



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

Sunday, May 2
Communion Sunday

Standing Firm
2 Timothy 3:10-17

Sunday, May 9

Preach the Word
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Sunday, May 16

Finishing Well
2 Timothy 4:6-8

Sunday, May 23

Never Alone
2 Timothy 4:9-22

Sunday, May 30

M
E

Chronicle

Lebanon Presbyterian Church

May 2021



Unwrapping Lazarus

What a joy it is to see people returning to worship. On Easter Sunday, I gazed out at the congregation and saw **many faces I hadn't seen in a year or more. It is hard to describe the joy I felt!**

For the past year, we have been isolated. Fear and anxiety have darkened our days. Cut off from family and friends, we have felt grief and sorrow. In some cases, Covid has caused death and injury.

Do you remember the story of Lazarus? For four days, Lazarus was dead and buried. Sealed up in a dark tomb, he was isolated, cut off from the living. But then, Jesus called out in a loud voice, **"Lazarus, come out!"**



In response, **"The dead man came out his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face."** (John 11:44) What happened next is quite wonderful. **Jesus said to the crowd, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."**

Can you imagine the joy when Lazarus was reunited with his family! And yet, he was still dressed in his grave clothes like a mummy. After four days in the tomb, it took loving hands to unwrap him.

The story of Lazarus is also our story. By his grace, Jesus speaks our name. He raises us from spiritual death to new life. He calls us to come out of the tomb, out of death and darkness.

I see that happening in our church. Every Sunday morning, the miracle of Lazarus is repeated as people return to worship. After a terrible year of isolation, the church is coming to life again. It is a quiet sort of miracle, but a miracle just the same.

I know that some of you have not returned to worship. Maybe your health is fragile. Maybe you are still waiting for the vaccine. Maybe you are being extra cautious for the sake of parents or grandparents. If you are not ready yet to come back to worship, I understand.

Only Jesus can raise people from death to life. However, our job is to *unwrap* them. If people are still frightened, we need to comfort them. If people are feeling anxious, we need to love, support and encourage them.

Most of all, we need to be patient. It must have taken a long time to unwrap Lazarus from his grave clothes. In the same way, we need to be patient with those who are still feeling frightened. In his time, Jesus will call us to come out of the tomb.

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 94

Welcome, Stephanie!



We are hosting a welcome party for Stephanie and Matt Poblenz on Sunday, May 2 at 4:30 p.m. at Warren County Armco Park, Pavilion 4. The deacons will serve **light refreshments, cake and beverages**. Also, we'll be recognizing John Morris for his service as Interim Director of Pastoral Care during the past eight months. Stephanie will officially join our staff May 2 as the Pastor of Family Ministry and Pastoral Care. She was ordained April 11 at her home church in Tustin, California. Please come and help us to welcome Stephanie and Matt!

Big Circle Update

Under the direction of Pastoral Care the Deacons hosted the Big Circle for seniors and prime timers on Tuesday, March 23, in the ARK. Participants pulled the curtain back on their lives as they shared personal stories from childhood, family, school and current situations. We learned new things about our friends while we renewed our friendships. We enjoyed punch while we played games. We concluded with a brief worship service that included the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As our friends were leaving they received deluxe goody bags. As we adjust to new or former guidelines for our gatherings we hope to see more of you venturing out to join in Christian fellowship.



Praising God

Praising God brings His presence close in an instance!

In regards to my pastoral position here at LPC I'm praising God for the wonderful staff I have had the privilege to work with for these past eight months. God is to be praised for His watch and care over us during the challenging times of the pandemic. I praise Him for going ahead of us and standing with us in our various ministries and outreach. I praise His Holy Name for you. Without question you have motivated me to greater and larger service to our Lord. Could I go on? Certainly! Our God is worthy of our praise.

The power of evil is ever present to attack. To drive Satan away I praise God in my coming and going and in my laying down and getting up. I have made an effort to have praise constantly on my lips. My goal is to praise God without ceasing. This keeps God close and the enemy away.

I have learned that the enemy hates it when God's people praise Him. This makes perfect sense in light of Psalm 22:3, which tells us that God is enthroned on the praises of His people. When we praise, God comes; when we praise, light pierces the darkness.

