

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, February 6
 COMMUNION SUNDAY
Who Speaks for God?
Galatians 2:1-10

Sunday, February 13
Race and Grace
Galatians 2:11-21

Sunday, February 20
Bewitched
Galatians 3:1-14

Sunday, February 27
Law and Disorder
Galatians 3:15-25



THANK YOU!

We would like to send out a heartfelt Thank You to our church family for the very generous Staff Love Offering! We feel much love and appreciation not only by this sincere act but for the numerous acts of kindness and support we receive throughout the year. It is a blessing serving you and LPC!

Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Pastor
 The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz

Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Peter Larson

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

WORSHIP TIMES

LEBANON, OH 45036 513.932.2751

123 N. EAST ST.

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Chronicle

FEBRUARY 2022

Who is my Neighbor?

In August I watched as refugees mobbed the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, trying desperately to escape the vengeance of the Taliban. It was a complete nightmare. Silently, I prayed: "LORD, I wish there was some way we could help these people!"

In December, that prayer was answered. Samaritan's Purse was looking for churches to sponsor Afghan refugees. More than 56,000 refugees are still living on U.S. military bases, many of them in trauma. Would we be willing to help, they asked?

I quickly convened a meeting of mission-minded people from LPC and other churches. Together, we began to put together a team that would handle all the areas of need such as housing, transportation, employment, schooling, social services, legal help and language/translation.

On January 19, the Session of LPC voted unanimously to move forward with the application process to host one or two families from the Afghan refugees. Because the need is so ur-

gent, we are moving very quickly. The target date for the first refugees to arrive in Lebanon is February 1.

This is a huge commitment. It could take a year or longer for these refugees to be self-sufficient. In the meantime, they will need all sorts of assistance. And yet, we have seen God powerfully at work to assemble the people, skills and resources needed to make it happen.



AFGHAN REFUGEES BEING AIRLIFTED OUT OF KABUL.

Courtney Williams and Jim Garrett lo-

cated some rental housing in Lebanon, which is very hard to find. One family in our church made a generous gift to provide the funding for one year of rental housing for a refugee family. They did this voluntarily, without even being asked.

Another big need was for a lawyer to help with immigration issues. Scott Hicks heard about our group and volunteered to help. Scott is the pastor of Oregonia Methodist Church but he also works professionally as an immigration attorney!

Continued on page 2

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 94

Three employers in our church have offered to provide employment. A social worker in Lebanon heard about the refugees and offered to help them apply for social services.

One family offered to donate a brand new double bed which had never been used. Another woman offered to stock the pantry with groceries before the refugees arrive.

New Freedom Church offered financial support. Lebanon United Methodist Church also is interested in partnering with us. Through a contact in the Methodist Church, we learned about an Afghani man who lives here in Lebanon. He worked with the U.S military in Kabul as an interpreter and is willing to help the refugees if there is a need for translating.



Seven LPC members have stepped up to lead this effort, including Rachel Jaynes, Jordan Guerin, Shelley Bondurant, Courtney Williams, Doug Rhinehart, and Ann Loreaux. (Ann has previous experience helping refugees from Kosovo resettle in Cincinnati). Our point person is John Pohlman, who has been worshipping at LPC for the past year. John is a retired pastor and assistant police chief from Blue Ash, with a lot of experience in missions and disaster relief. In a powerful way, John felt Christ calling him to take on the role of leader.

You might wonder, why are we doing this? Why are we helping total strangers who come from a different culture and religion? The answer is simple: Because they are our neighbors.

In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus makes it clear that any person in trauma is our "neighbor," and deserves our pity and compassion. I am grateful that our church is leading the way in this effort and excited to see all that is God is going to accomplish. I believe with all my heart that God is sending these people to us.

Your servant in Christ,

Peter

iPray

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

Our Afghan refugees who are scheduled to arrive in Lebanon in early February, that we would show them the love and compassion of Jesus.

Our refugee resettlement team, that the Lord would provide the people, skills, and resources that are needed.

For EPC churches in Midwest Presbytery as we meet Feb. 11-12 at Gateway Church in Findlay, Ohio.

For men and women in our New Member's Class as they consider joining LPC on Sunday, February 27.

