

Fellowship, food & fun

CHURCH Picnic



Sunday, October 3 at 4:30 p.m. Armco Park Pavilion

There will be fun activities for all ages: paddle-boating, a Bounce House for kids, fishing, Frisbee, a large playground and some great relaxing under the big shade trees! Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips and baked beans will be served at 4:30 p.m. Please come earlier and enjoy the beautiful park. Bring your favorite dessert or salad to share and your lawn chairs. **We are looking for a few families willing to make homemade ice cream.** If this is you, please contact Sherry Showalter at sherry@lebanonpresbyterian.org or 513-932-2751. No tickets are needed. The suggested donation of \$5 per person/\$15 per family will be received at the picnic. The monthly **LPC Gathering for Prayer** that takes place the first Sunday of the month will be held at the conclusion of the church picnic.

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, Oct. 3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Walking on Water <i>John 6:16-21</i>	Sunday, Oct. 24 A Vision for the Future
Sunday, Oct. 10 A Man Born Blind <i>John 9:1-25</i>	Sunday, Oct. 31 A Rattling Sound <i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>
Sunday, Oct. 17 Disappointment with God <i>John 11:1-47</i>	

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 94

Lebanon Presbyterian Church

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

Worship Times

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

Wednesday Nights Together
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Classes and activities

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Peter Larson

Pastor
The Rev. Stephanie Poblentz

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

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CHRONICLE

Lebanon Presbyterian Church
October 2021



Lebanon PRESBYTERIAN Church

Loving People to Christ

Are You a Joyful Christian?

Rejoice in the LORD always. Again, I say rejoice!
- Philippians 4:4

When the Apostle Paul wrote these words he was in prison, chained to a Roman guard. And yet, Paul rejoiced. In fact, the word “joy” appears 15 times in this letter.

Are you a joyful Christian? Recently, a friend of mine described going to worship at his home church, which happened to be Presbyterian. He said to me, “Peter, it was depressing! The singing was gloomy, the sermon was grim. There was no joy!”

We are living in an age of fear and anxiety. Many people feel discouraged and depressed. There is so much fear, sorrow and sadness. It’s easy to sink into a state of gloom and despair.

And yet, we are commanded to rejoice. In Psalm 100:1 it says, “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Even in times of pain and crisis – we have a reason to rejoice.

Why do we rejoice? Because Jesus has come into the world. Because our sins have been forgiven. Because, by faith, we belong to God and are his children. Because we have a life in Christ that can never be lost or destroyed. Because Christ will return one day to take us home. Because we will be with him forever in glory. Because one day, all of creation will be restored and made new. Because God is sovereign and he reigns and rules over this world.

In the ancient world, there was a philosophy called Stoicism. The Stoics believed that the purpose of life is to endure pain and suffering with fortitude and courage – to keep a stiff upper lip. However, the Christian life is not like that. Our goal is not just to endure suffering but to rejoice. In this way we bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.



David Brown, who is the stated clerk for our Presbytery, said recently, “If we can’t muster joy, we are missing the boat!” If joy is missing from our worship, something is wrong. If joy is missing from our lives, something is wrong. How can we draw people to Jesus Christ if we are downcast and depressed?

Are you a joyful Christian? Do you rejoice in all circumstances, the way Paul did? In this dark and gloomy world, we need to shine like stars with the hope and joy

of Jesus Christ. In the words of C.S. Lewis once said, “The surest sign of a Christian is joy.”

Does this mean that we look at the world through rose-colored glasses? No. As Christians, we are not immune from pain and suffering. Nevertheless, our joy in Christ is like a deep well that never runs dry. Even in times of grief and sorrow, we are “...filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end results of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:8).

Your servant in Christ,
Peter

Deacon’s Caring for the “Flock” by Stephanie Poblenz

In You may have heard of LPC’s Deacon team. The Deacon’s care for our congregation in very tangible ways, from feeding ministries to helping move couches, and so much more! If you have ever had a meal at our church, or received one when you’ve had surgery, chances are the Deacons played a role in it. However, Deacons are not just called to feed our church but also connect our people to so many other ministries happening at LPC! This is why we have implemented our Flock program.

The Flock system is every member of LPC has been separated into a “Flock”. Each Deacon has been assigned a Flock, and they will be reaching out quarterly either via phone calls or notes. They will be checking in to see if you as a member need anything, and how you are doing. You also have the ability to reach out to your Deacon if you have and questions, or would like to get better connected at LPC. We have been implementing the Flocks, and I was able to chat with Rhea Vezmar about her time on the Deacons and what she has loved about the Flocks.

Q: What is your role on the Deacons, and what is your favorite part about being a Deacon?

