

Preaching Schedule

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| Sunday, May 1 COMMUNION SUNDAY Born Again <i>John 3:1-14</i> | Sunday, May 15 GRADUATION SUNDAY The Rich Young Ruler <i>Luke 18:18-30</i> |
| Sunday, May 8 MOTHER'S DAY Living Water <i>John 4:4-26</i> | Sunday, May 22 Dinner with a Sinner <i>Luke 19:1-10</i> |
| | Sunday, May 29 The Love Test <i>Luke 10:25-37</i> |



Breathing Lessons

What an incredible Easter! As I walked around the church on Easter Sunday there was an overwhelming sense of life and joy. After two long years of COVID and social distancing, it felt almost like a resurrection.

fear of nuclear war. It's been a dark and difficult time. Many people feel hopeless, fearful and depressed. And yet, Jesus is breathing new life into our church. The Holy Spirit is filling us with hope, joy, energy and faith. I see it everywhere.

In the Gospel of John, the disciples were gathered in the upper room on Easter night. They felt defeated, depressed, frightened and ashamed. Spiritually, they were like dead men.



But then, the risen Christ appeared standing among them. Jesus greeted them, saying, "Peace be with you!" He showed them his nail-marked hands. And then, Jesus did something strange and mysterious: Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the holy spirit." (John 20:22).

In April, Andrew Johnson organized a men's breakfast. Fifty-eight men attended, including many who were new to the church or first-time visitors.

A year ago, our children's ministry was struggling. We had no children's choir. On Palm Sunday, we had 34 children singing in worship! Many of these kids don't go to LPC, but their families came to worship to hear them sing praises to God.

In recent weeks, we have welcomed two families of Afghan refugees into our community, helping them to rebuild their shattered lives. The volunteers involved in this effort have experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, guiding and directing them.

On Easter Sunday, I spoke with a friend who has been going through a personal crisis. It has been extremely painful for him – almost like death. And yet, God is using this crisis to heal and save him.

Continued on page 2

Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz
 Associate Pastor

The Rev. Peter Larson
 Senior Pastor

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

WORSHIP TIMES

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 123 N. EAST ST.
 LEBANON, OH 45036
 513.932.2751

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Jesus is breathing new life into him, and he is very aware of that.

Into defeated, discouraged, broken people Jesus breathes new life. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and it is a mystery and miracle.

Your servant in Christ,

Peter



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

Men's Ministry Update

LPC MEN'S BREAKFAST

In April, 58 LPC men and their friends gathered together in the Ark for breakfast, fellowship and to hear from our speaker, Kurt Kersey. Kurt works with a ministry called Grown Man Project. They put on small fellowship growth groups and record a regular podcast. Kurt challenged us to allow 4-5 men in our lives to have a "Hunting License" to call out places where we aren't living up to what God is calling us to be. With those 4-5 men, with ourselves and before God we were encouraged to have "No Dark Corners." No dark places means that we let the light of truth in Jesus to shine on all parts and allow those 4-5 men in our lives access. Finally Kurt suggested that we need to get together regularly. It has been a long time since a group of men have gotten together and we heard overwhelmingly at the breakfast that we have to do it again. If you missed it - we want you to come next time! Stay tuned for our next event in June.



iPray

Prayer is not preparation for the battle; it is the battle!
-LEONARD RAVENHILL

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

For our two Afghan families as they adjust to their new life in Lebanon.

For Rick McNeely as he is gone the month of May on medical leave, that he would begin the journey to health and healing.

For all of our high school and college graduates as we recognize them on Graduation Sunday, May 15, that the LORD will reveal his plans and purpose for them.

For Andrew Johnson and our students as they prepare for their mission trip June 11-18 serving with Genesis EPC in Mercedes, Texas.

For Vacation Bible School June 6-10, that many children will attend and be drawn to faith in Jesus.

For the spiritual renewal of our church, community 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 April 18 monthly meeting:

Received a report from John Pohlman on two Afghan refugee families being sponsored and resettled by our church.

Approved a request from our Boy Scout troop to hold three car wash fundraisers in the church parking lot.

