

# Preaching Schedule

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|---|---|
| <p><b>Sunday, April 3</b><br/>         COMMUNION SUNDAY<br/> <b>Living Your Best Life</b><br/> <i>Galatians 5:16-26</i></p> | <p><b>Sunday, April 17</b><br/>         EASTER SUNDAY<br/> <b>Nonsense</b><br/> <i>Luke 24:1-12</i></p> |
| <p><b>Sunday, April 10</b><br/>         PALM SUNDAY<br/> <b>A Joyful Noise</b><br/> <i>Matthew 21:10-17</i></p>             | <p><b>Sunday, April 24</b><br/> <b>Doing Good</b><br/> <i>Galatians 6:1-18</i></p>                      |



# Chronicle

APRIL 2022

## A Small World

When war broke out in Ukraine last month, my cell phone began pinging. I received urgent text messages and emails from Christian friends in Russia, France, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Ukraine.

Symphony Orchestra and Choir. They have hundreds of friends in Kiev who are suffering, including many widows who rely on them for survival.

A friend in Kiev said he was unable to sleep at night because of exploding bombs and missiles raining down on his city. An Algerian pastor who lives in Paris asked for prayer for his Muslim brother who was trying to escape from Kiev to Poland. A Czech pastor, Petr Penaz, reported how his nation is mobilizing to provide military and humanitarian aid.



LPC DONATED \$25,000 TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE REFUGEES

The invasion of Ukraine is a terrible evil. And yet, the war is a powerful reminder that we belong to a global church. Although we live in Lebanon, Ohio, we have mission partners all over the globe in India, Africa, Mongolia and Cambodia.

Actually, this is nothing new. LPC has a long history of global engagement. Almost 80 years ago, our church sponsored the very first Presbyterian missionaries who went to the Yucatan region of Mexico. They translated the Bible into the Maya language. In recent years, we have built several churches in the Yucatan in partnership with the Maya Presbyterian church.

In a poor village in southern Kenya, we built a thriving school. In Malawi, we are funding a well-drilling project. In Detroit, we provided funding to help an African-American church build an outdoor basketball court.

In North Africa, we are part of an evangelistic

*Continued on page 2*

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**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**

The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz  
 Associate Pastor

The Rev. Peter Larson  
 Senior Pastor

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

**WORSHIP TIMES**

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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 LEBANON, OH 45036  
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movement among the Berber people that has resulted in more than 100,000 people coming to faith in Christ. In Mercedes Texas, we are helping to fund construction of a church building for a poor Latino congregation that asked us for help.

Recently, our church raised \$23,000 to provide emergency aid for the refugees in Ukraine. In addition, we filled 12 large cartons with toiletry items and used clothing that will be shipped to Ukraine.

The Kingdom of God is big – it covers the earth. And yet it is, “a small world, after all.” In war-torn Ukraine and far-off villages in Africa, we have brothers and sisters in Christ.

In this issue of the Chronicle you will find a special insert that describes the global outreach of LPC and the missionaries we support. I encourage you to pray for them daily – they need it.

Your servant in Christ,

Peter



KAIROS TEAM GATHERING TO DISTRIBUTE 12,600 DOZEN COOKIES TO PRISONERS AT WARREN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.



If you are not receiving our Weekly Update emails or our calls about immediate information, please contact Gabrielle Pyles at [gabrielle@lebanonpresbyterian.org](mailto:gabrielle@lebanonpresbyterian.org) and we will get you added to our congregational lists.

### DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION OR QUESTION FOR SESSION?

Comment Cards are available in the Friendship Pads. Just fill out a card and drop it in the collection box located in the back of the Sanctuary or Ark. You must provide your name and contact information to have your thoughts brought to the proper person or group. Don't want to fill out a card? – just email [comments@lebanonpresbyterian.org](mailto:comments@lebanonpresbyterian.org).

## iPray

*If you prayed as much as you worried, you'd have much less to worry about. -ANONYMOUS*

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

For our senior high students as they go on retreat April 1-3 at Indiana Wesleyan University.

For our children's choir on Palm Sunday as they lead us in worship.

For Easter Sunday, that we would rejoice in the hope of the resurrection.

For the Children's Ministry team as they make plans for Vacation Bible School the week of June 6-10.

For Afghan refugees, that two families would be assigned to our church.

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

## Session Report

*The Session of LPC took the following actions at our March 21 meeting:*

Approved the March 20 baptism of Kala Ellison.

Approved cancellation of the 10 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday, April 10 so we can gather for an all-church breakfast.