Rhea: Along with my daughter, my role is heading up the Memorial Reception Committee. I like best being of service to others.

Q: As you have made your Flock calls, what has been the most rewarding experience?

Rhea: Actually connecting and finding out a bit about someone I didn’t know. People’s stories are usually quite interesting.

Q: If you could tell everyone one thing about being a Deacon, what would it be?

Rhea: If asked to become a Deacon do not be afraid of the work. All your efforts and time spent will be very much appreciated. It’s a very rewarding position and all Deacons chip in to help when needed. Many hands make for light work.

Once again, if you receive a call from your Deacon, say hello! They are so excited to get to know you a little more. If this type of ministry seems like something you would like to be more involved with, please reach out! We would love to chat with you more about the many opportunities for service.



iPray

If you do all the talking when you pray, how will you ever hear God’s answers?

- Aiden Wilson Tozier

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

For our children’s ministry team as they begin rehearsing their Christmas musical, that many children and families would be touched by the Gospel.

For our Session as they make important decisions about our Long Range Plan.

For our mission workers that carry the Gospel to unreached children and adults in far East Asia.

For the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 17 when we will vote on calling Stephanie Poblenz as Associate Pastor.

For Pastors Peter Larson and Stephanie Poblenz as they conduct a Zoom training for “barefoot pastors” in India on Tuesday, October 12.

For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus.

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.



Session

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our September 20 monthly meeting:

Approved a request from Ben Riffin to be removed from the membership roll since he is now residing in Columbus.

Approved a request from Hannah Ritchie to be removed from the membership roll since she is now residing in Cincinnati.

Approved the infant baptism of Grant Arthur van Staaldunen, son of Mark and Kristen van Staaldunen, on Sunday, October 3.

Approved a congregational meeting to be held Sunday, October 17 for the purpose of calling The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz as Associate Pastor.

Approved a service of installation for Sunday, November 7 to Install The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz as Associate Pastor.

Approved a request from Personnel to hire Molly Lucas as Creative and Digital Design director, effective October 4. (Molly will be taking over some of the duties of Brenda Bingham who is retiring at the end of the year).

Approved a request for LPC to take over the financial booking for our Cub Scout Pack 436.

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our August 21 Meeting:

Approved the following men and women for membership in LPC. By letter of transfer: David Kouns, Matt Poblenz and John and Tracy Untener. By reaffirmation of faith; Gary and Elizabeth Griffin, Melvin and Karen Strouse and Olga Wiedemann.



Help us keep you informed and connected! Are you receiving our Weekly Update email? How about our calls that let you know about immediate information? If you are not receiving either of these, contact Gabrielle Pyles at gabrielle@lebanonpresbyterian.org or call 513-932-2751 so we can add you to our congregational lists.

Thank You

Dear LPC family,

Just a note to thank LPC for all the cards, flowers and help with my dental issues, along with other needs. All are very much appreciated.

Nancy fields

LPC family,

Thank you so much for the prayers and support during and after my surgery. It was a blessing to our family to have you part of my healing process!

Heather Forster

Dear LPC,

We thank the Lord for the good news that you have a gift for us and for Ilmamen Primary School. We thank you and give Glory to God. We appreciate your Prayer and Financial support which is a demonstration of Christian Love. Thank you. Your partnership has a great impact on the people we serve through Greater Works Foundation. We have seen transformation of individuals and families. Ilmamen Primary School is picking up well. The latest news is that the Government has posted three Teachers with full salary. This is a great help. We have a total of nine Teachers. Three teachers paid by the Government and six by the parents. The eight classrooms you built are in full use. Seven with children and one converted as Principal's office until the Administration Block is built. The children and their parents are very happy. The School committee is working hard. They are more active than before and they are managing very well.

God bless you, Solomon and Alice, Kenya

Good morning Chris, Kira and Pastor Peter,

Generosity is such a wonderful gift given to each of us by God, and when we offer generosity to others, is such a fulfilling exercise. On behalf of the Host Recruitment and Retention team (HR&R) of Family Promise, I offer today a huge "thank you" for your time coordinating and preparing the meals for our families in the IHNWC shelter program. We also thank you for lunches, snacks and gifts for the children to keep them fed and occupied during the day time hours. During your rotation week of August 15, your meals were graciously received by those who are working hard to turn their lives around. As the adult members of each family work to find housing, employment and other support services, you and the kind individuals at Lebanon Presbyterian Church have been and continue to be steadfast in supporting the parents and children and young people whom we serve. Please know how very much we appreciate you and the volunteers who work with you in this ministry of Family Promise/ Interfaith Hospitality Network!

