MAY 2023

What is Jesus Doing?

And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:20

Sometimes we go through life in a fog, unaware of God's presence. We might slow down for a few minutes to pray, but the rest of the time we're lost in a frantic blur of activity.

The question is: How do we center our lives around Jesus? How do we seek him in the ordinary routine of daily life when we are changing diapers or shopping at Kroger? It isn't easy.

Recently, we handed out purple bracelets inscribed with four letters: W.I.J.D. The letters ask a question: "What is Jesus Doing?" We challenged you to wear these bracelets for 40 days as an experiment in faith.

It seems like a gimmick, I know. But actually, I've heard some good response. For some, the bracelets have served as a conversation starter. For others, it has caused them to be more aware of Jesus and his presence in their lives.

In the 1980s, many Christians wore bracelets with the letters WWJD – What would Jesus do? They were based on a popular book, "In His Steps," written by Charles Sheldon in 1896.

However, I believe that question misses the mark. To ask what WOULD Jesus do makes it sound

like Jesus is dead, a historical figure who lived long ago. It's like asking, "What would Abraham Lincoln do?"- an exercise in imagination.

The truth is, Jesus is alive. He lives in us. He lives in his church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he is present and active to guide, teach, comfort, correct, heal, forgive, convert and save us. He is, as He promised, with us always.



What IS Jesus doing? That is the question. To seek him, speak with him, listen to him, love him and invite him into every aspect of our lives – even when we're doing laundry, mowing the grass or having an argument with our spouse.

There was a Catholic monk named Brother Lawrence who lived in the 17th Century. Because of a war injury, he was lame. He lived a lowly life in a monastery, working in the kitchen and mending shoes. And yet, he made a huge spiritual impact on people who knew him.

His secret, he said, was to practice the presence of God. Whatever he was doing – baking bread or washing pots - he did with the awareness that Jesus was present with him. After his death in 1691, his conversations were collected and compiled into a book, "Practicing the Presence of God."

During the next 40 days, I invite you to practice the presence of God. When you look at your bracelet, ask yourself: What is Jesus doing right now in my life, my church, my school, my workplace? How can I love, serve and please him?

Your servant in Christ,

Peter

"We must know before we can love. In order to know God, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure." - Brother Lawrence



Coming in June

Spend some Wednesday evenings this summer getting to know some of the Minor Prophets. Their messages recorded in the Bible are not just history, not just gloom and doom to a people long gone; their messages are full of hope and reassurance, giving us clear direction for living our lives today as God would have us do.

Come, join us, and learn how Jonah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Micah, Amos, and Hosea have lessons that still speak to us today.

Over the six weeks from June 21 – July 26, we will study and discuss the following topics:

JUNE 21

Jonah - Repentance and Salvation

JUNE 28

Habakkuk - Questioning and Trusting God

JULY 5

Haggai - Putting God First Over All

JULY 12

Micah - Idolatry and the Kingdom

JULY 19

Amos - Living the Good Life — Living the God Life

JULY 26

Hosea - God is Steadfast in His Faithful Love

Classes will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 102 and all are welcome. Bring your Bibles, questions and curiosity and let's explore together.

Meet Naomi Carpenter!

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

Pastor of Pastoral Care and Family Ministry



As I am sure you have heard, we have hired a wonderful person to be our new Office Coordinator. Naomi Carpenter started on April 10 and has fully jumped into the ministry! We are incredibly excited to welcome her into our LPC family and wanted to take

a moment to introduce her a bit more.

Q - Tell us a little bit about yourself!

N - I'm a mom, a wife, and a dog mom. I have 5 kids aged 21-10. My husband's name is Joseph and we have been married since October 2020. We have three dogs, Q, a German Shepherd Lab mixed rescue and Odin and Nova who are both Boston terrier rescues. Our house is busy and full, and we love it.

Q - What would people be surprised to learn about you?

N - I can't get carrots to grow right! I have watched every YouTube video available, done all the research. They grow, but they are never right, and they look funny. Also, no matter how many vegetables and fruit I grow, we never have enough left over to can, so I don't know how to can either!

Q - What does your ideal weekend look like?

N – Sports! Lots of sports depending on the season, lots of band. I love watching football and baseball, and especially watching my kids play. Probably doing yardwork – I love working in my yard and love gardening. I grow veggies and fruits (when they cooperate). Church on Sundays.

Q - What are you looking forward to most about this role?