I am also grateful for you. I am praising God today for Christian brothers and sisters who have reached out to me and prayed for me. I have recognized the Hope you have for a good outcome, the Faith that you display with or without sunshine and for being the living, breathing life of LPC.

As I close this chapter of eight months on the front lines of **God's army, I celebrate the time when God came to His people** in the midst of darkness. I thank you and invite you to praise Him with me, for we need His presence now more than ever.

Continually in His Service,

John Morris

A Gathering for Prayer

will take place at the conclusion of the reception for Rev. Stephanie and Mr. Matt Poblenz on May 2, at Armco Park. You are encouraged to join us in making a circle around our new associate pastor and her husband as we invite our Heavenly Father to bless their ministry.

iPray

Prayer is the cure for a confused mind, a weary soul and a broken heart.

-Anonymous

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

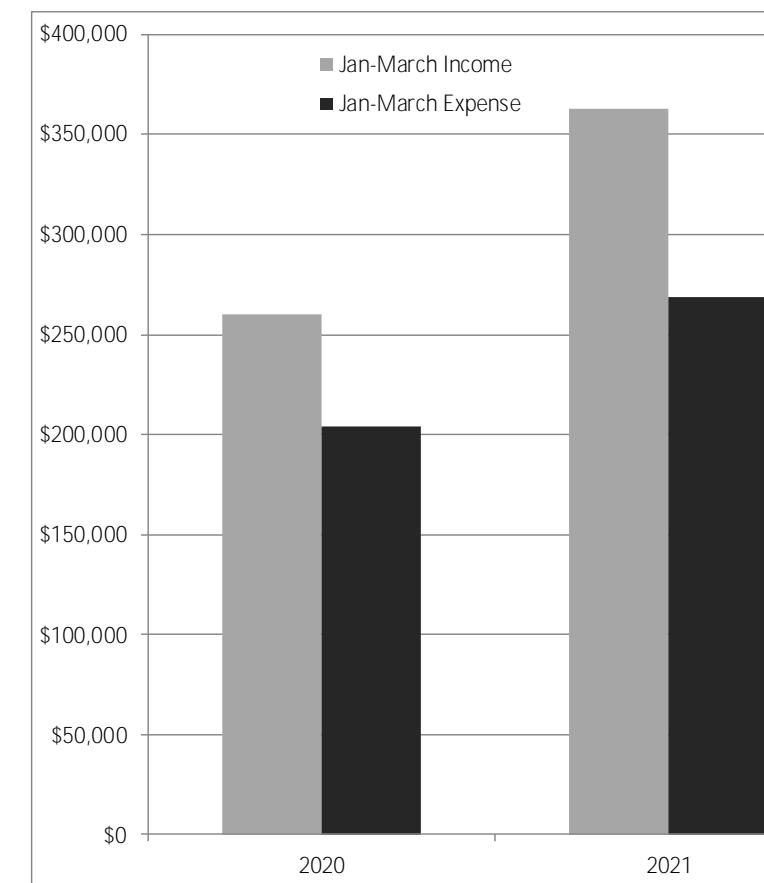
- ✂ For Stephanie Poblenz as she starts work as our new Pastor of Family life and Pastoral Care.
- ✂ For Skyler Gerald and Morgan Reece as they get married May 29 and move to Charlotte, North Carolina where Skyler will being his studies at Reformed Theological Seminary and begin working for a church there.
- ✂ For the Vital Church seminar being hosted May 7-8 by Lebanon Presbyterian Church and Midwest Presbytery.
- ✂ **For our Children's Ministry Team as they make plans for Vacation Bible School June 16-17, that many young lives will be touched and changed by the Gospel.**
- ✂ For our Seek First Prayer meeting to be held May 2 at 6 p.m. at Warren County-Armco Park (following the reception for Stephanie Poblenz).
- ✂ For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus Christ.