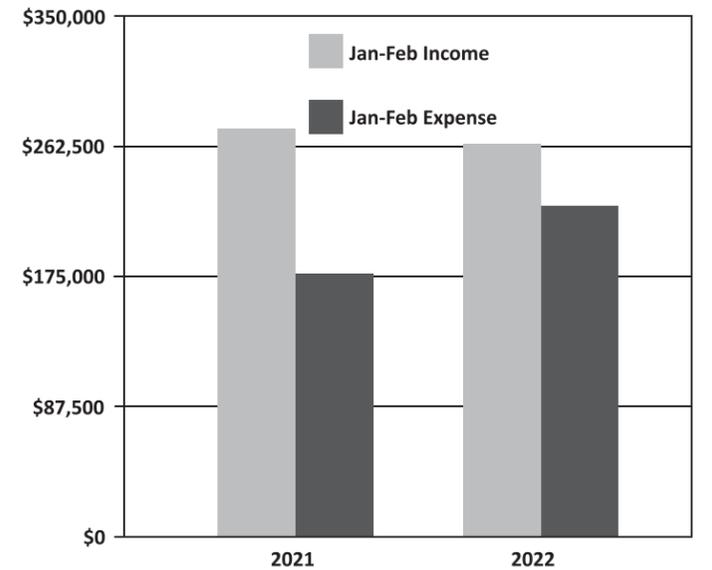
Approved a request from the Long Range Planning team to enter into a contract with Pinnacle Architects to begin preliminary design for our campus on the west side of the building.

Approved a love offering on Sunday, March 13 to provide humanitarian aid for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine (the offering totaled \$25,000).

Approved a motion for Elders to go back to serving communion the first Sunday in June. Self-service packets will be available at the door for those who prefer them.

Received a report from Pastor Peter Larson that we are still waiting for two families of Afghan refugees to be assigned to our church. We have now applied with six different agencies involved in refugee resettlement.

## LPC Income and Expenses



## Financial Giving

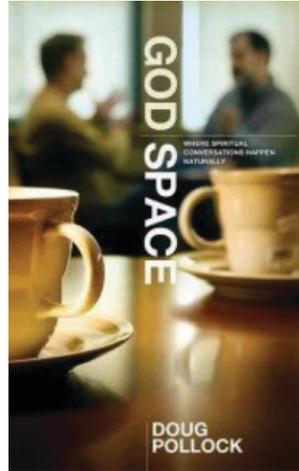
As always, we rely on your faithful giving to support the mission and ministry of LPC. You can send your pledge by mail or you can take advantage of the online giving. To begin online giving just go to our church website at [lebanonpresbyterian.org](http://lebanonpresbyterian.org) or text “give” to 513-443-5522, 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.



# Activating God Space

## QUIZ FOLLOWUP

TERRI CATANZARO AND KAREN KILPATRICK



Hope you were able to take the “God Space” quiz from our March article. No matter how you scored, God Space gives us growth opportunities if we have a teachable heart. Remember, we are not alone on our spiritual journey as stated in Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” We can let the Lord lead and come out of our comfort zone to have conversations with not-yet-Christians.

Included below is a prayer for each scoring category (tailor the prayer to your situation) to help us become more effective in sharing our faith with others.

**Scoring category (85-100)** - Some of our LPC family are very comfortable having “God Conversations”. PRAYER (taken from Colossians 4:5-6): Be wise in the way I act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let my conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that I may know how to answer everyone.

**Scoring category (65-85)** - In trying to come out of our comfort zone, we may be afraid of being rejected. PRAYER: God open my eyes to the ways I may be hindering opportunities for spiritual conversations in my daily life. Take away my fears and allow you to lead the conversation.

**Scoring Category (under 65)** - One reason for this score may be our attitude that says “Never discuss religion or politics with those who hold opinions opposite to yours.” Another might be our fear of what others think of us. Are we more concerned with pleasing people than pleasing God? Or, are we wanting to tell people about Jesus, but don’t quite have the heart of Jesus for them? As Doug Pollock states, “Jesus needs to do something in us before he can do something through us”. PRAYER (reference to Matthew 13 9-13): Jesus, change my heart to see people as you saw them. Allow me to reach out to not-yet-Christians as you did to the tax collectors and sinners because you came to call the sinners, not the righteous.

**Challenge:** In your small groups, Bible study, or conversations with other Christians ask “What is keeping us from being more effective in sharing our faith?” I believe you will find some great dialogue, ideas and possible coaches. The Lord is waiting to change our heart attitudes and priorities.