Approved a request from our Boy Scout troop to receive a donation of .22 caliber rifles that would be owned by the troop for instructing scouts in marksmanship.

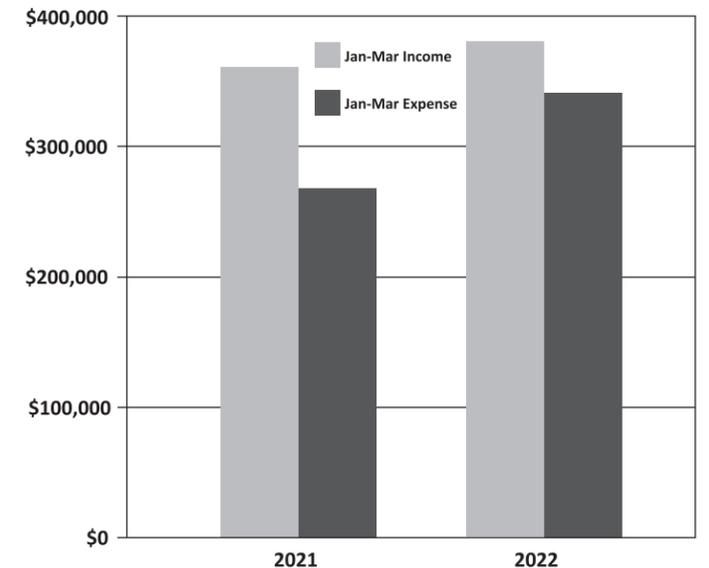
Approved the infant baptism of Owen Harman son of Erin and Scott Harman on Sunday, May 8.

Approved a request from Personnel to grant a medical leave to Rick McNeely during the month of May. Volunteers will cover Rick's worship duties.

Approved a request from the Long Range Planning Team for \$10,000 to cover costs of the architect and engineer.

Approved a recommendation for Elders to resume serving communion to the congregation starting Sunday, June 5. (Self-service packets will be available for those who prefer them).

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.



Refugee families Arrive in Lebanon

After months of prayer, preparation and waiting, two Afghan families arrived in early April to begin their new life in Lebanon.

One family has two young boys, ages 6 and 4. The husband, formerly worked for the U.S. Army in Kabul, recruiting Afghan nationals to work with the Army and government. His wife was a preschool and primary school teacher in Afghanistan. The family was airlifted from Kabul in August 2021 to Qatar and then Germany before coming to the United States.

The other family has four children, ages 13, 8, 5 and 4. The father worked in food service for the U.S. Army in Kabul. The family was airlifted out of Kabul in August 2021. Both families had been living on a military base in Virginia until they were relocated to a hotel near the international airport in Miami, Florida. They lived in hotel rooms for three months before coming to Lebanon.

The families are living in two different rental homes provided by our church. Our volunteer team is working closely with the families to help them get settled and provide assistance with transportation, schooling, employment, medical care, social services and learning English.

Response from our church has been overwhelming. One LPC family volunteered to pay the rent for one home for up to a year. Another family volunteered to pay for all their groceries until the families are able to support themselves. Others have donated furniture, housewares, linens and toys.

The families were very eager for their children to begin



school. Because of Covid and having to flee from Afghanistan, none of them had been to school for almost two years.

The children have been enrolled in school and started classes April 18. It was great to see them getting on the school bus and waving goodbye to their parents!

Both of the families are grateful to the church and glad to be here in Lebanon. In May we are planning to hold an event our outdoor picnic where you will be able to meet these families as well as other Afghan refugees who recently arrived in Cincinnati. New Freedom Church and Lebanon United Methodist also have been involved in the resettlement project.

All of the refugees have received security clearance from multiple government agencies including the Pentagon, Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department

Many thanks to John Pohlman for heading up the resettlement effort and to members of the leadership team including Melody Bain, Doug Rhinehart, Courtney Williams, Elizabeth Griffin, Shelley Bondurant, and Trish Garrett.

An Act of Encouragement

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

Our Deacon team is known for being caring, compassionate, and always willing to serve. Many events are hosted by the Deacons, and if you have ever been to a memorial service or received a frequent meal, you know there was an army of Deacons responsible for making it happen. It is an honor to serve alongside our Deacon team as they minister to our church family. However, they are often the ones serving, not being served (which is what many of them prefer!).