Session

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our April 19 monthly meeting:

- ✂ Approved new Covid guidelines, making face masks optional but still providing half of the Sanctuary for enforced social distancing for those who feel more cautious.
- ✂ Approved a recommendation from Personnel to hire Julie Crago as the new director of the LPC Playschool (the Playschool is a mission of our church that provides free preschool for 12 low-income students each year).
- ✂ Approved a request from Lelia Brandt to transfer her membership to Four Corners Community Church in West Chester.
- ✂ Approved a special Palm Sunday missions offering to be divided between **Joshua's Place and Matthew 25 Ministries (the offering raised \$3,650).**

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.



Fields of Faith by Andrew Johnson

On Wednesday, April 14 students, parents and community members gathered together at VanDeGrift Stadium in Lebanon for an event put on by Lebanon High School's Fellowship of Christian Athlete Club called, *Fields of Faith*. Many of area youth groups and adults attended the event where we worshipped and heard testimonies from a number of high school students and teachers from our district. This marks the sixth fields of faith event for Lebanon FCA.



This year the focus was on knowing your purpose in Jesus Christ. Lebanon high school students shared testimonies about being called to live different lives than the world and to find your identity in Jesus Christ and not in other things like sports. A few district teachers shared God's word and direction with the gathered crowd. Junior high math teacher, JV basketball coach and LJHS FCA coordinator Josh Chasteen and LHJS varsity basketball coach, Nathan Chivington, challenged students to act on their faith they claim. Chasteen preached on Matthew 7:21-23 and challenged us to not be fake or pretend Christians. It was a powerful word. That night was bookended by worship songs led by a LHS science teacher and students including Grace Boyer who attends the 8:30 a.m. service and Vintage Sunday school.

Meet Nick Pierett from Lebanon High School

Andrew: What is your earliest religious memory?

Nick: Moving churches to go to LPC for church and preschool. Listening to Amazing Grace with my dad.

Andrew: How did you, as a child, view the God?

Nick: When I was 6 year old I saw God as a superhuman superhero like a Marvel movie.

Andrew: How do you view God now?

Nick: God is super loving and with you through the hardships. He's always there even when it doesn't feel like it I can trust that He's always there. God is an almighty and loving father. No matter what you do Jesus loves you. He's my Savior. God's like your real father. He is all knowing and has a plan and purpose for my life. I'm called to use my gifts for His kingdom.

Andrew: What experiences or events have been turning points in your life and why?

When I got my knee injury in 7th it was pretty hard. I questioned a lot of stuff. I trusted God but I also questioned what was happening to me. I kind of realized there was more to me than basketball.

Andrew: What questions would you like to ask God?

Nick: I know a lot of people who don't know God or don't believe that he's real. I want to ask Him why He doesn't show Himself more so there could be no doubt that He is real.

Andrew: What are you going to do next year?

Nick: I'm not really sure where I'll end up for school. I've still got some options and things to decide. I'd like to study to be a teacher or study business and sports management. I'd like to be a coach or an athletic director but I'm not sure. I'd like to be a teacher and a coach or a high school athletic director. I want to be a role model for kids and help them in their lives.

Andrew: Who is the most influential person in your spiritual life right now?

Nick: Probably my youth pastor Andrew Johnson or my best friend Blake Lamb. Blake has been through a lot of the same situations I have and he always gives me Bible verses and songs to get me back on the right track.

Andrew: What Impact does your faith have on your social behavior?

Nick: I watch what I say and do. Lots of people know I'm a Christian and I want to represent Christ to the world.

Andrew: When I die I will probably wish that I had...

Nick: Spent more time with my family. I'm about to head off to college somewhere and I think about how much I'm going to miss my family.



What's Happening in Worship by Rick McNeely

See A Need - Fill A Need

In the movie *Robots* (go see it if you haven't), the company motto for BigWeld Industries is *See a Need – Fill a Need*. They don't exist to make money - they exist to make life better for everyone. This idea is part of what we are called to do and be as Christians. To be useful to the kingdom, to meet the needs of others. This church is filled with real life examples of this and one person living that out is Rachel Jaynes. Early on, Rachel saw a need in The Crew and she filled it with great love for the ministry and a passion to serve this flock. She has been a selfless and crucial part of the live stream ministry. I asked Rachel about serving on The Crew and she said - **"One of the things that has been really cool about being involved with the crew is seeing just how much goes into making Sunday services (it's a lot!). It gives me an even greater appreciation for our wonderful staff and how dedicated they are to serving our congregation and using their unique talents and gifts for the glory of God."**



