



An all-church rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ark. Please save your stuff and donate it to the rummage sale to benefit the mission projects of LPC. Volunteers are needed and pickups will be available. More information will be coming.

Preaching Schedule

<p><i>Sunday, April 4</i> Communion Sunday Easter Sunday</p> <p>Evidence for Easter <i>1 Corinthians 15:1-8</i></p> <p><i>Sunday, April 11</i></p> <p>A World Without God <i>2 Timothy 3:1-9</i></p>	<p><i>Sunday, April 18</i></p> <p>Standing Firm <i>2 Timothy 3:10-17</i></p> <p><i>Sunday, April 25</i></p> <p>Majestic Mandate <i>Exodus 14:10-16</i></p>
--	--

Chronicle

Lebanon Presbyterian Church

April 2021



No Fear of Death

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

- 1 Corinthians 15:55

Tim Keller tells the story of a little boy who was grieving the death of his cousin. Wanting to comfort him, his parents said, **"Remember how you watched the Lion King? It's just the circle of life. When you die, your body goes into the earth and makes things grow."**

Instead of being comforted, the little boy ran out of the room screaming, **"I don't want to be fertilizer!"**

Our secular world tells us that death is natural. Grief therapists tell us that death is nothing to be afraid of – that death is our friend. Greeting cards portray death as something lovely and beautiful – like a walk in the garden.

However, the Bible says something very different. The Bible tells us that death is our enemy. The Bible tells us that death is not a blessing but a curse – the result of human sin and disobedience. The Bible tells us that death is not natural – that God created us to live forever.

Do you remember the story of Lazarus? When Jesus arrived at the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha were grieving deeply. **Jesus didn't try to cheer them up or tell them death is natural. Instead, Jesus wept.**

When Jesus came to the place where Lazarus was buried, **it says that he was "deeply moved."** Actually, the Greek word is much stronger than that. What it literally means is that Jesus **"snorted with rage."** (John 11:38). In the presence of death, Jesus felt anger. In response, Jesus

raised Lazarus from death to life.

You see, Jesus did not make friends with death – he abolished it. Jesus did not accept death, he destroyed it. Jesus did not make peace with the grave, he conquered it.

In Colossians 2:15, the Apostle Paul writes that Jesus made a **"public spectacle" of the powers of death, "triumphing over them by the cross."**

What a wonderful image of Jesus leading a victory parade in heaven and making a spectacle of death!

For some, the idea of turning into fertilizer is comforting. But for most of us, it is not. Tim Keller writes these words: **"To say that death is natural is to harden and perhaps kill a**

part of your hope that makes you human. We know deep down that we are not like trees or grass. We were created to last. We don't want to be temporary or inconsequential. We don't want to be just a wave upon the sand. Death is not the way it ought to be. It is abnormal."

After thousands of years of human history, you would think we would get used to death. But we never do. Death is always painful. A friend of mine was grieving the death of **her father and wrote these words: "The reason death is so hard for us is because we were not meant to die."**

Jesus has destroyed forever the power of death. That is the good news that we celebrate at Easter.

Your servant in Christ,
Peter



Like us on Facebook!

We are on the web!
www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Peter Larson

Worship Times
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10 a.m. Traditional Worship
11 a.m. Modern Worship

123 N. East St.
Lebanon, OH 45036
513-932-2751

Lebanon Presbyterian Church

Permit No. 94

US Postage Paid

Non-Profit Organization

Children's Ministry News by Tracy Untener

Learning about The Big Ten!



During this session of Wednesday Nights Together the kids learned about the 10 commandments, what Jesus said about them, and how they can relate this to their everyday lives. Each night, we began in one large group where we went over the commandment we were learning through object lessons, group activities, videos, and discussion. It was during this time that we worked on memorizing the 10 Commandments, using sign language to help us. That was a lot of fun!

After large group time, we split up into three age level groups for more age appropriate discussion and activities. The preschoolers had fun doing various games, crafts, puppet

skits, etc. They had some wonderful learning moments. For instance, during one lesson, they had watched and discussed a video, and were playing a related game where the children were hunting around the room for pictures. One of the children playing got very frustrated because he wasn't finding many. His friends always seemed to beat him to it. Suddenly, he sat down, put his head down, and began to cry. Before either leader could say a word, his friends began calling his name and pointing to some of the hidden pictures. After a moment, the child looked up, wiped his face, began to smile and happily "found" the pictures that his friends were pointing out. Without any encouragement, our preschoolers had taken what they learned from the discussion and had responded to their friend's feelings with kindness and love.