N - Finding a work home and family that I can enjoy coming to see every day.

(I would like the readers to know that at this answer I welled up. I am so excited for Naomi to be a part of our ministry family!)

Q - How do you think God has prepared you for this role?

N – This is a difficult and sort of loaded question, but I will do my best to answer it! I always grew up believing in God, but I never had a real relationship with him. I got married, and we weren't a super religious family. I lost my husband in 2015, and I struggled for a few years. I knew there was something missing. Around 2018-2019, I started meeting with a Christian therapist, and that made so many positive changes for myself and the kids. So I know looking back, God has been with me and preparing me to be with him.

On a more professional level, I have run multi-million dollar restaurants. I am well versed in chaos and lots of people, regulars, and people that you work with, just running around and multi-tasking. It makes me ready to dive into this as well.

Q - How can we as a church family be praying for you?

N-I would love prayer for continued healing for my kids, and that our family's bond with God would continue to strengthen.

When you see Naomi in the office make sure to introduce yourself to her and make her feel incredibly welcomed!

Reflections on Holy Week

BY RICK MCNEELY

Minister of Worship and Music

Preparing for Holy Week, or Advent, etc. is a lot of work! Joyful, for sure, but it takes a lot of extra effort by many volunteers to make everything happen. This year, as all the preparations were in full swing, I asked many of the people involved in making Holy Week happen the following question —With all the things that must be done in preparation for Holy Week, what inspires you or motivates you to serve and be part of that extra effort? Here are some of the responses -



Today, I was looking at the words on the communion table "Do this in remembrance of me" Those words sum it up perfectly.

We're preparing to celebrate a holiday with our family.



I feel like I'm in the presence of God.

It's one of the ways we worship God.

If we as believers are not serving in some way, at church, then we as a **IT'S A GIFT WE'RE GIVING.** congregation will not have a place for fellowship and corporate worship.

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT SINGING IS A PRAYER.





It's like getting an extra boost of God's energy.

It can be stressful but how the whole week ties together and focusing on that in my work, helps me to tie it all together for myself too.

It stays with you - the music.

Maybe there's someone who's never been to a Holy Week service. I do it for them.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN FOR HIM. AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DO, IT WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH.



It's an opportunity to participate in something that exemplifies a special moment in Christ's life and in some way participating in that with him.

The music is so glorious it deserves the extra effort.

The preparation that we do to present this to the congregation, we hope in some small way, it would make a difference in their life.

Yes, it can be stressful, especially as an author of holiday season books, but this is our time to be Christ's light to our church and the community.

I figure the least I can do is to serve God by serving the church.

We're preparing something very special for our family.

WE'RE CELEBRATING CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

He has gifted each of us and we should use those gifts.



It's an honor to be part of the services and activities of the week.

It's just more joyful. Not that week to week isn't, but, it's EASTER!

As I was compiling all these quotes, it struck me how much love the folks serving have for our God and for this fellowship. It's a beautiful and humbling thing to be part of. If you sing, play an instrument, know how to use a computer, like to cook, decorate, organize, or anything that would contribute to the worship life of this church, please know you are needed. It truly is a joy.

Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The Search Committee completed the initial phase of its work, which is preparing the necessary documents for the posting of the Senior Pastor position on the EPC website. The national EPC website is the primary manner to advertise pastoral positions for interested candidates. The position was posted on April 5th, and you can find the posting at www.epc.org/mso. The posting includes the Senior Pastor job description, the Church Information Form, and a cover/summary letter. The Search Committee has been diligently developing these documents over the last couple months to ensure they represent the necessary qualifications and experiences we desire for our next Senior Pastor. We also wanted to make sure we highlight LPC and the surrounding area to potential candidates. These documents have been reviewed and approved by Session and the Presbytery.

Our next phase of work will be preparing to screen applications based on their resumes and Personal Information Forms. We are also preparing the necessary tools for the interview process, so that we are ready once we assess that we have qualified candidates to interview.

No one can predict when or how many candidates will apply, but we will be ready once they apply. We have been told by the Presbytery that it is a tight market for qualified EPC Pastors, so we are connecting with as many pastoral networks as possible. Both Peter and Stephanie have been very helpful contacting their networks.

We ask for your continual prayers as we discern who God is calling as our next Senior Pastor and pray that the pastor search period will be a time that LPC learns to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor.