Now Rachel is seeing another need which she feels called to pursue. This month, she will begin teaching the 3-5 grade Sunday School class. **"I'm really looking forward to working with the 3-5 grade age group. It's such a wonderful time in life, because you're starting to explore and form your own ideas and opinions about the world, and I feel very privileged to help them discover Jesus on a personal level, and can't wait to see how He is calling them to discover His love and to participate in His plan for the world."** Said Rachel. And although we are losing a key member of The Crew, we support her as she follows God's leading and are excited for what The Lord has in store for her and the students she will be working with.

She did not come to this decision lightly. It was only after much prayer and counsel that she made this decision. I asked her what she will miss about serving on the Crew and she had this to say. **"I think what I'll miss most about being on the crew is being able to serve our congregation in a very integral way. Many of our members are still worshipping from home, and being part of making the service available to them is really important to me. I remember how much of a lifeline the live stream services were to me during the early stages of the pandemic, and I've been grateful for the opportunity to give back."** We thank God for Rachel and her servant heart. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes this transition in ministry.

Now it's your turn to follow BigWeld's lead to see a need and fill it. First, let's look at the need. Beginning in May, we will no longer have enough crew members to appropriately fill every position needed to be effective in the live stream ministry. We might be able to get by for a while, but this will inevitably lead to volunteer burnout and the loss of more Crew members. I think it safe to say that no one reading this would want that to happen. Now, here's how we as a church can fill the need. Easy answer – volunteer! More to the point, we are asking at least (with great emphasis on "at least") one person from each worship service to volunteer to serve on The Crew. It is a vital ministry of the church which serves everyone who worships at LPC, either in person or via live stream. We are praying to have enough people join The Crew, from each service, to create a rotation where crew members do not have to serve week in and week out. So, over the coming weeks, we will be asking you to prayerfully consider serving God by serving your church family as a member of The Crew. It is an exciting, fun way to serve and the learning process makes it easy for you to get plugged in. If you would like to help fill this very real need, please contact Kyle Mazur, Dana Bicknell, or Rick McNeely and we will be overjoyed to get you connected and part of this amazing ministry!

Thank You

Hello Peter,

Wayne and I wanted to extend our thanks to the congregation for all of the lovely cards and notes of encouragement. Each and every one has brought a smile to Wayne's face. How blessed we are to have such a thoughtful and kind church community. Though the pandemic and Wayne's illness have kept us physically apart, the kindness of our church family has erased all distance. Thank you!

Kathy and Wayne Anderson

Dear Pastor Larson,

On behalf of Matthew 25 Ministries I want to thank you for your donations in the past year. In 2020 we hit several milestones including:

Shipping our 12,000 truckloads of aid since 1991

Distributing more than \$2.5 billion worth of goods since 1991

Shipping 946 truckloads of aid in 2020 (the most ever in a single year)

Helping over 23 million people in 2020 (the most ever in a single year).

During the COVID-19 pandemic we provided masks, hand sanitizer and other emergency supplies to over 1,300 groups in 46 states. In addition, we responded to many disasters including hurricanes in Central America and the Gulf Coast, wildfires in the Western U.S., the deadly explosion in Beirut, the derecho in Mexico and floods and tornadoes in the United States. Thank you for supporting our work!

Sincerely, Debbie Miller
Matthew 25 Ministries

Dear Peter,

I am so grateful to LPC for installing the live-streaming. The chapel here in my retirement community is no longer available to us so it has been wonderful to worship in my "home" church. Your sermons have been inspiring and pertinent to the day. Thanks for helping us all "stay the course."

In His love, Juanita Legge

Dear LPC,

Thanks so much for being online week after week. It means a lot to me and makes me feel like I am part of your great church.

Mr. Tom Cavellier from Leesburg, OH

Thank you from Interfaith Hospitality

We are so grateful to all of those who assisted with Interfaith Hospitality Network April 11-17. On April 1 we were uncertain we would have any families for our hosting week. We did start our IHN week with 2 families and 6 mouths to feed. On April 14, we were down to a family of 3: a mom, a 2 year old and a newborn.