The kindergarten through third grade class discussed the commandments in more depth each week, and played games with meaning that drove the point home. When we studied the first and second commandments, for example, they did a relay race where they had to use a teaspoon to scoop a piece of crumpled blue paper out of a bowl filled with both crumpled white and blue pieces of paper. The white paper represented God, and the blue paper represented things in their lives that they put ahead of God. As the game progressed, it became harder and harder to scoop the blue paper out of the bowl; those things from their lives that keep them from putting God first. The point of the game was then discussed: sometimes it's hard, but we should always make sure we put God first in our hearts and lives.

WNT for our fourth to sixth graders involved Bible study and games. The students spent a lot of time working on Bible navigation throughout the semester. Each week they would work together to look up a variety of scripture references that expanded upon or illustrated the commandment they were studying. Students began to learn what books are in the Old Testament and what books are in the New Testament, as well as how to find chapters and verses. For some students, it was the first time they really explored looking up scripture by chapter and verse.

The WNT Kids leaders and I are so grateful to have had such rich experiences with the kids as we took our journey through The Big Ten! The Holy Spirit led our planning and discussion each week, and the kids really responded and learned a lot. Praise God!



iPray

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

-Martin Luther

Please pray for the following concerns of the church in the coming month:

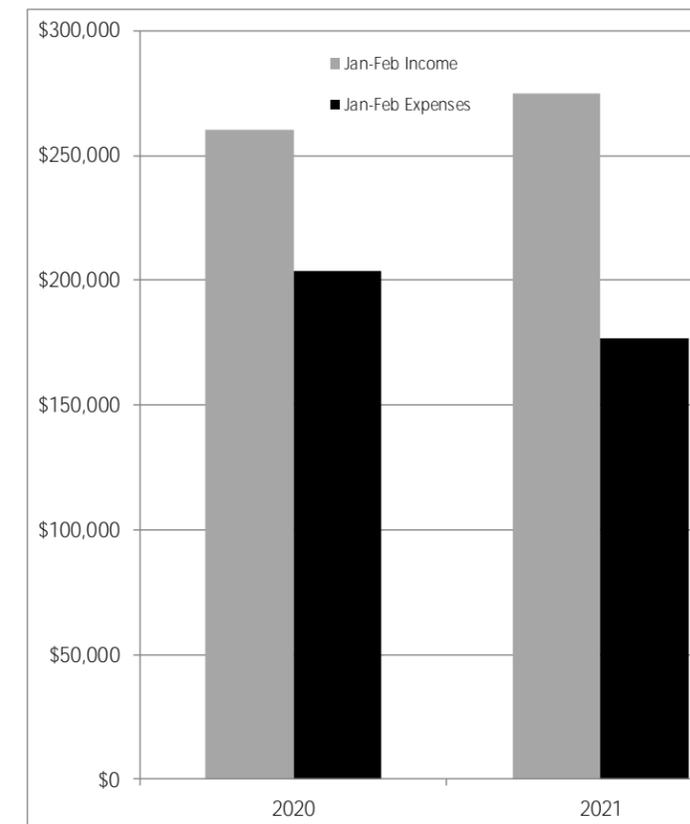
- ✚ For Stephanie Poblentz and her husband, Matt, as she prepares to move to Lebanon to join the staff of LPC.
- ✚ For our Easter Sunday worship services that people will hear and believe the good news of the resurrection.
- ✚ For our Long Range Planning Team as they prepare to present recommendations to Session.
- ✚ For our search team as they seek a new organist.
- ✚ For our search team as they seek a new Director of the LPC Playschool.
- ✚ For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus.

Session

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our March 15 monthly meeting:

- ✚ Approved the transfer of the 2020 surplus of \$39,723 to the Short Term Capital Account. (Most of this will be used to cover the cost of replacing our back parking lot).
- ✚ Approved a transfer of \$80,000 from the Long Term Capital Funds Account into the HVAC Designated Account for future replacement of HVAC units and roofing.
- ✚ Approved quarterly transfers of \$10,000 from the Capital expense budgeted account to the HVAC designated account.
- ✚ Approved a request from the Safety Ministry Team to purchase new exterior office doors with intercom and monitoring system at a total cost of \$9,366.
- ✚ Formed a subcommittee of elders to propose a timeline for lifting restrictions due to Covid-19.

