

Are we there yet?

This nostalgic phrase in the American language came into common usage when cars became an accepted mode of transportation in this country. Its been so much a part of my life, it probably made the top-ten list of all-time worst questions to hear from anyone in the passenger seat. There are emojis, memes, gifs, and even a movie made by the same title. These four words, apparently the perpetual question, make frequent appearances in cartoons, books, and yes, even church newsletter articles.

The question implies that the real excitement happens at the journey’s end. In other words, the question is focused exclusively on the destination. It conveys impatience, fatigue, and an all too common tendency to project oneself into the future. These four words have even found their way into business communications as collaborators working on a project ask the question to discover if the goal of the project is achieved. Once again, the focus is on results and not the process that yields the results.

Let us take a moment and reflect on the dreaded phrase that we all love to hate. Well, hate is probably too strong of a word, perhaps dislike strongly might be a better way of speaking. The phrase itself has a place in our collective memory. I did extensive research to discover the origins of the phrase and when it first came into widespread use. The query even stumped Google. Preposterous, unthinkable, yet altogether true. As an informed citizen and occasionally frazzled parent, I wonder if that might not be why Google began to dabble in self-driving cars all the way back to 2009.

One might go so far as to wonder how many of Waymo’s (Google rebrand) fleet of 600 self-driving cars (mostly in Phoenix) have artificial intelligence that responds to that question. Imagine getting on board, setting the destination, putting on a pair of noise-canceling headphones, leaving technology to drive the car, and answer *the question*. I can tell you that Penny and I have watched this emerging technology closely. Soon this may be the answer to a lot of visually challenged persons being able to live more independent lives.

Right about now, you are wondering how we began with an image of Bart Simpson in the back of the Homer-mobile to self-driving cars? It is part of the way my mind works. I’m a problem solver; if there is an issue to be dealt with, then a solution must be out there somewhere. And I need to find it. There’s a little bit of that in all of us.

If you take the time to be observant, you can almost hear this question in the biblical narrative. Sara must have asked this of Abram several times on their journey from Ur. How many Jewish kids asked their parents that question during the Exodus? In Acts chapter one, the apostles essentially ask this question of the resurrected Christ. He responds like a patient parent, reminding them they are to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Speaking solely for myself, it feels like we’ve traveled for some time toward a post-COVID world. The journey is tedious, and we want so much to be able to get out of the car and stretch our legs in a familiar place. We long for a world with hugs, handshakes, and unfettered human interaction.

Unfortunately, the church can’t call for a ride from Waymo, tell the car where we want to go, and go to sleep until we get there. It may feel like wandering in the wilderness, but it is a part of our Christian experience. One day we *will arrive*, but let us not forget to be fully present on our journey. To do otherwise is to miss out on formative opportunities that will shape us as human beings and as followers of Jesus Christ. The next time you are tempted to ask “the question,” ease back in the seat, take a look out the window and remember life is about the journey, not just the destination. **Pastor Kenny**

Calendar for the Week

8:45 a.m. Sunday - Lexa Worship Service – Masks required

10:00 a.m. Sunday - Drive In Worship Service (Weather permitting)

11:00 a.m. Sunday – Marvell Worship Service – Masks required – Limit 50

ATTENDANCE			STEWARDSHIP REPORT	
Lexa Worship	4		2020 Budget	\$184,576
Marvell Sunday School	15		Needed each week	3,550
Marvell Worship	74+		Received for this week	2,780
(Drive in – 43	In person – 22	Online – 9)	Capital Improvement	25
FUND RAISER FOR STEPHANIE POWELL			Holiday Shop	720
Mary Henderson has made cheese straws, squash relish & cowboy candy to raise money for Stephanie Powell’s medical expenses. The cheese straws are \$8, squash relish \$7 & cowboy candy \$5. These can be picked up at the church or water department.			Poinsettias	20
POINSETTIAS			CHARGE CONFERENCE	
Please let Nina know this week if you want to order a poinsettia – the order has to be in next week.			Marvell/Lexa Charge Conference will be held on October 27 at 2 p.m. in a Zoom Meeting with our DS Mark Norman. All reports have to be in by Oct. 13 th . We need to schedule a PPR, Finance & Ad. Council meeting in the next 2 weeks.	