Blessings to all, and thank you again, Mary

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build - A - Bed Project

Many of our best childhood memories revolve around family nighttime rituals: saying our prayers, being read a bedtime story, nestling into a soft bed with our favorite teddy bear. Yet, for many local children, their own comfortable bed is a luxury they have never experienced. Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a local branch of a national non-profit, is hoping to solve that inequity--and you can help!



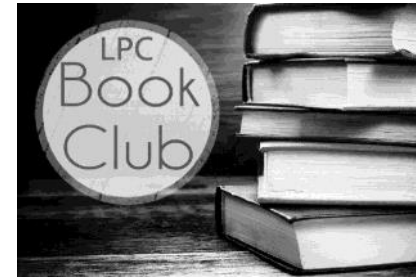
The LPC Missions Committee has committed to building at least 10 beds for a cost of \$2,500. This includes the materials needed, plus a mattress, a set of twin sheets, and delivery. You can help in any of the following ways:

- ❖ Match the cost of a bed at \$250
- ❖ Match the cost of the mattress at \$80
- ❖ Purchase a new set of twin sheets for a child or teenager
- ❖ Help us build the beds! This is a project for adults of all skill levels, and children 12 and up (with a permission slip and responsible adult.) All supplies and tools are provided.

We will gather at Larson's barn, 533 McClure Road, on Saturday, October 9, at 1 p.m., to build and paint the beds. After our project is complete, we will finish the day with a wiener roast around the fire pit.

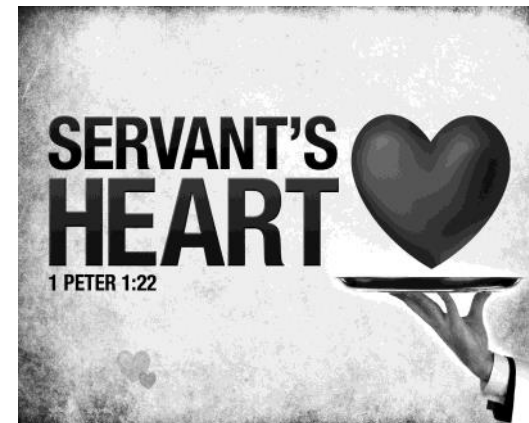
If you wish to match the cost of a bed or mattress (or any given amount) you may donate as you usually do during worship, online, or in the office, with the amount marked "SHP." If you purchase a set of twin sheets, you may place them in the Narthex on the bed.

If you plan to attend the work day, we ask that you register by going to the Weekly Update email or the church website, so that we know how many workers to plan for. For information on how you can help, call Inga Kimple at 513-490-2423.



The LPC Book Club will meet on October 14 at 7 p.m. in Room 311 to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, a heartfelt, true to life story filled with courage,

determination, and heroism with echoes of Huckleberry Finn. In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi. During their odyssey, they cross paths with others who are adrift: struggling farmers, traveling faith healers, displaced families, and lost souls of all kinds. For more information, or if you will need to attend via Zoom, contact Nina Dorsch at ninadorsch@sbcglobal.net.



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

Dave and Patty Kuyper for fixing the vacuum cleaner.

Ken Klann for replacing the light bulbs.

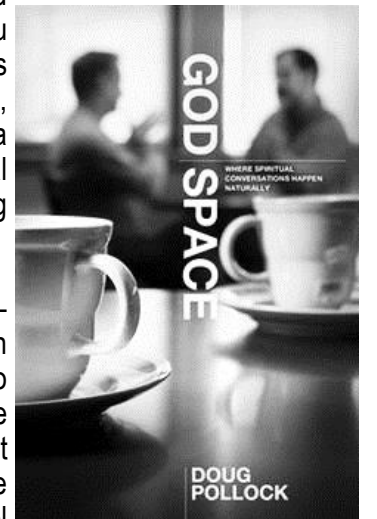
Rick Oliver for installing whiteboards and shelves.

Laura Gerald, Beth Gully, Jan Watsell and Mike Watsell for serving on the Hiring Team for our new Graphics and Digital Designer.

Activating God Space

In If you did not attend the God Space class last January, you may be wondering, "What is God Space?" Simply put, when we naturally create a safe atmosphere for spiritual conversation, we are creating "God space."

It's where a person feels respected and valued. When they feel that we will listen to them. This does not mean we have to agree with them – it just means we give them the freedom to feel how they feel without judging them. This requires some patience and love on our part – but isn't it worth a little effort to be able to talk to someone about Jesus?