LPC Income and Expenses



Financial Giving

As always, we rely on your faithful giving to support the mission and ministry of LPC. You can send your pledge by mail or you can take advantage of the online giving. To begin online giving just go to our church website at lebanonpresbyterian.org or text "give" to 513-443-5522, or scan the QR code below, by going to your camera and focusing on the code, then just touch the website QR code banner that pops up on your phone. You will be directed to the Suran website for giving at LPC.



Listening to the Church by Andrew Johnson

Student Ministry Covid Survey

In these unpredictable times, we want to make sure that we are continuing to meet the needs of our young people and our families. LPC Student Ministry is asking our families to help us understand the interests, needs and perspectives around Covid and future events and activities. We know that we cannot make everyone happy but we hope that we can create a variety of events and opportunities that will serve our families. Please help us determine what we can do to help young people see and know the love of God and make connections with one another. If you are a parent of a current 6th - 12th grader please fill out our survey with input from your student. Students and volunteer leaders are invited to complete the survey. By filling out our online survey you will help us understand your family's perspective on Covid procedure and interest in potential activities this summer and into the fall. We need your feedback. Anonymous responses will be accepted. We appreciate all of the input we have received through this crazy year and we look forward to your thoughts. The future is bright! The Survey can be found at <https://lebanonpresbyterian.org/student-ministry/>.

Why Discipleship is so Important

Disciple. Do you know what that means? A disciple is someone who follows someone around who they want to be like. **Not in a mob of middle schoolers swarming a pop star kind of way, but in a way where you're being sharpened by someone else.** Think about the word "disciple." What does it sound like? It sounds like the word "discipline," doesn't it? There's actually something to that. Discipleship takes some effort; it takes some discipline. Discipleship is when you have an intentional relationship with someone who is helping you to systematically improve yourself. In a Christian context, discipleship is about doing the hard work of digging deep with other Christians to become a better follower of Jesus, a better disciple. **And since Jesus isn't literally walking around the planet anymore, we have the church community and other Christ followers to teach us the ropes and help us follow Christ with our whole lives.**

Now, this isn't an easy task. It's actually incredibly hard, but incredibly worth it. Note what Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Did you catch that? The NIV translation says we should "spur" each other "towards love and good deeds." A spur is a spiky piece of metal used to make a horse go faster. That's what discipleship does. It gets you on the right path, the path toward Jesus, and makes sure you get as far down it as you can.

In Encounter Student Ministries we are committed to discipleship — We are committed to build into the lives of our peers and create opportunities for our students to be discipled by our small group leaders. We believe that the Gospel is spread and Christians grow in Christ through relationships. We encourage all of our LPC Family to seek out discipleship opportu-



Nick and Catherine Pierett in their new Encounter Sweatshirts



Encounter Movie Night in the Ark

What's Happening in Worship by Rick McNeely

Meet Chris Wismer

Chris is a member of The Crew and runs slides for the 10 a.m. service. He also serves as a lay reader in our traditional services. I recently had a chance to ask him about being part of the live stream team as well as a relatively new member of LPC.



RM: Hey Chris. Thanks for taking the time to chat with us. What was your first visit to LPC like?

CW: LPC made a great first impression. I really enjoyed the more traditional service with the organ and the hymns I grew up singing and I enjoyed Pastor Larson's preaching.

RM: What brought you back?

CW: This is the friendliest church I have ever visited. When people talk to you, you can tell they really do care about you and sincerely want to get to know you. That had not always been my experience on my other church visits. That was very appealing.

RM: What caused you to want to join the church?

CW: I had visited a few other churches in the area, but after I visited LPC a few times, I knew this was the place for me. LPC is a great Bible-believing church, with a real heart for outreach and ministry and it's not far from Countryside where I live. So, it ticked all the boxes for me.

RM: You've been volunteering with The Crew for some months now. How is that going?

CW: It's going well from my perspective. I've been able to shadow Rachel [Jaynes] and Anna [Bracey] on ProPresenter for a while and feel comfortable enough with it to do the second service by myself. It also helps that the second service is not broadcast on YouTube :)

RM: Why did you decide to volunteer with The Crew?