WORSHIP SERVICES

The Lexa UMC will meet Sunday at **8:45 a.m.**, the Drive In Service at Marvell will be at 10 a.m. (weather permitting) & the Marvell UMC will meet at 11 a.m. **You are required to wear masks at all times inside.** Marvell is limited to 50 people, **so call Nina to reserve a place.** If you do make a reservation & find out you cannot come, **PLEASE** let us know as soon as possible. **Please come in & sit down – remember no hugging or shaking hands!!**

WORSHIP SERVICES/DEVOTIONALS

Our Sunday worship services & devotionals are available on YouTube & our Facebook page. **Please let Nina know** if you are watching the service.

OFFERING

Please get your offering to Nina on Sundays, drop it by the Water Department, church office, mail to Box 669, Marvell or umcmarvelltreasurer@gmail.com on PayPal. Mail Lexa's to David Treadaway – Box 22, Lexa, AR.

PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Great news, Marvell UMC is making it easier to give via PayPal. This safe and secure option is available on our church's website on the homepage. Press the yellow Donate button, and the page will immediately redirect to PayPal. You can complete your transaction by using a debit, credit, or PayPal account. PayPal does charge a user fee of 2.2% plus \$0.30 per transaction, which is the lowest in the industry (\$0.52 per \$10). So, for instance, if you authorized payment for \$210.40, the church would receive \$200.00. Thank you for supporting the work of Christ's church!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Ms. Courtney is having her Sunday School lessons each week on Facebook. Don't forget to watch them & do the activities. Comment on the lesson so we will know that you & your child/children are watching.

Chuck Schaffhauser is leading the Pairs & Spares Class on Zoom every Sunday morning from 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.

THANKS

Thanks to Pastor Kenny, Penny, Courtney & Julian for leading the worship services.

Thanks to Shelton & Julian for getting the sound equipment set up & taken down.

Thanks to David Treadaway, Bruce & Debbie, Mike, Shelton & Nina for getting things done before & after the worship services

Chuck, Thomas & Wesley for the media work -
Julian & Thomas for counting the offering.

Thank you for remembering us in your prayers.
Larry & Barbara Moeller

BIRTHDAYS

Sept 26 – Shannon Young
Cole Young
29 – Tripp Loomis

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sherry Lynn Kemmer
Courtney Turner
Doug Green
Louis Aycock
Brenda Woodyard
Samuel Hall
Mary Hindsley
Misty Bright
Charles Robinson

Leslie Chin
Annie Head
Bill Brown
Alan & Pam Wildschuetz
Jason O'Neal
Stephanie Powell
Scott Russell
Barbie Washburn
Boby Von Kanel
Dorothy Young Thompson
Chad, Ashley, Lauren & Allie Coleman
Luke Schaffhauser
Kathy Rooks
Dave Lee
Jim & Genevieve Fouse
Donna Sue Smith
Clarence Guest
Steve Burk
Levi Stringer
Fallyn Cobb
Andrea Cavette Dillard
Stanley Bartlett
Louis Aycock
Ralph Clemons
Glen & Deb Hosey I
Christy Davidson
Mildred Clatworthy
Bobby Steiner
Laura Deitz
Brandon Bosnick
Tim Thomas
Olivia Coy
Drew Perkins
Maesa Kilpatrick
Ian Miller
Jimmy & Donna Allen
Ameera Marshall
Lee Scarbrough
Doug Moreland
Richard Brady
Pam Catlett
George Yahnke
Riley Kate Haas
B.J. Russell
Charles Loeschner
Franklin Broom
Kevin Forrester
Landon Jones
Sherry Taminello
Jake Katilus
Shannon Steward
Charlie Jones
Miranda Raca
John Stroud
Delores Jackson
Jane Guest
Lottie Potts
Jay Yarbrough
Stephanie Sanderlin