For our missionaries to Algeria, that God would encourage and give them boldness to proclaim the Gospel in the face of persecution.

For the spiritual renewal of our church, Presbytery and community, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus Christ.

Session Report

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our January 18 monthly meeting:

Approved Marge Cunningham, Carolyn Lucke and Courtney Williams as elder commissioners to attend the Feb. 11 meeting of Midwest Presbytery.

Approved a recommendation from the Finance Team to allow purchase of CDs at increments of \$50,000/5-year term each quarter.

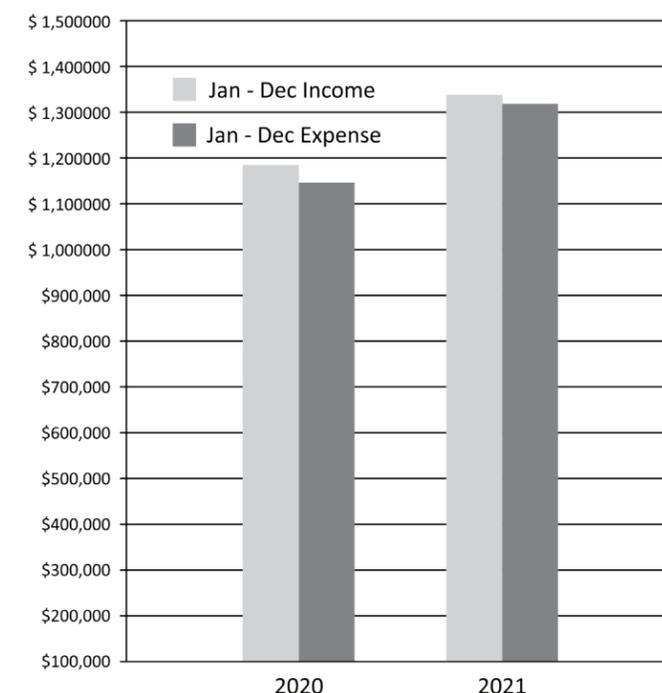
Approved a recommendation from the Mission Ministry Team to apply to host one or two groups of Afghan refugees through Samaritan's Purse.

Approved Carolyn Lucke for a one-year term as Clerk of Session.

Approved Roger Sims for another one-year term as church treasurer.

Approved a \$500 bonus for all LPC staff members to express gratitude for their faithful service during the Covid pandemic. (This will be funded from surplus funds from the PPP loan and not from the church budget).

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.



Wednesday Nights Together WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers to help keep Wednesday Nights Together running smoothly. If you would like to be added to our WNT Sign Up Genius list, please contact Christine Olding at 513-405-9590 or c.olding78@gmail.com.



Thank You

Dear Friends,

We praise God for the extraordinary opportunities He gave Samaritan's Purse this year to serve in Jesus' name around the world. Samaritan's Purse deployed to Kentucky and Arkansas in December to bring relief and comfort to homeowners after tornadoes caused catastrophic damage. We set up Emergency Field Hospitals in North Carolina, California and Mississippi to treat hundreds of patients suffering from Covid. We also set up a field hospital after the deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. We responded in the wake of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires and an ice storm in 11 states from the deep South to the Pacific Northwest. We fed and sheltered displaced families in Colombia and Ethiopia and provided Afghan evacuees with medical care, hygiene items, clothing and more. Millions of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were distributed to boys and girls in over 100 countries, including many hard-to-reach places where the Name of Jesus had never been heard. Thank you for partnering with us to help suffering people and share with them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We could not have done this important work without your prayers and financial support.

Franklin Graham, President Samaritan's Purse

Dear Rev. Larson,

We are so grateful for your church's generous gifts and support, especially your recent gift toward Matanzas Seminary in Cuba. Please pass along our thanks to your congregation and mission committee. We will continue to pray for your congregation especially in these difficult times.

Carol Dublin, The Outreach Foundation

Dear LPC Friends,

Despite all the challenges with Covid during 2021, Lebanon Presbyterian Church did an amazing job with 347 registered donors and 309 units of blood collected during six blood drives! The Community Blood Center is grateful for your dedication to blood donation. Thank you!