This month, we will feature Noticing your way into spiritual conversations. Sometimes, I am so focused on what I'm doing, that I don't really "see" anyone around me. Doug Pollock calls this "my-opia." But since I have been trying to really notice those around me, the woman holding a sign that said, "jobless and homeless" caught my eye. I have seen people on this particular corner at other times, but never stopped. This time, I really felt that I should talk to this woman and find out her story. So, I gathered my courage, parked my car, and walked over to her. I asked her what was going on in her life. And she told me. It amazed me that she was so appreciative that I had asked! It meant so much to her that someone had really noticed "her." I hadn't even given her any money. After asking her permission, I took her hand and prayed for her right there on the street corner. I have never done anything remotely close to that in my life! But it just shows how God helps us when we take the first step. Now that I know her name, if I see her, I will certainly greet her by name and find out how she is doing. She has been in my prayers ever since. Noticing leads to caring.

Here's an exercise in noticing you can try (from Chap 3 of God Space): The next time you go to a restaurant, ask your server's name. When your food comes, thank them, and explain that you like to thank God for every meal. Look at them, use their name, and ask if there is anything going on in their life that you could pray for when you thank God for your food. Listen, observe body language, and proceed as the Spirit leads. Regardless of what happens, leave a generous tip!

Happy noticing!
By Karen Kilpatrick

Family Promise of Warren County

The following is an excerpt from the Family Promise of Warren County newsletter (formerly IHN): Only four of the 10 most common jobs in Ohio actually paid employees enough to afford a basic two-bedroom apartment. Of the 10 occupations with the most employees in Ohio, only registered nurses earn considerably more than the \$16.64 an hour housing wage. Ohioans working in many other widely available jobs--retail salesperson, cashiers, restaurant, and hotel workers--were already struggling before getting laid off or downsized during the pandemic. According to Director Linda Rabolt, the program will remain full at least until the end of the year with local families struggling to stay afloat.

If you wish to help struggling families beyond what LPC already provides on a regular basis, the following wish list items may be dropped off at the Family Promise building adjacent to the LPC office parking lot:

- New or gently used winter coats, scarves, hats, and gloves for the families in the shelter or anyone in need who stops in.
- Bathroom and toilet bowl cleaners, Windex, kitchen cleaner, floor cleaner and Soft Soap Pump Disinfectant
- Packages of new boys and girls underwear sizes 2T-16
- Children's toothpaste, children's toothbrushes, children's body wash, children's shampoo
- Gift cards for local fast food: McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Taco Bell, etc.
- Gift cards for Walmart, Kroger, etc.
- Gas gift cards

Thank you for your support, Linda Rabolt, Director



LPC Golf Outing

We are planning an LPC Golf Outing on Saturday, October 2 at 9 a.m. at Majestic Springs golf course in Wilmington. The cost is \$42 per person which includes a cart and 18 holes of golf. In the past, we have held a golf tournament to raise money for the school we support in Kenya, East Africa. However, due to COVID the school has been closed for the past year. For this reason, we are not doing the fundraiser this year. If you would like to golf with us, you can register by signing up on Sunday morning on a clipboard located at the Welcome Center. For more information please call Jack Victory at 513-907-1772.



Crew Volunteers Still Needed

If you have been wondering where you could make a difference in the life of the church, we are still in need of volunteers to help with live stream and media projection. We have an immediate need for three more volunteers in the 11 a.m. service. The only requirement is a willingness to learn. If you can help, please contact Rick McNeely or Dana Bicknell at lpcsundays@gmail.com and we will get you connected in a very fun and exciting way to help lead your LPC family in worship!

What's Happening in Worship by Rick McNeely

Get to Know: Elizabeth Griffin

Elizabeth and Gary Griffin have recently become part of the LPC family. Both are talented musicians, and we are very excited to have them share their gifts with the congregation during worship. While Gary will be playing keyboards as his schedule permits, Elizabeth has already joined in singing with the praise band. This week, I had the opportunity to chat with Elizabeth about joining the church and the band.

RM: First, thank you for taking the time to chat. Tell me a little bit about you and your family?

EG: My husband, Gary, and I met through our love of music. We dated long distance between South Carolina and California for 3 years. In 2011 we were married and lived in Southern California until moving here in June 2019. We enjoy making music with family and friends. Our daughter, Katelyn, and her husband live in Pennsylvania and are expecting our first grandchild in November. Our son, Daniel, is enjoying living in Austin, TX.

RM: What brought you to Lebanon?

EG: My husband and I love the charm of the area. He has a niece that lives here, and it seemed like a nice place to live when we decided to move from California.

RM: How did you come to find LPC?

EG: We started looking for churches in town. We visited church websites, watched online services and visited many, many churches in person. We connected with the teaching and music here at LPC. We were looking for a place to connect with our neighbors here in Lebanon and found the people of LPC to be so warm and welcoming.

