchases in-store or online! Picky person's birthday? Get them a gift card! Need a break? Get gift cards to go out to eat or to the movies!

**Where can you use them?** Checkers, HyVee, Kohls, and Walmart/Sam's Club are always on hand.

Hundreds of others ("prepaid cards") can be ordered—from Amazon to Zappos, Applebee's to Wendy's, AMC Theatres to Walgreens, and many, many more. See the complete list at the kiosk in the lobby or in the church office. (Orders for prepaid cards are placed on Mondays and arrive on Fridays.)

**When can you buy/order them?** Every Sunday in the lobby (after each service) and in the church office during office hours (Mon-Fri, 8-12 & 1-5)

## Sunday Services & Programs

9:00 a.m.

Blended Worship

Care for infants through preschoolers

10:35 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Care for infants through 2-year-olds

Programs for preschoolers through 12<sup>th</sup> graders

## Church Office Information

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

Phone: (785) 842-2343

[office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org)

[www.lfmchurch.org](http://www.lfmchurch.org)

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