Sandy Baur, Community Blood Center of Dayton

Dear LPC Family and Friends,

It has been an honor to serve as the LPC Church secretary for the past 32 years. I have been through and experienced a lot over all those years and through it all, you have always been there with love, support, and encouragement. I experienced this first hand with the many cards and monetary gifts I received upon retirement. I would like to thank each and every person who is apart of Lebanon Presbyterian Church: the Staff, the Session, the Deacons, Personnel and especially the Congregation for honoring me during worship on December 19. Thanks go out to Brent and Teri Abbott, Larry Brace, Nina Dorsch, Cathy Riggan, Debbie Snider and Kat Svoboda for setting up/cleaning up and or providing delicious food and drinks for my wonderful retirement reception. It was great to see and catch up with so many friends. What a blessing it has been to share our lives with our wonderful LPC family, old and new. Please keep in touch. Bruce and Brenda Bingham, 352 Tupelo Lake Dr., Summerville, SC 29486. Brenda's email: brenda.k.bingham@gmail.com and cell 513-649-2003, Bruce's email: dozerbrb@gmail.com and cell 513-404-8505.

May the grace of God be with you,
Brenda Bingham



An Interview with Cindy Jaynes BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

As we begin the new year, we often make a change to our leadership in Deacons. Our previous Deacon Chair, Mary Jo Oliver graciously passed the baton to our new Chair, Cindy Jaynes. You have probably seen Cindy preparing food for Wednesday Nights Together or singing in the choir, on top of her many other duties within the church. It has been a joy to get to know Cindy this past year, and I am so excited to work alongside her as she leads our Deacons. I thought it would be fun to introduce Cindy to the congregation in a new way! Here are a few highlights.

How did you come to LPC?

We had left our previous church because we felt they were veering away from biblically based programming so to speak. After trying several churches where we found the same trend, we tried LPC after reading the "what we believe" document on the website. After our first Sunday at LPC, we knew we had found a new church home!

What interested you most about becoming a Deacon?

Seeing how much the congregation at LPC loves and cares for each other touched me. I was so humbled when I was asked to consider serving as a Deacon, but I wanted to help care for this congregation and felt I could be useful in this capacity.

What has been your favorite memory as a Deacon so far?

That is a toughie! I will cherish many wonderful moments from this time. So far my best memory is simply serving in the kitchen on Wednesday nights. Being shoulder to shoulder with my fellow Deacons and our wonderful volunteers, talking, laughing, getting to know each other better. Figuring out how to fix something when it doesn't go quite to plan. Supporting each other while we support the Congregation at large. Did I mention the laughing?

What are you most looking forward to about being the Deacon Chair?

What I hope to do most as the Deacon Chair is to help equip our Deacons to be the best servants they can be. Being a Deacon has been such a rewarding experience for me and I want to do what I can to help our entire team have that same experience.

What three words would you use to describe being a Deacon?

Love, Humility, Growth

How can we be praying for the Deacons this year?

Please pray that the Deacons will be able to continue to find new and creative ways to serve our congregation and to improve our programs as we go along. Also please pray for our physical and spiritual health, that we may continue to serve in strength and joy.



Interfaith Hospitality LPC UPDATE

We look forward to providing meals, encouragement and prayers for our Interfaith Hospitality families who find themselves temporarily homeless. Our 2nd of 4 rotations for 2022 is March 20-26. Watch for the LPC Weekly updates for opportunities to cook, prepare side dishes and shop for needs starting March 2.

Send questions or comments to:
lebanonpcihn@gmail.com.

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

Thank you from Interfaith Hospitality LPC and Family Promise of Warren County

We are so grateful to all of those who assisted with Interfaith Hospitality Network LPC the week of November 28. Thank you for the home cooked meals, prayers and encouragement for the 18 individuals and their 7 families. Thank you to the 30 shoppers who provided 122 items; the 10 cooks who filled 21 cooking slots and the 13 cooks who prepared 22 side dishes at home. Thank you to Gayle Newby who made baby blankets for 2 of our guests who are expecting. Thank you to our Youth Leadership Team for providing gifts for our families. Here is a note from one of the IHN families:

“Thank you for all of the meals you have put together for us. Our favorite meal was Taco Tuesday. And we appreciate the nice box of gifts you put together for us too. We really appreciate all of you and everything you have been doing to help us get through these rough times as a family. Thank you.”