Nichole at IHNWC said the meals hit it out of the ballpark. So appreciated by the families.

We want to express our gratitude for your continued support and flexibility this last year, as we have fed as many as 21 people with numerous food sensitivities and preferences to as little as 2 mouths to feed. We are thankful that our congregation is so giving of their gifts, whether that's time, services or goods.



Free Tickets for Creation Museum

If you're planning to visit the Creation Museum, our church has a lifetime pass that is good for admission of four people. Children under the age of 10 are free. If you would like to use our free pass please contact the church office and ask for Gaby Pyles. The lifetime pass was donated by one of our church families.



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

George Meloy for making every effort for our visitation team to have church members & friends scheduled to be visited on a bi-weekly basis.

Beth Larson for removing dried wax from the pews.

Mike (Donna) Schneider for making beautiful frames for signs and a picture for the church.

Rick Oliver for hanging signs/picture in the church.

Steve Newby for replacing ceiling tiles.

Dave Kuyper and Rick Oliver for reattaching insulation in the drop ceiling.

Dave Lupberger, Steve Newby, Rick Oliver, Mike Schneider, Roger Sims and Neil Tunison for cleaning out some of the flower beds and spreading mulch.

Skyler Gerald and Morgan Reece for picking up the Chicki-fil-A sandwiches for Encounter Student Ministries' Godzilla vs Kong movie night.

Kira Eickman for her leadership in Interfaith LPC. Kira worked with our youth leadership team. She also spearheaded using Signup Genius for IHN. This was a daunting task given the Supplies list usually had 150 items. Thank you Kira and many blessings on your road to becoming a Doctor.

Molly Lucas for her wonderful artwork each week on our Worship Guide covers.

Interfaith Hospitality Update

IHN Warren County has indicated that the families will continue to be housed in hotels at least through December 2021. For future rotations we will continue to use the model of needing volunteers to cook meals and package food to the families, volunteers to prepare side dishes at their homes and the numerous volunteers who gift us the ingredients to make a variety of healthy and appetizing breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

Our remaining 2021 rotations are August 15-21 and November 28-December 4.

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



God Space Follow-up Class

Maybe you and I have this in common - I like a good conversation, but I find it hard to bring up things that really matter - like God. Instead, I tend to talk about mundane, silly things just to pass the time.

You see, I never thought the people around me wanted to talk about God or spiritual things. That's because every time I brought up God, they changed the subject! However, during the God Space series, Doug Pollock proved that by listening and asking the right questions, people are actually eager to discuss those things! That opens a whole new world to me – being able to have deeper conversations. But I'm finding it takes practice. I want to get better at listening without judgment, and without responding in the wrong way.

If you would like to do the same, join me on May 2, Room 311 at 9:45 a.m. We will practice listening and wondering together in a safe setting with other like-minded people. Let's create some God Space!

God bless!
Karen Kilpatrick

Children's Ministry News by Tracy Untener

Easter Journey Adventure...What?

As families walked into the Easter Journey Adventure, they visited with Buttercup and a disciple who was there with her, walked over palms laid at the entrance to the event, and then were able to partake of warm food and fellowship after they found their seats. Helen Vickers did a fabulous job working with the kids and weaving Jesus' story. Families had quite the interactive experience as they sang songs, did crafts together, and completed fun activities. They painted, colored, ate jelly beans, and more! They learned about the true and amazing meaning of Easter! It was so wonderful to have so many families come to hear the story of Jesus' last week on earth! A great time was had by all at the Easter Journey Adventure! Check it out!



Many thanks to The Campbell Family for bringing live animals to the church on Easter Sunday! The chicks, bunnies, and lamb were received with wonder and excitement from all the children and adults. We so appreciate the time and energy that the Campbell's took out of their day to provide us with such a treat.



Easter Journey Adventure on Saturday, March 28 in the Ark



Pictured (Left to right, top to bottom) Good Friday Worship; Nick and Jaclyne Andrew's adopted a front flower bed; demolition of the back parking lot and pouring new cement.