Next month, we’ll look at some ways we can improve our conversations with not-yet Christians.

# New Member Sunday at LPC

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ



ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20, WE WELCOMED 48 NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED LPC IN THE PAST TWO YEARS DURING COVID.



# HOLY WEEK 2022

at LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Palm Sunday

Worship led by the Children of LPC at 8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Breakfast served at 10 a.m. in the Ark. (no children’s Sunday School)

## Maundy Thursday

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Communion Service in the Ark.

## Good Friday

Cantata Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Easter Sunday

Worship at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. Nursery care for children birth - age 3 available all morning. Children’s Church will be offered during the 9:30 a.m. service.



## LPC Men’s Breakfast

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 | 8:30-10 A.M.

IN THE ARK AT LPC

Sign up link on the church website

IT’S SIMPLE: HAVE BREAKFAST, HANG OUT & HEAR FROM OUR SPECIAL GUEST

Guest Speaker **KURT KERSEY**  
from **THE GROWN MAN PROJECT**

# One of Our Own Soars

BY JOHN MORRIS

Lebanon Presbyterian Church holds the Charter for Boy Scout Troop 186. It is made up of boys and young men from a variety of area churches and schools.

It was my privilege to attend the recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for Emmett Bicknell. He is the son of Dana and Janie, brother to Andrew, and the grandson of Jim & Trish Garrett. A standing room crowd attended the event held in the Community Room 102.

EAGLE SCOUT is the **highest advancement** rank in Boy Scouting. Since 1912 more than two million Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank. In the words of the Eagle Scout Promise, Eagles do their **best** each day to make their training an example, their rank and their **influence** count strongly for better Scouting and for better **citizenship** in their troop, in their community, and in their contacts with other people. To this they pledge their **sacred honor**.

Andrew did a very fine job as Master of Ceremonies walking us through the path to Eagle. Emmett rose through the ranks by attaining nine levels of advancement starting in 2015. He has held more than a half dozen troop positions, garnering him five awards along with 56 merit badges, way more than he needed to advance to Eagle.



EMMETT BICKNELL

For his Eagle Project he created a math club at Lebanon High School. He procured funding in order for club members to participate in two different math contests. He planned and led two meetings each month and was pleased to have Mr. Ned Earley serve as club advisor. From all accounts, it looks like the club is here to stay.

multimedia cabinets, non-working tools and mowers, etc.

We will also be digging up and selling hostas and other spring plants. If you need hostas dug, please email [andrew@lebanonpresbyterian.org](mailto:andrew@lebanonpresbyterian.org)

There will be an opportunity for you to sign up to help. Watch for details coming soon in a church email.

Andrew Johnson

# Get to Know Molly Lucas

BY RICK MCNEELY

Have you ever wondered... where the beautiful worship guide covers come from each week? Well, meet Molly Lucas. Molly has been designing our worship guide covers for quite some time now and has recently joined the LPC staff as our Graphic Designer. She also serves on the Worship Ministry and Creative Planning Teams.



MOLLY LUCAS

*Tell us about your family and how you came to be part of the LPC family?*

I have been married to Justin for 23 years, and we have four children. I came to LPC in 2016 after my two youngest children attended VBS. We had visited the church a few times with Winkie McKenzie prior to signing up for VBS, so we were sort of familiar with LPC. I guess God was calling us here. I was not even a Christian at the time, but after attending worship for VBS Sunday, my heart began to change. Soon after, Justin amazingly began to attend worship too! We both started reading the Bible and within a year, we were both baptized and became members of LPC.

*When did you know you wanted to pursue art as a vocation?*

I always wanted to pursue art in some way, but I was not exactly sure how. When my youngest daughter was turning one, I created all the invitations and decorations, and a light bulb went off in my head. I suddenly realized that graphic design was where I needed to use my artistic skills.

*How long have you been in graphic design?*

I have been working as a freelance graphic designer since I graduated from Sinclair in 2015.

*Do you work with other art mediums or disciplines?*

I enjoy drawing and painting, but I also love all sorts of crafting, knitting, and sewing.

*Is the creative process different when you approach graphic design compared to painting, sketching, etc.?*

My creative process for design is a little more structured than it is for painting or sketching. I usually start with research when starting a new project, then I will create thumbnail sketches to work through my initial ideas. Once I feel like I have some direction with my sketches, I will bring those into the computer and create my design digitally. Sometimes I get a creative spark and so the process is much more spontaneous and free flowing.

*What does it mean to you to be an artist/creator for the church? (not specifically LPC, but for the "capital C church" as some say)*

Helping to create art for the church has been such a joy! It never feels like "work."