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



Rick Oliver for replacing some ceiling tiles and repairing the nursery door.

Mike (Donna) Schneider for repairing the communion table and the apron on the back parking lot.

Roger Sims for cleaning out the landscape around the Blair House.

Phil Craig for disposing of the old Christmas tree.

Jan & Mike Watsell for maintaining the Sanctuary.

Ken Butterworth and **Ken Klann** for making coffee for LPC.

Patty Corfman for organizing Angel Tree.

Ken Klann for changing the many light bulbs throughout the church.

Mary Deerhake and **Debbie Snider** for cleaning out the closet in Room 102.

Debbie Snider, Nina Dorsch, Mary Deerhake, Brent & Terri Abbott, Kat Svobada and **Cathy Riggan** for organizing helping and donating to Brenda Bingham's reception.

Nancy Haire, Jan and Mike Watsell, Beth Gully, Gary Ensing and his Sunday School class for decorating the church for Advent.

The Encounter students who helped bring in and put away the Christmas decorations.

Everyone involved in creating and presenting the Christmas Cantata.

Get to Know Roy Miller BY RICK MCNEELY

We've been introduced to a number of new faces to LPC over the past months and I thought it'd be fun to talk with someone who has been part of this music ministry for over two decades. Here's my conversation with Roy...

Rick: So how long have you been a member at LPC?

Roy: Basically my whole life.

Rick: How long has your family been part of the church?

Roy: As in number of years? That might be a national security secret, 'cause I might have to reveal my mom's age. I believe that her parents were members also, so I guess a long time.

Rick: When did you first start playing drums?

Roy: Back in 5th grade or so, when students can actually start in school band. There were a hundred kids as I remember who started out wanting to play drums early in the school year. We started doing rudimentary lessons on those old practice pads made out of foam with a drum head and a metal frame. By the end of the year there were maybe 5 or 10 left in my grade and from 6th grade on it was 3 of us. In high school with all 4 grades there were about 12-15. I was also a pretty good piano player as it was strongly encouraged for anyone who wanted to play drums to take piano lessons to learn how to read music.

Rick: When did you join the praise band and what was that like?

Roy: I got started in the band a little over 20 years ago when both services were still in the Sanctuary. There was a time when we had a healing service once a month. I went to one of those services during a rather dark, suffering period in my life and very quickly was invited by some of the folks on the music team to join them. Even though I hadn't played hardly anything for 15 years, I picked right up where I left off. No music, just needed to hear about 5-10 seconds of the song, maybe just the few notes of the intro and good to go. I can still hear the music minister at the time exclaiming something like "where have you been? You've been here all these years and you're like... this good? WOW!"

Rick: You've been in the band longer than anyone currently playing. How has it changed/grown/evolved, over the years?

Roy: The talent of everyone involved has always been very good. The ability for everyone to play together with each other and quite often create music on the go, not just rigidly perform what is on the music stand in front of them has always been a pleasure to be part of. Some folks have only stayed with the band 3-4 months, some for 3-4 years, a few for 6-8 years, sometimes more vocalists, sometimes more instrumentalists. When we were in the Sanctuary, the drums were tucked in a small corner of the choir loft and we had a slide projector in the front pew projecting up above the hallway door. When we first moved to the ARK, we had to set up and take down everything - stage, drums, monitors, wrap up cords and move them every week. The music has changed a bit. The lyrics have become deeper, more meaningful.

Rick: What is it that keeps you involved with the band for all these years?

Roy: Well a good habit is like a bad habit in that it is hard to break, which is a small part of the reason but it is enjoyable. Also, it just simply has become the way that I worship on Sunday as being out in the congregation feels a little strange. I am also a slightly keep to myself kind of person and so I can come to church and even though I am up front with the band, I can "hide" behind my drum set and be immersed in the whole musical worship moment and movement. Besides, who would want to miss out on the opportunity of a drum shot/cymbal crash response to someone's groan-worthy bad joke when they are at the pulpit making announcements!!!



