

A Spirit-Led Church

While they were worshiping the LORD and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." - Acts 13:2

Did you ever watch a flock of birds take flight? It is quite amazing. With no air traffic controller to guide them, each bird knows exactly where to go. They don't bump into each other.

I believe the church is like that. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides us constantly, making us aware of the mind of Christ and his will for us. It's like having a spiritual navigation system telling us what to do and where to go.

In the early church, there was no human CEO giving orders. There was no corporate headquarters, mapping out a global strategy. There was no paid, professional staff. Instead, there were thousands of individual Christians each being led by the Spirit.

And yet, the church exploded in growth! In just a few decades, the Christian faith spread across the Roman Empire from Jerusalem to Greece, Rome and beyond. Remarkably, this happened during a time of persecution when Christians were being imprisoned and put to death.

How is that possible? It can only be explained by the Holy Spirit. What you see in the Book of Acts is individual Christians being led by the Spirit. Jesus himself was guiding his church, personally. Led by the Spirit, the early Christians preached, prayed, planted churches and sent out missionaries.

Of course, this is only possible in a Spirit-filled church.



When the Spirit is not guiding the church, people are clueless – they search for a human leader to give them directions. Recently, I heard about a church that hired a consulting firm to guide them. They are planning to spend three years figuring out what the church should be doing!

Clearly, that is not a Spirit-led church.

Of course, we have Elders to govern the church and oversee the ministry. And yet, we are not a top-down organization. In a Biblical church, every believer is being led and guided by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's will.

Continued on page 2

What does a Spirit-led church look like? In June, more than 90 volunteers pitched in to help with our Vacation Bible School. They prepared snacks, organized crafts, led games and taught Bible lessons. Together, they accomplished the mission of introducing children to Jesus.

Another example is Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality). A team of dedicated volunteers provides food and hospitality to homeless families in Warren County, and they do it with love and excellence.

Two years ago, our church was invited to host two families of Afghan Refugees. In response, we formed a volunteer team to help these families find jobs and housing, learn English, start school and seek healthcare and social services. It wasn't something we planned to do – we were led by the Spirit.

Another example is the Feeding Ministry. On Monday nights, a team of volunteers mobilizes in the kitchen to feed hungry people in our neighborhood. Monte Wiederhold, who runs a trucking firm, is the new coordinator.

Thirteen years ago, our church drilled a well in Kenya, East Africa, to provide clean drinking water for people in the village of Ilmamen. After the well was completed, we built a school. Then we added a second wing and a third wing. Each step of the way, the Holy Spirit was leading us.

Recently, I was visiting Joyce Palmer who suffered a spinal injury. Dozens of church members sent her cards. Others brought meals. Another brought her a walker. Another couple watered her flower garden. No one told them to do these things – they were led by the Spirit.

Are you led by the Spirit? God has a plan and purpose for your life, but it begins by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

Your servant in Christ,

Peter

PRIME Game Night TIMERS Adult Ministry 60+

HAVE YOU HEARD? PRIME TIMERS IS BACK!!!!

Are you 60+? Then you are a Prime Timer. Prime Timers are folks who want to have fun and socialize. Single people are welcome; you don't have to be a married couple to attend. The activities are open to anyone 60 and over as well as their Plus One (someone you enjoy being around), which could be your spouse or another person, regardless of age.

Our next activity is **GAME NIGHT**. Join us in the **LPC Ark Sunday, July 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m.** We will provide games (corn-hole, LCR, Bunko, cards, Yahtzee), or bring your favorite game. Bring a snack or appetizer for 6-8 to share. We will provide sweet treats, drinks (iced tea, lemonade, water), paper products and cutlery. The sign-up list is on the Information Table or email terri-catanzaro@gmail.com or text 513-288-2313. Hosted by Terri Catanzaro and Carolyn Lucke.

Future activities are listed below so you can mark your calendar.

SEPTEMBER—PICNIC at the Larson farm hosted by Peter and Beth on Friday, September 8. After dinner we will play a round of Bible trivia, competing in teams.

NOVEMBER—Williamsburg Hunt Breakfast hosted by Fran & John Morris in the lower-level Fellowship Hall Room 101 - Saturday, November 4 @ 8:59 a.m. Please leave your horses & hounds secured in the parking lot. Your boots must be clean to enter.

JANUARY—BINGO NIGHT Join us in the LPC Ark Friday, January 12, 2024 (weather permitting). More details to follow. Hosted by Ann Loreaux and Nancy Haire.