Mike Schneider for the Search Committee Mws204@aol.com 513-259-6205

LPC CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

It's time to CLEAN OUT those closets, basements, and garages for the 2023 LPC **RUMMAGE SALE** sponsored by the LPC Mission Committee and LPC Youth Encounter. Our SALE ON MAY 6 will last from 8 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M. We take almost anything except old computers, TVs and other electronics, exercise equipment, construction materials, pianos, and large kitchen appliances. We will be taking in items from MAY 1 - MAY 4 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AND MAY 5



8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Young Adult Ministry 2023 Summer Intern



The Young Adult Ministry Team is excited to announce that Daniel Frank will be our Summer Intern this year. Daniel brings a variety of ministry experiences to the position, as well as a passion for prayer, scripture, and fellowship with other young people. He has a lot of ideas for this summer and will also be reaching out to others for their input as he puts plans into place over the next few weeks. Summer activities will begin in mid-May and continue through mid-August. If you are a college student, a 2023 high school graduate, or post high school young adult (whether or not you are in school), we hope you will participate, contribute ideas, and bring your friends. Look for more information soon!



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

Karen Strouse for always offering friendship and a helping hand to others, and for giving up a piece of her Easter to come and be with the children during Children's Church.

Rick Beckwith, Becky Creech, Lana Johnson, George Meloy, Rhea Vezmar, Dick Wardrop and Jenny Wyrick for overseeing the volunteer desk in the main office.

Nancy Haire and **Jan Watsell** for organizing the reception for Peter and Rick.

Lynn Steinkirchner for assisting with Financial Aid.

Rick Beckwith, **Jean Bell**, and **Dave Lupberger** for assembling the newsletter.

Phil Craig and **Dave Lupberger** for hanging the Easter banner.

Jan & Mike Watsell for organizing the Easter lilies and other Easter decorations.

Rick Oliver for replacing an "out of order" toilet.

Steve Newby and **Jim VanDeGrift** for some paint touchups around the church.

Beth Gully for helping to create the W.I.J.D. artwork and bulletin board.



BETH LARSON AND THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMING IN WORSHIP ON MARCH 26.











(CLOCKWISE, FROM UPPER LEFT): CHILDREN CARRY THE CROSS THROUGH DOWNTOWN LEBANON ON GOOD FRIDAY; DANIEL AND RACHEL SACHS PERFORMING AT A MUSICAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE MARRIAGE SCHOOL; COMEDY NIGHT WITH SHAWN REYNOLDS; KAIROS TEAM DELIVERING 10,000 HOMEMADE COOKIES TO PRISONERS AT THE LEBANON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.





All About Worship Class

BY TRACY UNTENER

Children's Ministry Director

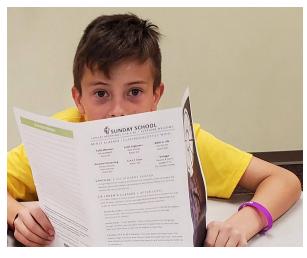
What is worship? Why do we gather together on Sundays to worship with others? Ask a third or fourth grader from LPC. Our third and fourth grade Sunday School class has just completed a series of lessons about worship, why we gather for corporate worship, and what each component of our Sunday morning worship service is all about.

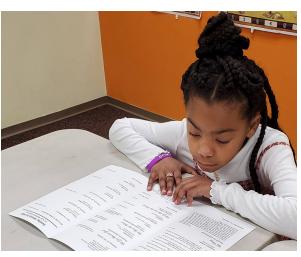
As we wrapped up the last lesson, I asked some of the kids what their favorite part of worship was. Lane said he liked communion because it was so special. Thomas said he thought praying was the best part. He likes talking with God as a group. Aaron said that the sermon was the best part because sometimes the pastor tells interesting or funny stories. And as we went around the room, each child had their favorite part and knew why they liked it.

They are now gearing up to begin to help with worship. Look for them to be serving in various ways like passing out worship guides, greeting, or doing readings. When you see them taking on one of these tasks, know that they may be stepping out of their comfort zone, and make sure to offer the encouragement and kind words that our LPC family is known for.











Spring Camp BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Director of Youth Ministry

We are excited to share with you about our recent youth retreat that took place from March 24-26, 2023. This was specifically designed for 7-12th graders and was held at the beautiful Woodland Lakes Christian Camp in Amelia, OH. The theme for this "Spring Camp" retreat was Honesty, which is a crucial virtue in our Christian faith. We were blessed to have Skyler Gerald, a youth pastor at a church in Centerville, OH, as our guest speaker for this retreat.