Enter in our incredible 1st-4th grade Wednesday Night Together Class. The children spent time this past Wednesday Nights Together learning about service and encouragement. They had service challenges and encouragement tasks they tried to complete over the ten weeks. One of the projects they participated in was creating key chains and hand drawn cards for all our Deacons. Each child made a handmade key chain, as well as a personal note of encouragement and attached them together.

At our last Deacon meeting, each Deacon received their keychain and note. They had no idea they would be receiving any sort of gift, and many of the Deacons took the key chain and put it on their keys immediately after receiving them. They were all touched by the personal note and thought that went into the cards. Each Deacon was smiling from ear to ear at this small personal touch of gratitude from the younger generation of our church family. It was a delight to be a part of such a sweet moment.

My encouragement is this: be like our kids and our Deacons! Let us be a Church Family that is continually encouraging others, and always willing to serve. You will never know just how much a small act of kindness will mean to the recipient.



HIT A DOUBLE SAVE LIVES

Donate Blood 

DONATE FROM MAY 1 - JULY 2 TO SAVE LIVES AND COLLECT AN EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRT. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



UP NEXT

Receive an exclusive water bottle by donating to save lives from July 4 - Aug. 31.

Step up to the plate and save lives this summer! Everyone who registers to donate with CBC May 1 - Aug. 27 is automatically entered into a drawing to win 4 tickets to see the Reds game and Cole Swindall concert on Sept. 3. Hit a double by donating twice and get double the chances to win! The winner will be chosen on Aug. 29.

Max. 2 entries per donor. Double red donations are counted as 2 donations



Lebanon Presbyterian Church

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 7:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Snacks and drinks provided

Appointments Encouraged Call 937-461-3220 OR Scan QR code to make appointment



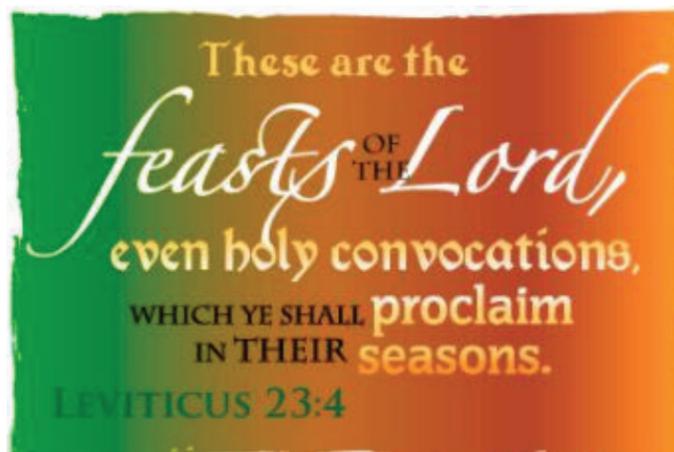
Attention Ladies

JOIN US!

We are starting Come Along Side in May. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month to have lunch and devotions. It is a great way to get to know other ladies in our church family.

On May 17th at noon, we will meet at a local restaurant. If you are interested, please call or text Donna Kaufman 513-239-9567. You can also email me at dduke401@yahoo.com. We hope you can attend.

God Bless,
Donna



COMING IN JUNE!!!

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS

JUNE 15-JULY 20

We will learn about the history and traditions of Old Testament feasts and how they foreshadow Jesus' arrival and His life on earth. Bring your Bible as we discover:

- The significance of these feasts and when they are celebrated
- How each points to Jesus and His work in redemption
- Why all of this matters for our lives today

I'm Okay, I'm Not Okay

BY RICK MCNEELY

For some months now, we have been sharing conversations with folks who serve in the worship ministry. This month, it's my turn. Why, you might ask? Well straight to the point, I am not going to be here during the month of May, and I wanted to make sure you know what's going on. First, it is important to me that you know I am okay. Second, it is important to me that you know I am not okay. With tremendous support from Peter, Session, Personnel, my co-workers on staff, and the amazing volunteers in the Worship ministry, I am taking a four week leave to deal with some mental and physical health issues. I have been struggling with depression for several years now, as well as some obvious physical challenges. During this time away I will be meeting with counselors, coaches, and my doctor, to focus on a path towards healing. I do not expect to come away from this time "repaired" or that come June 1 everything will be fine. What I intend is, with professional help, identify and start down a path to being healthy both physically and mentally. Everyone has been incredibly supportive, which doesn't surprise me, and I am thankful beyond words to be part of this fellowship.