LPC Prime Timer Leadership Team: Terri Catanzaro, Linda Fulmer, Nancy Haire, Peter Larson, Ann Loreaux, Carolyn Lucke, John & Fran Morris, Rita Poth

The Life-Giving Blessing of the Congregational Life Team

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

Pastor of Pastoral Care and Family Ministry

As we look around our LPC family, it is easy to see that it takes a plethora of ministry teams to make ministry happen at our wonderful church. One of the new teams is the Congregational Life Team. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight this team as they minister to our congregation.

So, what exactly does our Congregational Life team do? Well, did you receive a special gift on Mother's Day or Father's Day? You can thank the Congregational Life team! Have you been able to tell a visitor to LPC about our wonderful visitor mugs? You can thank the Congregational Life team! Have you ever picked up flyers, signed up to volunteer or attend a service or a WNT class at our Information Table? You can thank the Congregational Life team!

The Congregational Life Team exists to provide connection points for the congregation. The team desires to welcome the visitors of our church and lead them into fellowship opportunities within our church family. This group of people desires to see our church family thrive! This type of work is a rich part of the DNA and culture of the LPC family and this team works with our church to make sure that more people can



DICK WARDROP AND ANDREW JOHNSON
RECEIVING POPCORN FOR FATHER'S DAY

experience the great joys of that family. It is our hope that this team can facilitate deeper relationships within our church family and those seeking to be a part of it.

If this is the type of work you think you would like to be a part of, please contact Rev. Stephanie Poblentz or the Congregational Life Team Chair, Maggie O'Byron.



IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY UPDATE
EMAILS OR OUR CALLS ABOUT IMMEDIATE
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHERRY SHOWALTER
AT ADMIN@LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG AND WE WILL
GET YOU ADDED TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL LISTS.

Twists and Turns Vacation Bible School

BY TRACY UNTENER

Children's Ministry Leader

The Lord really blessed our VBS this year! Thank you for all of your prayers! They were answered. God showed up!



At our Twists and Turns VBS, kids learned about how following Jesus changed the game for Peter and how it could also change the game for them. As they walked in, they saw amazing decorations that expressed this main point in various creative and inspiring ways - **Do UNO Jesus? He's WILD about you!** In our opening, they **Powered Up** with new Biblical points that would be explored daily. Kids sang songs that drove our points home; "**A** - admit to God that you're a sinner, **B** - believe that Jesus is the Son of God, **C** - confess your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Make your move! ...Come see what God can do!" Their crafts and games also followed this main theme



But, most importantly, kids experienced **Bibleland** teaching. This station is where they heard the Bible story and discussed what each point meant. Leaders were great at answering some really deep questions from the kids like,



"If I sin all the time, will Jesus forgive me?"

Our awesome crew leaders did a great job continuing the Bibleland discussions as they enjoyed their yummy homemade snacks each night.



By the end of the week, even the preschoolers who attended could tell you that Jesus is holy, trustworthy, forgiving, worth following, and for everyone! One parent told me about how her son came home, retold the Bible story, and talked to her in depth about the lesson



they learned. She was amazed at how much he had gotten out of just one night at VBS!

Thank you, church, for helping all of this to happen. It's amazing what God can accomplish when His people answer the call. There were so many helping hands at VBS, and I want to thank you all, but there are just too many of you! Here are just a few examples of the dedication I saw.

I think of Karen Strouse, who is in her eighties and still heeds God's call. She brings joy whenever she shows up and doesn't let anything stop her. She came to VBS Work Night, stayed the whole time Friday and Saturday of our decorating days, came both days of our VBS clean up, and came up with a Sunday School craft for the Sunday after VBS, so I didn't have to.



I think of Tom and Charlotte Way. I texted Tom just a few of days before VBS and said I need you. A crew leader dropped out. He said he and Charlotte would both come. They stayed all week and subbed in various crews all week long, as needed.

I think of Lois Hollon, who couldn't physically be at any of our preparation events, but still wanted to help, so she reached out and used her gifts to create dice decorations and beautiful hand-crafted cards.

I think of Ned, Kai, and Rory Earley, who signed up to be at VBS with a "put us where you need us" attitude and jumped in where and whenever needed. Micah even joined us on Friday after he got back from Spain!

I think of the Rachedi family who were helping for so much of the week, and even stayed and helped me pick up fiber-optic wand pieces that were all over the Ark and stage after Friday's performance. Much of this was done on our hands and knees, as no vacuum seemed to be able to pick them up! Thank goodness Rob thought of his shop-vac and went home to get it!



There are just too many God Sightings like that to count. Thank you, church family, for being the hands and feet of Jesus and serving His children. Over the week, we touched 130 different kids and shared the love of Jesus with them. You made planning and organizing VBS a joy for me and my VBS team.