Skyler is no stranger to our church community, as he grew up in our Encounter youth group. He is also currently a student at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. During the retreat, Skyler led us through a series of four talks that centered on how we were made for honesty with God, but how sin can separate us from Him, and each other. We learned about the importance of confessing our whole selves, both good and bad, before God. Skyler drew on scripture passages such as Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 5:1-6, Colossians 3:1-11, and 1 Samuel 23:15-18 to help us understand the significance of honesty in our walk with God.

In addition to the four talks, we also had four personal quiet times that we called Solo Slow Clubs. During these times, students spent time alone in God's word and followed journaling prompts while

engaging in directed prayer. The Solo Slow Clubs were focused on Psalm 51 and the importance of confessing our whole selves before God. Students were also led to pray using the A.C.T.S. prayer model, which was a helpful tool for them to structure their prayers and to be honest before God in prayer.



The retreat schedule was packed with various activities that kept us engaged and connected with one another. We had several games during the day and each night. The night games were a huge hit with the students. Our youth group loves singing together and worshiping God before Skyler shared God's Word. The retreat ended with a goodbye gathering, and we left the camp feeling rejuvenated, inspired and equipped with tools and practices to continue living a life of honesty and transparency before God and one another.

Overall, the retreat was a huge success, and we were blessed to have so many attend. We are grateful to all those who made this retreat possible, including our guest speaker Skyler Gerald, the organizers, volunteers, and the staff at Woodland Lakes Christian Camp. It was a beautiful weekend filled with learning, growth, and fellowship, and we look forward to the next youth retreat.





SPRINC CAMP







WE HAVE MANY STUDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO EARN MONEY FOR THE MISSION TRIP TO DETROIT BY COMPLETING PROJECTS THAT YOU HAVE AROUND YOUR HOUSE. CLEAN OUT YOUR GARAGE, BASEMENT, OR ATTIC! MULCH YOUR FLOWERBED! TRIM YOUR HEDGES! EDGE YOUR SIDEWALKS! WASHING WINDOWS! MOWING GRASS! TALK TO YOUR PLANTS? THEY ARE WILLING TO EARN THEIR WAY -- HELP SUPPORT THEM AS THEY TRAVEL TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN TO WORK WITH CAMP RESTORE AND 5POINT? CHURCH. IF YOU'VE GOT A PROJECT, CONTACT ANDREW JOHNSON VIA EMAIL AT ANDREW@LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG.

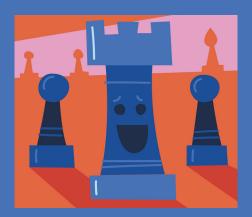


MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VBS WORK NIGHT

Are you able to cut, fold, put together packets? Come to our VBS Work Night! Tuesday, May 30, 6 - 9 p.m. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza and Snacks Provided.

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 CREW LEADERS NEEDED

Want to be a part of something wonderful?

The VBS team is looking for Crew Leaders. 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 you are with the children all evening each of the nights, developing relationships with them, talking to them about the point of each night and sharing Jesus' love for them, and helping them to have a great time! If you are willing to help us, please contact Tracy at tracy@lebanon-presbyterian.org.

Family Promise Project

The LPC Missions Committee has 'adopted' a room at the old Shaker Inn on US 42, now part of Family Promise (IHN), that helps families transition back into independent housing. Other churches and organizations have adopted the other rooms. The motel will concentrate on families that may take a little longer to transition, due to disabilities, family income, etc.



Painting and flooring have been completed by volunteers and now the committee is focusing on furnishing and decorating the room. When the project is complete, an open house and 'house blessing' will be held for the congregation. The committee thanks everyone who supports our missions, both locally and internationally. You are a blessing to many.



UPDATE ON FAMILY PROMISE OF WARREN COUNTY/INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

For our next Family Promise of Warren County rotation, June 25-July 1, we will continue to provide meals for the temporarily homeless families. The families in shelter will be housed at local hotels. Look for signups in the LPC Weekly update in June for cooks, side dishes and supplies.

As Family Promise of Warren County works to complete the renovation of the old Shaker Inn, our hope for our September 17-23 rotation is to be able to host the families at the remodeled Shaker Inn campus.