Many times, in situations like this, people will want to keep the details out of the public eye. That is completely understandable. I am choosing to be open about it for a few reasons. Four weeks is a long time to be away and I wanted you to know why, from me, in order to avoid any confusion or undue worry. I know that directly or indirectly, each of you are supporting me in this so I want to be straight with you about what is happening. Mostly, I am convinced that I am

not alone in being okay, not okay. Especially now. Through the years, Peter has reminded us that being a Christian is not easy and that God doesn't promise a happy-go-lucky life. God does promise us that we are never alone, even in our struggles and this experience is clearly reinforcing that truth to me. My prayer with sharing all this is simple. I pray that anyone struggling in silence might know that there is no shame in being not okay. It doesn't make you less of a Christian. It just makes you human. I've needed help for a long time and didn't reach out for it. I cannot tell you how overwhelming the sense of hope has been since deciding to ask for help. I'm still in the struggle, but I know there is light at the end of the tunnel even when I can't see it. It reminds me of the lyrics of a John Mayer song... "I'm in repair. I'm not together but I'm getting there." Better yet, I am reconnecting with the familiar verses of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. For me, it is a season to focus on healing and recovery. I firmly believe God has much more for us to do together here at LPC. I am also well aware that I need to do my part in that. This time away to "reboot" as my doctor puts it, is my first next step in honoring the journey we are on together. It brings to mind Romans 12 where it speaks of being joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. To rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Dolphus Weary called it "living the Body life" and I thank you for being a very real example of that. So, my time away begins after worship on May 1. I covet your prayers, thank you again for all your support, and I'll see you in June.



Holy week was such a blessing. Returning to some sense of normalcy has been challenging for all of us this year, and I am humbled and grateful for all the hard work everyone in the worship



and music ministry of this congregation has put in to have made it one of the best ever! Your efforts continue to be a blessing to this church and to our Lord! Here's a couple images from Holy week...

Palm Sunday Blessings

BY TRACY UNTENER



PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

This past Palm Sunday the children sang their hearts out for Jesus, and we all had the privilege to see them! What a blessing! With over 460 in attendance, the whole morning was full of warm welcomes and sharing. The breakfast was overflowing with warmth and love, as you, the church, welcomed all the children and their families and shared a meal with them. Thank you so much for taking our request to heart! You signed up to bring food, filling up our sign-up genius until there were no slots left, and more importantly, you lovingly welcomed our invited guests. It was clear that the Holy Spirit was there with us that morning.



Mark Your Calendars! VBS WORK NIGHT

Are you able to cut, fold, put together packets?
Come to our VBS Work Night.

Tuesday, May 24 | 6:30 - 9:00 pm | Meet in the Ark

We need many hands to help prepare decorations, crafts, name tags, and other items. Come and sit, enjoy fellowship and snacks, and help us prepare for a great VBS.

No sign up necessary. Just show up ready to help and enjoy some great fellowship!

VBS DECORATING DAYS

June 3, 4, and 5

Hours Vary

Are you able to help us put up decorations the weekend before VBS begins? Can you volunteer even a couple hours of your time? Please contact Tracy at tracy@lebanonpresbyterian.org for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to be a part of something WONDERFUL?



The VBS team is looking for Guides. We need some volunteers with warm and loving hearts to guide small groups of children to the various stations at VBS. This is a very important job at VBS, because Guides are with the children all evening each of the nights, developing relationships with them, talking to them about the point of each night and about Jesus' love for them, and helping them to have a great time! If you are willing to help us, please contact tracy@lebanonpresbyterian.org.