CW: There was an article in the Chronicle about The Crew needing more volunteers in November and it explained what all they did, and it sounded interesting, so I asked to join. The article also explained that everyone on The Crew had to relearn how to do their positions all over in 2020 so I didn't feel like I would be the only person without years and years of experience.

RM: What's the best part of serving on The Crew?

CW: All the folks that I have met on The Crew have been super friendly and helpful so I would say working with the people is the best part. It is also very satisfying to be able to participate in the worship service without having to be singing or playing music which is definitely not my gift.

RM: What's the most challenging aspect of serving on The Crew?

CW: While this hasn't really been a problem for me because I'm so new, a challenging issue is that there are 3 services and only so many people available to work each one. So, the same folks have to work all 3 every week because there aren't enough volunteers. It would be great if we had a dedicated team for each service but that's asking a lot.

RM: What advice would you give to someone who might be thinking about volunteering with The Crew?

CW: A willingness to serve is all that's needed really. Don't let all the monitors/buttons/gear deter you as you only need to know a few of them.

Thanks again, Chris and thank you for serving God by serving LPC! If you are curious about serving with The Crew, please contact Kyle Mazur at kyle@lebanonpresbyterian.org.

Thank You

Dear LPC Family,

I'm passing along my thanks and appreciation for the Pastor, Pastoral Care Pastor, Elders, Deacons and Jim Garrett's Zoom Sunday School Class for their calls, prayers, cards and emails during my recent bout with recurring Prostate Cancer. I've been given the all-clear with only regular checkups to assure that PSA levels decline and not rise. God not only answered their prayers with medical confirmation of healing but gave me the assurance that I am loved, prayed for and thought about. I'm so thankful to have a church family that demonstrates the love of Christ in such tangible ways.

Steve Helterbride

My LPC Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers, cards and phone calls for my family and me during my sister **Chris's battle and death with Covid-19**. Also, my surgery during this time. God is faithful and so are his people! May God continue to bless LPC. Your love and compassion shine through even the darkest of times.

Because of Christ, Joanie Rollins

Dear LPC Family of Faith,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to the Photo Directory committee for their commitment and persistence to the task of pulling the many details of the new church directory together. We laughed together, learned together, and worked diligently to publish a directory we are very pleased with. The committee members are: Nancy Haire, GERALYN Lucia, Tari Heath, Heidi Oliver, and Evelyn Osborne, LPC Staff: Gaby Pyles, Brenda Bingham, Sherry Showalter and Universal Directory Representative: Pam Baker. Serving Christ Together. Sharen Benner

Lebanon Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous gift in support of Chloe! The Back2Back staff is one of our greatest resources in caring for orphans and vulnerable children. Thank you!

Lana Diesel, Back2Back Donor Care Team

Dear LPC Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their outpouring of love and support following the death of my beloved husband, Bob. Bob and I moved to Lebanon from Cincinnati ten years ago. At the time, I thought if Bob received his crown of glory before me, I would move back to Cincinnati. But Lebanon is home now, and much of that is due to our LPC family. I am staying here and looking forward to returning to church after my second vaccination. Thank you for all the support you have given us through **Bob's many hospitalizations. God's presence has been so very obvious in our lives and I praise Him.**

Ann Loreaux
Psalm 34:18-19

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for helping to change the story of so many from poverty to provision. We thank the Lord that you have **chosen to walk alongside Project Mercy to help "the least of these."** Poverty comes in many forms. Mostly, we think of physical needs but there is spiritual poverty, as well. You have helped us meet the physical needs such as education, food and medical care so that we can show His love to meet the spiritual needs. Today, there are churches, believers and pastors here in Ethiopia because you have been faithful servants. May God continue to bless your congregation as we show his love in a hurting world.

In Him, Khrista Boster
Project Mercy Communications Manager

Kairos Recognized as Most Impactful Program of 2020

At their Virtual Volunteer Recognition program, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) recognized Kairos Prison Ministry as the Most Impactful Program for 2020. While Ohio, like many states, did not allow visitors inside their prisons after February 2020, the Kairos of Ohio team continued finding ways to show those we serve that they are still **loved and haven't been forgotten.** At the Lebanon Correction Institution (LCI), we have been sending semi-weekly Bible verses and messages of spiritual encouragement into the prison which all inmates can view. We have also orchestrated personal letters of spiritual encouragement to each of our Kairos graduates written by a Kairos volunteer.