Speaking of my VBS team, they were awesome! When you see Molly Lucas, Vicki Dalzelle, and Courtney Williams, please take a moment to thank them for working tirelessly with me since January to make this VBS happen.





Encounter the Summer

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Director of Youth Ministry

During the summer, our youth group, Encounter, takes a break from our regular Wednesday evening meetings. However, we still gather for Vintage Family Sunday School most Sunday mornings. Additionally, we have a special time for students to come together and connect in the youth room. We call this gathering "Afternoontime." It takes place every Monday from 1-4 p.m. at the LPC Student Center. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to unwind, have fun, and strengthen their faith.



Afternoontime provides a semi-structured space and time where we can come together, share laughter, and build lasting friendships. It offers a refreshing break from the summer monotony and provides a respite from the pressures of everyday life. It's a time for us to enjoy one another's company and make the most of the season. With a variety of activities and moments of spiritual reflection, it offers a well-rounded experience for everyone.

Devotion from the Bible is an integral part of Afternoontime. We believe that nurturing our faith is essential, and these moments help us grow spiritually. Through connecting with the Word of God, reflecting on its teachings, and supporting each other in our faith journeys, we discover its relevance in our lives today.



In addition to the devotion, Afternoontime offers a diverse range of activities. We've had thrilling afternoons playing board games, Crud (a hand billiards game), and video games, engaging in friendly competition and sharing infectious laughter. Movie sessions have sparked meaningful conversations and strengthened our bonds. Our adventurous hike allowed us to immerse ourselves in the beauty of nature, followed by a delightful walk to enjoy Whit's custard.



Afternoontime encapsulates the spirit of our youth group. It's a supportive environment where we can relax, have fun, and deepen our faith. We invite all students in 7th-12th grade to join us every Monday from 1-4 p.m. at the LPC Student Center. Spread the word and bring your teenage friends along!

AFTERNOONTIME

MONDAYS THIS SUMMER

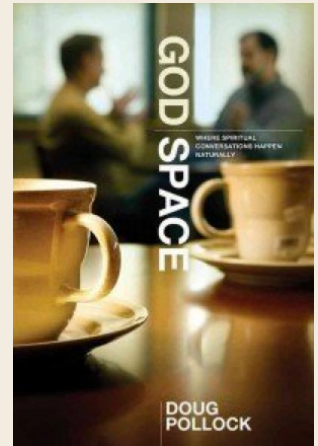
1 - 4 pm



Activating God Space

A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Looking around on the way back from taking my granddaughter home, I noticed all the good work going on – people working – mowing yards, building houses – people living their lives, doing what needs to be done. And somehow it made me sad. Is it all for nothing? We spend so much time checking things off our “to-do” lists, but are we looking at the big picture? When Jesus returns will all that labor and work be just a waste of time because it did nothing to advance His Kingdom?



For most of my life, I really didn't think about that. I took care of my business and figured other people's lives were not my business. I was raised to not interfere with other people's lives – to not be “nosy.” But, over the last few years, I have been around people who believe we ARE our “brother's keeper” (notably my brother-in-law) and I have begun to want to know other people's stories and look for ways that I may be of service to them.

Then when the God Space class came along, I finally realized I was looking at evangelism all wrong! Getting to know people's stories and being a help to them CAN be evangelism! God Space, and many other books and tapes, remind us that there are many ways to witness for Christ. We can plant seeds of faith as we go out of our way for others, get to know their stories and viewpoints, and “love them to Christ.”

My biggest roadblock is my agenda. I HAVE TO get certain things done, right? Or I'm really looking forward to some downtime, you know? But Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” (Matt 16:25)

So, should I throw away my “to-do” list? Probably not. But maybe, it's really all about what we are focusing on while we do things. Maybe it's about being available and ready to drop our agenda to help someone else if the need or opportunity arises. Maybe it's about really caring about every person we interact with during our day.

That's what Jesus did.

- Karen Kilpatrick and Terri Catanzaro

Holy Land Trip

Have you ever dreamed of going to the Holy Land?

In February 2024 Pastor Peter Larson will be leading “Footsteps of Jesus,” a 10-day tour of Israel. We will visit Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, Masada, the Dead Sea and many other Biblical and archaeological sites associated with the life of Jesus.



The trip is scheduled for February 14-25. The cost is \$2,225 (double occupancy) for the tour which includes all hotels, meals, tips and entry fees. The total cost including air fare will be about \$3,300 depending on the group rate arranged by our travel agent.