*How has your experience in serving the church as an artist changed since joining the staff?*

Since joining the staff, I finally feel like I am exactly where I am supposed to be, doing what God wants me to do. It is a great feeling! I am having so much fun!

*Is there any encouragement you can share with us about using our gifts to God's glory?*

If you are using your gifts to God's glory, He will make a way for you. He will make the work enjoyable, and He will find you a place to use your gifts.

*Thanks so much for taking the time for this. Last question, What's your favorite cookie?*

My mom makes my favorite cookie which is an oatmeal chocolate chip with dried cherries and toffee.

## LPC Missions

### SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

On **Saturday April 30**, LPC Missions will hold its annual rummage sale to benefit the **Summer Youth Mission Trip** to Mercedes, Texas. Starting Monday April 25 before the sale, we will be accepting your items, including: clean clothing, shoes, all types of usable household items, collectibles, books, toys, tools, furniture, bikes, etc. We cannot accept old televisions and computers, outdated electronics, construction materials or built-ins, square TV

# Wednesday Night Together Kids: Serving Hearts

BY TRACY UNTENER

The Wednesday Nights Together (WNT) Kids classes took a look at what it means to serve others for Jesus. They learned about serving those close by, as well as those far away.

The preschool and kindergarten class, led by Julie Crago and Connie Tunison, were a very giving group. They loved creating things that they could share with others. Some of their service projects included making trail mix to give to another family, making a butterfly for a friend, and sending encouraging sunflower posters to the people of Ukraine.



The first through fourth grade class, led by Sarah Untener and myself, also did many service projects, including making 50 blessing bags for those in need, and making key chains thanking our Deacons for being good and faithful servants who care for the needs of others in our church. They also practiced serving others at home, and as a class completed over 25 challenge slips where they did something to serve a friend, their family, their neighbor or community. Some completed challenges were: writing a card for a

ministry leader at LPC, making an encouraging poster to display at their basketball game, inviting a friend to WNT, making brownies for a sick friend, and helping a family member clean.

Over the last couple of weeks of WNT, both classes talked about Jesus' final words to the disciples before He left them, and how He wanted them to go and spread the Good News. We discussed how after we help others with their needs, they are much more likely to be ready to listen when we tell them all about Jesus and His love for them. "...let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven" -Matthew 5:16.



# Wednesday Nights Together Engage: Searching Hearts

The WNT Engage Class (5th and 6th graders), led by Janie Bicknell and Courtney Williams, did something different that is so very important for this age group as they wrestle with making their faith their own. They went through Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Christ for Kids*. This book opened up lots of discussion about Jesus. They talked about who Jesus said he was, including The True Vine, The Good Shepherd, The Bread of Life, The Son of God, and The Messiah. They discussed whether or not Jesus was telling the truth, and decided that he wouldn't lie knowing that he would die for claiming to be God's son. He wasn't crazy either, because crazy people don't do miracles and teach the way Jesus did. They learned what prophecies are, and compared prophecies from the Old Testament with what happened in the New Testament, and saw that Jesus fulfilled those prophecies. They compared the four gospels, and how they are different from each other, but don't contradict each other. They went on to look at questions about whether or not

Jesus really did die on the cross, and did he really rise from the dead? Then, in the last couple of weeks of WNT, the leaders talked with the kids about the fact that believing the information about Jesus is great, but each person still has to decide whether or not they want to become one of His followers. They discussed how each one of us sins and needs Jesus, and that if we "confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved" -Romans 10:9.



# WNT LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES

## STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

# Welcome Kaleo Students!

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Kaleo Sunday is always one of the best Sundays at LPC. Each year, students who have completed the Kaleo Student Membership Class with their Elder Mentor and been approved by Session stand before the congregation and are welcomed into the LPC Family and the Body of Christ. This year LPC decided to welcome all of the members together on one Sunday- Membership Sunday. Our three Kaleo students have been meeting with their Kaleo Elder Mentors since October at flexible monthly meetings where they cover significant areas of spiritual knowledge and growth. The goal of Kaleo is that students respond to the "Kaleo" (Greek) or call of Jesus to follow Him. We would like you to welcome our newest LPC members Ally Bondurant, Micah Earley and Mitchell Hodges.



# Thank You

## Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who was so generous in donating clothing, personal items and money to help the Ukrainian community. We were overwhelmed with your lovingkindness in this war weary world.