ENCOUNTER LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES

STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

Fusion Fest at IWU

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Students and adults traveled to try out a new LPC Encounter retreat conference offered by Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana called *Fusion Fest*. We got up early Saturday, April 2nd and drove to IWU where we worshiped with the band Vertical Worship, heard a gospel message from Karrie Garcia and rocked out with the band Colony House. We stopped by Meijer to get snacks before going to our accommodations at Shiloh Park Retreat & Conference Center. We had a great time of fellowship by playing games, and processing the day's activities and message. Sunday morning, we got up and had a time of group singing and personal reflection time. Students reflected that it was a great experience and look forward to going back.



Rent a Student

HELP THEM GET TO TEXAS

Help a student go on the mission trip to Mercedes, Texas in June by renting them to do work around your house. We have some students that can do light yard work, light cleaning and organizing from May through the first week of June. Work projects will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis and subject to availability and ability of the students. Email Andrew with your name, phone number, work specifics and potential available times to andrew@lebanonpresbyterian.org.



GROUNDBREAKING OF GENESIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Pastor Hector Reynoso (far left) and the congregation of Genesis EPC held a groundbreaking ceremony in April in Mercedes, Texas. The church has been waiting 10 years to build a church of their own. LPC is one of the churches that provided funding for the project.



PRACTICING FOR PALM SUNDAY



THE CHOIR PREPARES FOR HOLY WEEK



MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER



DAVE AND PATTY KUYPER WORKING ON AN ELECTRICAL PROJECT AT THE CHURCH.



GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY CROSS WALK



Thank You

Dear LPC,
I would like to express my appreciation to my fellow Deacons and Congregants for all of their help in making this winter session of Wednesday Nights Together such a success. A special thanks to Tari Heath for all of her help and support.

Your fellow servant,
Audra Morrison



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

Rick Beckwith, Dave & Nancy Lupberger, George Meloy, Debbie Scarborough, and Jenny Wyrick for helping with the newsletter.

Nancy Haire and Paulette Rhinehart for cleaning out the Feeding Ministry closet.

Rick Oliver for hanging various items.

Jan & Mike Watsell for all their work in the Sanctuary.

Dave & Patty Kuyper for various electrical projects.

The Sanctuary Choir and all of our "guest" musicians for making the Good Friday and Easter morning music so memorable!

Tari & Brad Heath for such an excellent job as our Good Friday readers.

The entire Media Livestream Crew for doing such an incredible job throughout Holy Week.

Patty Corfman for all her efforts behind the scenes to support the music ministry of LPC.

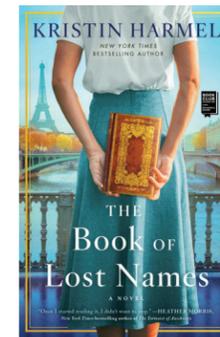
Janie Bicknell for staying after her Wednesday Night Together Kids class was over to help with The Marriage School childcare.

Beth Larson for leading the Children's Choir.

LPC Ladies Book Club THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES

The next meeting for the **LPC Ladies Book Club** is on **May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 311**. The book selection for this meeting is *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel.

"A fascinating, heartrending page-turner that, like the real-life forgers who inspired the novel, should never be forgotten." (Kristina McMorris, New York Times best-selling author of *Sold on a Monday*)



Inspired by an astonishing true story from World War II, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis in this "sweeping and magnificent" (Fiona Davis, best-selling author of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*) historical novel from the number one international best-selling author of *The Winemaker's Wife*.

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books when her eyes lock on a photograph in the New York Times. She freezes; it's an image of a book she hasn't seen in more than 60 years - a book she recognizes as *The Book of Lost Names*.

The accompanying article discusses the looting of libraries by the Nazis across Europe during World War II - an experience Eva remembers well - and the search to reunite people with the texts taken from them so long ago. The book in the photograph, an 18th-century religious text thought to have been taken from France in the waning days of the war, is one of the most fascinating cases. Now housed in Berlin's Zentral- und Landesbibliothek library, it appears to contain some sort of code, but researchers don't know where it came from - or what the code means. Only Eva holds the answer, but does she have the strength to revisit old memories?