We will be sharing this trip with members of First Presbyterian Church of Edmond, Oklahoma. The pastor of that church, Eric Lavrentz, is an experienced tour guide and a good friend of Pastor Larson. Our tour bus will accommodate 50 people, so space is limited.

The trip includes breakfast, lunch and dinner; transport via motor-coach and accommodations near the Dead Sea, Nazareth, along the Sea of Galilee and three nights at the Golden Walls Hotel outside the Jaffa Gate in old city of Jerusalem. In addition, you will receive a 195-page trip guide and access to videos and learning materials to help you prepare for the trip.

We will be scheduling an informational meeting soon to answer questions and explain more about the trip. If you are interested in going please email Naomi Carpenter at naomi@lebanonpresbyterian.org. A \$750 deposit will be due by September 1 and final payment will be due January 15, 2024.

To enjoy this trip you need to be in good physical health and able to walk several miles at a time. Flyers describing details of the trip are available Sunday mornings at the Information Table in the Narthex for the 8:30 and 10 a.m. and services and by the Ark Entrance for 11 a.m. service.

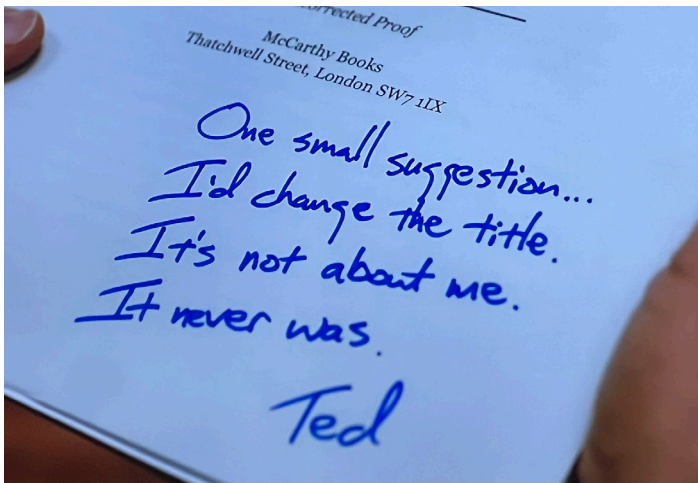
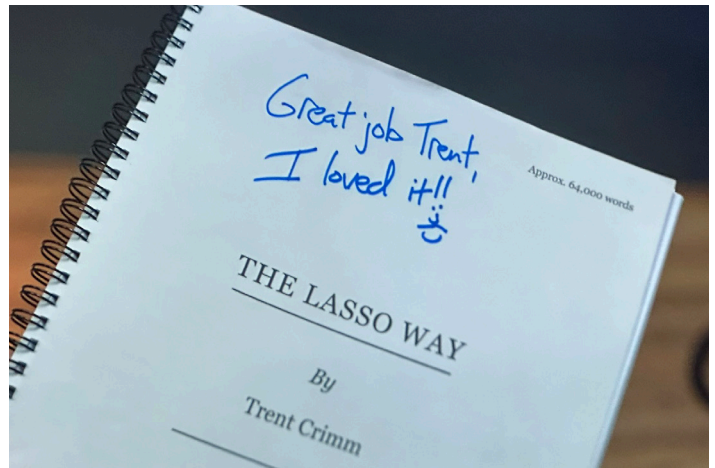


Worship & Music News

BY RICK MCNEELY

Minister of Worship and Music

Sitting at my desk, thinking about what I could/should/want to say to you all, I can't help but think of *Ted Lasso*. Close to the end of the series, Ted is given a draft copy of the book a journalist has been writing about the soccer team Ted coaches. He was asked to review it and give the author notes. In one of the final scenes, Trent, the author, finds the copy Ted left for him, and his only suggestion was to consider changing the title, which was *The Ted Lasso Way*. Ted's note on the cover of the draft says "It's not about me. It never was."



This last article I am sharing with you could be a list of all the things I've done, all the things we've accomplished together, all the major choral works, concerts, Celtic Christmases, compositions, restorations, learning how to build and operate a broadcast studio for live streaming, etc.

It could be about what a joy it has been to serve as your Minister of Worship and Music for the past twenty years and all the joys and heartaches we've shared. But honestly, the thing that keeps rising to the surface is all of you. What I treasure most from the last two decades are the relationships I have with you. As a congregation, being able to share worship with you on Sunday mornings and special events has been a blessing beyond measure. The relationships

with each ensemble and all the fine musicians in this flock have been my great and constant joy. The support from the ministry teams I have had the good fortune to work with was invaluable. Then I think of all the folks I miss dearly but will get to see again in heaven one day. It would be an injustice to try and name them all, so I'll let Cindy Stegman represent. So many moments with so many people, like taking Cindy trout fishing for the first time, and she catches a once-in-a-lifetime rainbow! Or, when sitting in her backyard by the pool one day, she challenged me to write something for the choir, which ended up being published. So many moments with so many people. The relationships I have with you will continue to be the most important thing God has given me through this experience. And I must tell you that I am grateful beyond measure, knowing that will not change even though my role in this church family will be different. I could go on, but this is not a goodbye letter. So, I'll keep it short and (hopefully) sweet by simply saying I love you all dearly. I thank God for the moments we have shared and thank Him in advance for the moments we have ahead of us!