Our Kairos Ohio leadership responded to the honor by saying, **"We are so proud and blessed to have such driven and generous volunteers doing this tireless work, especially in the unexpected circumstances that occurred in 2020. This honor belongs to everyone who has ever baked a cookie, said a prayer, or participated in Kairos in Ohio in any way."**



This month we honor the following men and women for their loving service to Jesus Christ and the church.

Cheryl Bogen, Becky Creech, Jordan Guerin, Cindy Jaynes, Rachel Jaynes, Sarah Jaynes, Beth Larson and Leslie Ryan for deep cleaning the kitchens.

Garry Benner, Jack Catanzaro and Rick Oliver for installing the AED storage boxes.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday
7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary live streamed

Good Friday
7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary live streamed

Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary live streamed
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
11 a.m. Worship in the Ark live streamed

To sign up for Easter services go to
www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

Interfaith Hospitality Update

LPC is part of a network of Warren County host churches that volunteer to provide food and shelter to families who find themselves temporarily homeless. The families are part of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County. IHNWC has hosted over 800 families since their inception in October 1998. The families come to IHNWC without homes or hope. When the family leaves, they have found housing, employment, education and daycare. Mostly, they have found the **love of God through the host church's time and kindness.** Due to the pandemic, families are staying in a hotel. LPC provides three meals a day for the families during the one-week rotation. Our second of four rotations for the year is April 11-17.

We have been focusing on providing balanced meals and introducing new foods to all family members with a focus on fresh ingredients. We also have had a large number of special diets and allergies **to consider. Usually, we would publish the "supplies list" and "side dishes" three weeks before the rotation. However, to avoid reworking menus and changing quantities to accommodate allergies and special diets, we will be adjusting dates for publishing Signup Genius links in the IHN article in the "LPC Weekly Update".**

Here are dates for our April 11-17 rotation:

Friday, March 26 Signup Genius link for "Cooks"

Friday, April 2 Signup Genius link for "Side Dishes" with an estimate of headcount subject to change.

Friday, April 9, Signup Genius link for "Supplies". (Receive final headcount April 8 or 9)

Deliver "Supplies" to Ark kitchen Sunday, April 11 between 8:15 a.m. and Noon.

Send questions or comments to lebanonpcihn@gmail.com.

Your IHN LPC Leadership Team: Chris Brown, Kira Eickman, Terri Catanzaro, Margaret Bondurant, Ally Bondurant and Jenna Terrell.

Attention Ladies We Have Good and Bad News

The Bad News: **The Women's Retreat has been cancelled** again this year as most of us expected. *The Good News:* **We are scheduled to have the 2022 LPC Women's Retreat April 22 – 24, 2022. Save The Date!** We have so many wonderful things planned for the ladies of LPC. All women are welcome, invite your friend, sister, mom or daughter. Together we will experience a spiritual weekend of fun, fellowship and Bible study. Our retreat next year will be at The Proctor Center in London, Ohio less than one hour away. More information to **come but mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this time together with all the ladies of LPC.**

Streams in the Desert

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom...Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."

-Isaiah 35:1,6

Almost ten years ago, our church helped to drill a deep well in a drought-stricken village in southern Kenya. For villagers in Ilmamen, the well was life-changing.

For the first time, women and children didn't have to walk for miles to get water. Now, they have enough water to grow vegetables and water 2,500 cattle and goats. Instead of migrating with their cattle during the dry season, men and boys of the village are now able to stay at home with their families.

However, drilling a well was only the first step. In recent years, our church built a school in Ilmamen to educate the children. Last year, the school was forced to shut down due to Covid-19. In February, the school reopened again and enrollment has grown from 35 to 53 children, reports our missionary, Solomon Gacece.

The school has seven teachers. Two are paid by the Kenyan government, the others are paid through school fees and tuition. **Eventually, we are hoping that the Kenyan government will pay all of the teachers' salaries.**

Already we are planning the next phase of the school project, which will include a School Administration Building with office space for the principle, the secretary, an accounting area, and a room for staff as well as having room for storage. The project will be funded entirely by our church, through mission giving and proceeds from the annual LPC Golf Tournament.