Wednesday Nights Together for Kids

BY TRACY UNTENER

The January session of WNT for Kids got off to a great start! The kids in preschool through 4th grade are learning about service and how through service we can share the light of Jesus' love with others. They began by looking at how we can serve our families. The first through fourth grade class had some great ideas about what it meant to serve their families. Some of their ideas were: helping to cook dinner and setting the table, cleaning your room, taking care of the dog, and giving hugs. As their first special service project, they wrote encouraging notes to give to members of their families and attached a special treat for them. The preschool and kindergarten class discussed serving families as they made a family tree. As their first service project, they made a trail mix snack for their families and also made some to share with the families in our Playschool.



Our Engage fifth and sixth grade class is studying *The Case for Christ for Kids*. On the first Wednesday that they met, they began their discussion with the question 'What do people say about Jesus?' 'What are words people use to describe Him?' The leaders then asked them what they knew about Jesus, what things they had heard other people say about Him, and whether or not they thought what they heard was true. Then the group turned to scripture, to learn what Jesus said about himself. The kids asked some good questions. It's great to have such deep discussions with them!

On Wednesday nights, many of our children are also preparing for an Easter Musical Celebration to take place on Sunday, April 10. Under the direction of Beth Larson and Lynn Steinkirchner, they are learning wonderful songs and narration about "The Cross of Christ" that they will be sharing with the church. What a great way to learn about the Easter story!



ENCOUNTER LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES

STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

February 2022

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Since you last heard from us...

...LPC Encounter Student Ministries have been up to a lot. We had a Thanksgiving celebration called "Sweetsgiving" where we gathered to give thanks over homemade and some store-bought deserts. We hosted a Nerf Night and battled it out with good Christian fellowship and competition. Students find it easy to bring their friends to events like Nerf Night and we meet lots of new students. Andrew Bicknell, Emmett Bicknell and Andrew Heckart helped Andrew Johnson begin to install the first phase of stage lighting for the Encounter room. The improvement

was instantly obvious and was used that week to host a Christmas worship night for college and by students and their families. Christmas was a time of gathering together and parties. Encounter Student Ministry students met in the Heckart's basement for our Christmas party and gift exchange. We had so much fun together: eating, playing games, and unwrapping the best gifts ever purchased for \$10. In normal years, the Johnson's host an LPC Encounter Alumni party and invite all past (post-high) graduates to gather for a Christmas reunion. It was so great to re-connect with college students and young professionals home for the holidays. God blessed us with a great Christmas season and we are so thankful to be in ministry together.



NERF NIGHT DEC. 2021



NEW STAGE LIGHTING



ALUMNI PARTY 2021



ENCOUNTER CHRISTMAS DEC. 2021



NED WITH SUGAR



BROCK WITH BLADE

DEEP DISCIPLESHIP

Encounter "Deep" High School Discipleship meets every Sunday night at 7 p.m. diving deeper into what it looks like to know and to follow Jesus in the world in which we live. Last semester, we read *Following Jesus* by Henri Nouwen. We were challenged to really BE WITH Jesus. Nouwen called us to think and explore the depths of intimacy of our relationship with Jesus and what that practically looks like in our lives. We're starting second semester off with a new book called *Just Do Something* by Kevin DeYoung where we are seeking a more liberating approach to knowing and following the will of God. Please pray for our students as they think about their future and who God has called them to be.



Humor While Waiting for the Post - COVID Era

BY JOHN MORRIS

You know ten years from now there's going to be a standardized test with a math problem that says "If Matt was exposed to COVID on Tuesday and had no symptoms four days later and he got it from Susie who caught it at a party three days before Matt and tested positive five days later, how likely is Matt's little brother going to test positive on an antigen test if he tests after Matt tests positive?"

Soul Food Café Needs You

FEEDING MINISTRY

Many hands make light work as the old proverb goes, and the LPC Feeding Ministry wants yours! Our local missions cannot function without the ongoing commitment of our congregation. Right now, we are again at a place where we need some new volunteers to keep running at our current pace of a once-a-week Monday night dinner (and a Wednesday noon pizza.) Currently, the Monday night is the most critical.

If you (and some friends), your small group, Sunday School class, or another group you can imagine, can't work every month, can you commit to every other month, once a quarter? Many people are drawn to LPC for its mission programs, but they can only function with YOU.