Peace of Christ to you

Rick

Thank You

LPC Family,

My parents were married sixty-eight years and passed within seven weeks of each other. I want to thank everyone who prayed for them and our family over the last year. Your love, wisdom, and kindness made this hard season so much easier to bear.

In Jesus' Love,
Carol A. Hornsby



Dear LPC Family,

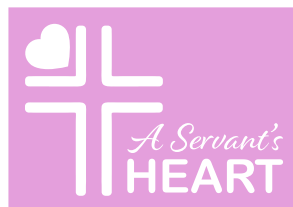
I want to say thank you so very much for all your financial support, prayers, kind words, support, and cards. I just started my third day of treatment at the Spero Clinic in AR. From day one, it has been obvious that I'm exactly where God wants me. I appreciate your continued prayers.

With Love
Katie Quirk

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.



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

Bill Moore for striping the back parking lot.

Nick Andrews, Phil Craig, Dave & Patty Kuyper, Dave Lupberger, Bill Moore, Steve Newby, Rick Oliver & Roger Sims for sprucing up the grounds on the Building and Grounds Team work day.

Randy Fannin for volunteering to lead the praise band during transition time.

Monte Wiederhold for volunteering to coordinate our Monday Night Feeding Ministry.

Vicki Dalzelle for leading a class on the Minor Prophets.

All of the VBS volunteers who worked to share the love of Christ with 130 children this year.

Roger Sims for his leadership of our Finance Team and for making sure we are good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

Cheryl Bogen for coordinating the Africa Mission Trip.

All of you who gave so generously to some of our Africa mission team who needed to raise financial support.

Rita Poth for providing breakfast for our Building and Grounds Team on their work days.

iPray

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
-Colossians 4:2*

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



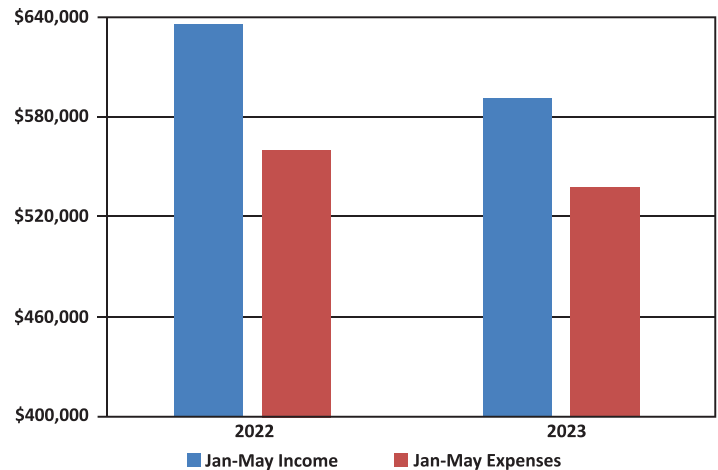
- For our Africa Mission Team as they travel to Kenya July 11-19.
- For Rick McNeely as he retires and begins a new season in his life.
- For our Pastor Search Committee that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they seek a new Senior Pastor.
- For Andrew Johnson and the students as they are away at Summer Camp July 10-14, that Jesus would meet them there.
- For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus.

Need Prayer?

prayerlist@lebanonpresbyterian.org
will get your request to the
Prayer Warriors ASAP.

prayerrequest@lebanonpresbyterian.org
will get your request to a staff member
who will handle your request
confidentially and will only send out
information you would like shared with
our Prayer Warriors.

LPC Income vs. 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.



Preaching Schedule

Sunday, July 2
COMMUNION SUNDAY
Church and State
1 Timothy 2:1-8

Sunday, July 9
Women in Authority
1 Timothy 2:9-15

Sunday, July 16
Looking for Leaders
1 Timothy 3:1-16

Sunday, July 23
Counterfeit Christians
1 Timothy 1:4:1-18

Sunday, July 30
A Good Shepherd
1 Timothy 4:9-16



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www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Stephanie Poblentz

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Peter Larson

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

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513.932.2751

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