In His Footsteps,  
LPC Missions Committee

## Dear LPC Friends,

In my last newsletter I asked for prayer for continued discernment in my work here in Cambodia. God surprised me in late December as I learned about a new opportunity. I ran across a job posting for an Executive Assistant at a Christian international school here in Phnom Penh. Within forty eight hours of inquiring about the position, I sat down with the school director for an interview. I'm happy to announce that starting March 1, I will be partnering with HOPE International School. HOPE supports world missions by providing quality Christ-centered education to the children of Christian workers in Cambodia. After serving with Agape International Ministries for 10 years, it seemed surreal to give my resignation. I've signed a two year contract with HOPE. This gives me stability and allows me to put down more roots in Phnom Penh. Please pray for wisdom as I get settled into my new job and for encouragement as I enter the HOPE community and meet my new colleagues. Most of all join me in thanking God for the provision of this new position and how God answered my prayer!

Rachel Meyer, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## Dear LPC Friends,

I hope and pray your year is off to a great start. I keep thinking that this year has got to be better than the last two years, right? Thank you so much for your year-end gift. That was such a blessing and encouragement to me. Thank you for continuing to be part of the redemptive work that the Lord is doing here in Cambodia. You are amazing!

Much love,  
Becki Sardeson, Cambodia

## Dear LPC Friends:

On behalf of Genesis Presbyterian Church and the Reynoso family, I greet you in the beautiful and glorious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Happy Easter!

I had a delightful time with Andrew Johnson, your Student Ministry Director, as we made plans for a summer mission trip. I gave him the grand tour of Mercedes, or as I call it, the capital of Texas. We were met for lunch by Dave and Margie Jones (from Lebanon Ohio) and my wife, Carmen. We ate at a little Mexican restaurant called Aguilar's Kitchen, which is very close to where we will be building our church.

We are currently without a building in which to meet, so we hold worship on our property on Sundays, which we call our "Little Promised Land." We meet in our cars and watch the sermon in our phones, then we collect the offering and greet one another.



On Saturday March 12th, we celebrated my daughter Bella's 15th birthday. It is the Mexican tradition to have a celebration called Quinceañera. In attendance we had people from church, friends in town, and family from Houston and Mexico.

Recently, I received a letter from the City of Mercedes saying that our construction plans have been approved by all City Departments and that we will get our construction permit in a few days. We praise the Lord and rejoice for such wonderful news. We are grateful for all of your prayers and financial support as we prepare to begin construction of our church building. With love in Christ,  
Con Carino y amor, En Cristo,  
Rev. Hector Reynoso

## Dear Pastor Larson:

I just wanted to say thank you. Tonight was my first time serving at Wednesday Nights Together and I am so filled with love and community. I know I need more time to get to know people because I am new, but I felt so much love tonight at this event. I just watched and took it all in. I loved watching the kids throwing the football. I loved the loud chatter I heard. I loved watching the kids follow Stephanie around. I loved hearing John and Christine Olding say, "Hey, Mom and Dad!" I am just so thankful for everything LPC has given to me and my daughter, Jaclyne. Thank you for accepting us into this gracious family. God is so good, and I was so in love with Him tonight!

Sincerely,  
Leslie Andrews



THIS MONTH WE HONOR THE FOLLOWING MEN AND WOMEN FOR THEIR LOVING SERVICE TO JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHURCH:

**Rick Beckwith, Chuck Duerré, Lana Johnson, George Meloy, Debbie Scarborough, Rhea Vezmar, Dick Wardrop and Jenny Wyrick** for the many hours of volunteering in the LPC office.

**Janie Bicknell, Shirley Carter, Lana Johnson, Evelyn Osborne and Rhea Vezmar** for their delicious desserts for the Wednesday afternoon Feeding Ministry.

**Roger Sims** for trimming back the rose bushes.

**Steve and Jennifer Tabar** for vacuuming at WNT.

## LPC Book Club THE WOMEN'S MARCH

The **LPC Book Club** will meet on **April 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Room 311** to discuss *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini. By 1913, nine states had already granted women voting rights, but only a constitutional amendment would secure the vote for all. This historical novel recounts the stories of three courageous women who risked their lives and liberty in the fight to win the vote. On March 3, 1913, thousands of women marched along Pennsylvania Avenue from the U.S. Capitol to the Treasury Building to demand a constitutional amendment. Crowds of men blocked the route and harassed the marchers. Public outcry over the violence led to congressional hearings. Press coverage boosted the suffrage movement, helping to bring about passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Becky Adams will be leading our discussion. For more information, or if you will need to attend via Zoom, contact *Nina Dorsch* at [ninadorsch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ninadorsch@sbcglobal.net).