RM: Tell me about your experience of being part of the band?

EG: Everyone in the band and the tech team has welcomed me with open arms. It has been a joy to work with such a talented and kind group of people.

RM: What's the most rewarding aspect of being in the praise band?

EG: The most rewarding aspect of being in the praise band is to be able to help lead in worship. It fills my heart to be able to serve in this way.

RM: Here's an important question, what's your favorite cookie?

EG: Any and all!! But if I have to pick a favorite, it would be an Oatmeal Raisin cookie.

Thanks, Elizabeth, for sharing your gifts, and for taking the time to let us all get to know you a little better. Friends, if you happen to see Elizabeth or Gary take the time to say hello and welcome them to the congregation of LPC!



Wednesday Nights Together for Kids! by Tracy Untener

We had a great time with the children who came to the first Wednesday Nights Together (WNT)! The children in the pre-school through fourth grade classes learned about the parable of the sower and the seeds. They discussed things that keep people from learning about, accepting, and growing in Christ. Along the way, they played games, had Dirt Pudding, painted or decorated pots, and made Dirt Buddies!

The older kids in **Club 56** spent time getting to know each other and building community. They took time to learn about and discuss what it meant to have Jesus as their guide in life, and they played a fun relay game where the teams had to put together a Bible verse that was being introduced. The ensuing conversation was about what the verse meant and how it related to having Jesus as their guide.

When it came time for our first Children’s Musical Practice, we had a blast! We had some discussion about what it means to follow Jesus, and about the Bible being the Word of God. The kids were excited to get their books and music, and to begin to learn the songs.

Overall, WNT for Kids is off to a great start! If you know of any children who might like to come, please invite them! We’d absolutely love to have them join us!



5th and 6th grade girls WNT



Whole Preschool WNT class

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL CANDY HUNT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

The community is invited! Spread the word! Kids can come to the church and meet at the entrance to the Ark and follow a map that leads them to some of their favorite animated characters! They can get their picture with them and will receive a candy treat at each stop!

Vintage

encounter

THIS FALL WITH...

LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES

STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

Encounter Wednesdays by Andrew Johnson

Encounter Wednesdays (7th-12th) have started alongside Wednesday Nights Together for our fall season. Our Wednesday night ministry is marked by the opportunity for upperclassmen high school students and college students to serve significant leadership roles as they plan activities, act out fun skits and lead their peers in Bible study. Adult leaders still play a role as guide and facilitators but our goal is that students own their youth group and their faith.

Each Wednesday we gather together to sing and worship together led by the Encounter Band and Andrew. We love to sing silly songs and deeply faithful ones too. We take a short break in the middle of singing for our leaders to put on a short skit that points students to our Bible study message and the theme of the night. After we sing we split up into guy and girl Bible studies where student leaders lead their peers as they study Scripture and share their experiences and understanding. After Bible study we take the last fifteen minutes or so to play an active game in the gym. We believe that by playing together we grow closer together. Most of us, even kids, spend so much time sitting still— it’s great to get moving and play a crazy game.

So far this year Wednesday nights have been a blast! We are so thankful for a great youth room and a gym space in The Ark where we can run and play and enjoy life together. We look forward to engaging in our content this year as we discover what how we can grown as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Each Wednesday we have a number of student leaders serving. Most of them are juniors and seniors in high school but this year we have more post high leaders. We are so excited to begin this year with such a strong leadership team that supports each other and enjoys leading together. If you run into any of these leaders encourage them and pray for them. Our student/post-high leadership team on Wednesday night are listed here — (Post-High) Daniel Frank, Alex Pierett, Nick Pierett, Meg Elliot, (High School) Emmett Bicknell, Brock Hodges, Andrew Heckart, Jenna Terrell, Theresa Olding (Adult) Robert Terrell, Ned Earley, Rachel Earley (Staff) Canilee McNeely, and Andrew Johnson.



Encounter Wednesday Student Leadership Team (not pictured Daniel Frank). Pictured left to right: Nick Pierett, Brock Hodges, Andrew Heckart, Emmett Bicknell, Canilee McNeely, Jenna Terrell, Meg Elliot, Alex Pierett, Theresa Olding and Andrew Johnson.

Kick Off Breakfast



Wednesday Nights Together Kids!



Wednesday
Nights
Together
Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights Together 1st Grade

Wednesday Nights Together 3rd and 4th Grade



Students helping to serve at the Kick Off breakfast!

Student Ministries



Wednesday Nights Together 5th and 6th Grade



Mystery Night Devotion



Lebanon Homecoming Tailgate