Why not make 2022 the year that you fully commit to discipleship in missions? Benefits include working with friendly people, serving grateful new faces--from tiny tots to senior citizens--and being the hands and feet of Jesus in real time.

For more information contact:

Jerry Hentschel ghentschel@gmail.com or

Inga Kimple kimple@gmail.com.

Retreat Reboot!

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022

Press pause for a moment on your regular weekend routine and come spend a day learning how to "Let Go and Let God" with the ladies of LPC during our pint-sized Women's Retreat.

The Women's Retreat Committee has restructured this year's, even to be a one day, mini-retreat here at LPC on Saturday March 12th, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. All the fun, fellowship and spiritual support of our normal gathering, condensed into one beautiful day!

Mark your calendars for March 12th and keep an eye out for registration information later in February. Looking forward to seeing you!

In Christ,

Women's Retreat Committee

(Terri Catanzaro, Debbie Kouns, Debbie Snider, Connie Tunison, Heather Forster)

Future Graduates

GRADUATION SUNDAY
& LPC COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS

LPC offers college scholarships for high school graduates! Find the link at the bottom of the student ministry page on the church website at www.lebanonpresbyterian.org. All scholarship applications are due March 15. We will be celebrating high school and college graduates in worship on Sunday, May 17 with a special breakfast at 9 a.m. for high school graduates and their families.

Activating God Space

SOME EXPERIENCES

TERRI CANTANZARO & KAREN KILPATRICK

We have heard from some people that they could never do the exercises in God Space. So here are some experiences, good and not-so-good to show that if we act in spite of our fears, God will use our efforts.

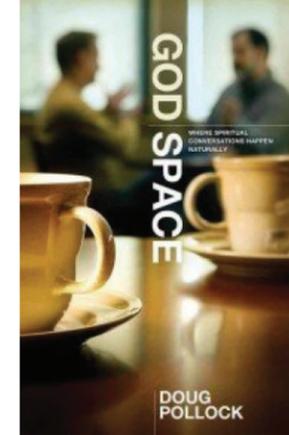
Karen Kilpatrick shared "At a recent family gathering, I overheard my grandson say, "...well, Baptists are a cult, right?" I felt compelled to set the record straight. This spiraled into a Q&A that didn't go so well. In retrospect, I should have stopped my impulsive corrections and asked him "Why do you think that?" and then listened, and asked more questions as they came up. I will try to do better next time. I do think the fact that he felt like he could ask questions about God is a good thing, so I'm hopeful God will give me another chance with him."

Dave Corfman shared that after attending the God Space seminar he has changed a little how he interacts with people at work when they bring up religious topics. Most of the people he works with are in their 20's and the less aggressive he is about pushing his religious ideas while listening to them better, the more they actually ask his opinion after stating theirs. That has opened up some really good discussions.

Dave also shared some experiences with offering to pray with servers at restaurants: "The waitress asked us to pray for her dad's medical problems. The next one asked for us to pray for a coworker having housing problems. The third kindly said he did not need any prayer. The first two seemed genuinely grateful, the third almost annoyed. It is nice to pray for all these people and then release it to the Holy Spirit to move in their hearts as He sees fit."

Although fearful, one day Terri Catanzaro shared: "I asked our server if she needed prayer for herself or her family. The server asked for prayer as her family had been working for several years on clearing roadblocks for a family business that started coming together. As we left the restaurant, she thanked us for lifting her family up in prayer."

Hopefully some of these experiences will give you ideas to feel comfortable engaging with others in spiritual conversations. What a great way to start the New Year!



Year After Year

BIBLE READERS

The focus to launch a church-wide campaign to read the *Bible* in a year or two here at LPC is now in its fifth year. In December 2020 and again this past December over 100 reading plans were picked up from the table by readers. We continue to hear dozens of stories each year from LPC *Bible* readers. They are such sweet, precious testimonies that should be shared. If you have read the *Bible* in a year with our program or via another promotion, we would like to hear from you. Simply write out your testimony and get it into the hands of John and Fran Morris at johnandfran@aol.com or text 513-508-1354, or handwrite it and pass it on. A loud shout out to Brenda Bingham who organized and printed all our plans.

SAVE THE DATE:
DISCOVERY ON
ADVENTURE ISLAND
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 6-10 | TIME TBD