For the people of Ilmamen, the ancient words of Isaiah has come true: a stream has gushed forth in the desert! As a result, the Presbyterian church in Ilmamen is thriving, with many new people coming to faith. Once the school is completed, we are planning one day to construct a church building in Ilmamen.



Standing in the Gap:

A Tribute to John Morris

In the Book of Ezekiel, the Lord searches for someone **who will "stand in the gap"** of the wall to keep it from being destroyed (Ezekiel 22:30). For the past seven months, John Morris has been standing in the gap at LPC, helping to care for the sick, needy, lonely and grieving.

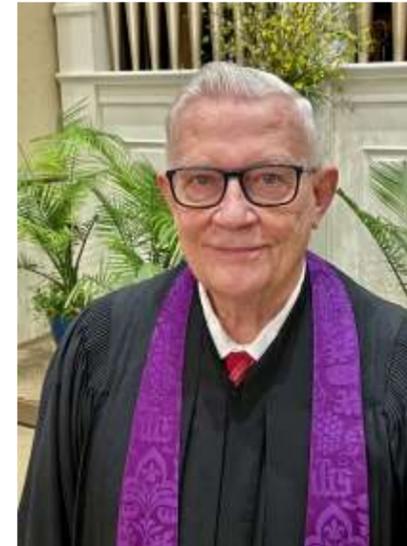
When Randy Fannin retired in August 2020, John volunteered to serve as our interim director of pastoral care. We offered to pay John a salary, but he refused. Instead, he chose to serve freely out of love for Jesus Christ and his church.

John has done a magnificent job. He has served this congregation with love, grace, energy, enthusiasm and good humor. Often, he has worked 70 hours a month or more to visit the sick, make phone calls, work with the deacons, write cards of encouragement, lead worship and organize the monthly prayer meeting. John has been greatly assisted in his work by his wife, Fran.

I could tell you many great stories about John, but here are just a few. Once, a woman in our church was trying to visit her husband in a nursing home. It was his birthday and she had brought a birthday cake for him. However, because of Covid-19, the nursing home refused to open the door. Seeing her distress, John banged on the door until finally they opened the door and agreed to deliver the cake. **John refused to take "no" for an answer!**

When a young man in our church died very suddenly and tragically, John and Fran were the first responders. They visited with the **man's widow and then with his mother. John also contacted a funeral home in Loveland and made the arrangements for the cremation.** At the visitation, John, Fran and I were the only ones present to comfort the grieving widow.

Recently, a homeless man wandered into the church on Sunday morning. He was drenched from the rain, broke and exhausted. John found him a quiet place where he could lie down and sleep in an empty room. Then he called the Interfaith Hospitality Network to find a place for him to stay in a hotel. Later, an older couple in our church took the man home for a warm shower and a meal and took him to the hotel. Another church member found him a job the same week. John also bought the man a bicycle so he would be able to get to work.



With such a heavy workload, I was concerned that John might be suffering from battle fatigue or burn-out, so I asked him how he was doing. "Actually, Peter, I'm having the time of my life!" John replied. "I love what I am doing! I started out early in my career as a pastor, and I am so grateful that God has given me this opportunity to use my gifts again! **I have been revitalized!**"

Thank you, John Morris, for standing in the gap. We are deeply grateful to you and Fran. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Your servant in Christ,
Peter Larson

A Gathering for Prayer at LPC

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 6 p.m. we will gather for prayer in the Narthex. The leaders will be here to build a prayer and pray. If you can check out our prayer posted in the Prayer Chapel during the month of April.

Bible Readers

We are coming off the first quarter of 2021 and PRAISE God for the amazing feedback we are receiving. As we shared in January, we have the most LPC members/friends daily reading the Bible in a year or two. We can safely say that the number exceeds beyond the last three years combined. **We are praying that God's Holy Word will be your encouragement, hope and assurance as we continue to navigate these peculiar times. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105.**

The Bible Pushers, John and Fran Morris

Prayer Warriors Unite

To Request Prayer from our Praying Friends at LPC, email:

prayerlist@lebanonpresbyterian.org will get your request to the Prayer Warriors ASAP.

prayerrequest@lebanonpresbyterian.org will get your request to a staff member who will handle your request confidentially and will only send out information you would like shared with our Prayer Warriors. If you do not have email, please call the church office at 513-932-2751.