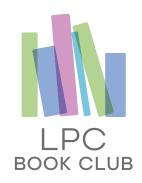
Your IHN LPC Leadership Team: Chris Brown, Terri Catanzaro, Margaret Bondurant, Ally Bondurant, and Megan Terrell

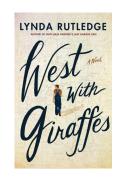
VBS DECORATING DAYS

June 9, 10, and 11 Hours Will 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.





The LPC Book Club will meet at 7 p.m. on May 11 in Room 311 to discuss West with Giraffes, by Lynda Rutledge. The narrator of this novel, inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America, is Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, who feels his life ebbing away. When he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave. It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones as the story explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late. If you have questions or need further information, contact Nina Dorsch at don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com.



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.

13

Thank You

Dear Pastor Larson:

Thank you for volunteering with Samaritan's Purse as part of our large-scale response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian in southwest Florida. The monster Category 4 storm was one of the strongest and deadliest in U.S. history. Although residents face a long road to recovery, the help you provided through cleanup and simply listening and praying with homeowners has made a lasting impact on entire communities. As the Psalmist said, "In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul." (Psalm 94:19. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and would love to have you volunteer with us in the future.

Thank you and may the Lord bless you, Franklin Graham, President
Samaritan's Purse



Dear LPC.

I can't express my thanks enough to the church on behalf of Paul and myself during the time of his illness and passing. That care and support has continued way beyond his passing. He and I were so appreciative of all the cards, letters and prayers.

The prayers for Paul to see his son one more time were especially wonderful. Paul was overjoyed when his son came to see him. Special thanks to Pastor Larson, Doug and Paulette Rhinehart, John and Fran Morris and Dan and Louise Wolfer.

I am so thankful to have found LPC. Wow, (as Paul would say) everybody should be so lucky!

Kathy Chapman

Dear LPC Family,

Thank you for all the support, cards, flowers, prayers and visits after my surgery.

Thank you to Pastor Peter for coming to the hospital and praying with me before surgery. He brought a taped Swedish song about BARNATRO --Translation - "with childlike faith you will walk across the golden bridge to heaven." Oh, the times we used to sing that with Grandma. I'm so thankful and grateful for that moment. Thank you for continued prayers.

God Bless, Rose Plunkett



Dear LPC Friends:

Today, suffering people in the toughest places are experiencing the kindness of Jesus because of you! Your gifts and partnership with Unto (a ministry of Cru) are providing hungry families with meals and agricultural training. However, we do more than deliver meals. Our local staff teams and partners build long-term relationships with those served and share the eternal hope of Jesus. During the first half of fiscal 2023 we served more than 746,000 people in 34 countries as part of the strategy to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people around the world. Thank you for your prayers, and support that help relieve suffering, restore dignity and reveal hope.

Serving together,
Al Goff
Unto President and CEO

iPray

Prayer is a two-way conversation and we cheapen it if all we do is talk. There is so much God desires to tell you.

-Anonymous

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

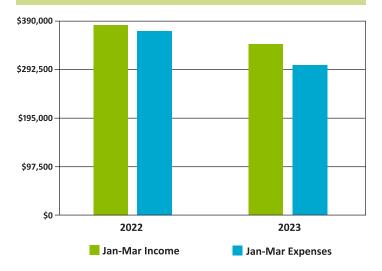
- For students going on the summer mission trip to Detroit June 22-28 and for their leaders.
- For Genesis EPC Church in Mercedes, Texas, that they would get city approval for water hookup and move into their new church building.
- For the 12 men and women going on the July 11-19 mission trip to Kenya, that God would prepare them and oversee the planning.
- For all of our graduates, that they will continue to walk with the LORD as they pursue college and careers.
- For our search committee as they seek a new Senior Pastor for LPC.
- For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus.

Session Report

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our April 17 monthly meeting:

- Received a report from the finance ministry team that our income for the first quarter exceeded our spending by \$68,000.
- Approved a recommendation from the Personnel Team that to hire Naomi Carpenter as Office Coordinator.
- Approved a request for transfer of membership for Roger and Diane McMurrin to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Dayton.
- Received a report from Pastor Peter Larson that we have 12 men and women committed to going on the Kenya mission trip July 11-19.

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.

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.

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, May 7

COMMUNION SUNDAY The Miracle

Acts 2:1-13

Sunday, May 14

MOTHER'S DAY The Message

Acts 2:22-41

Sunday, May 21

GRADUATION SUNDAY The Ministry

Acts 3:42-47

Sunday, May 28

PENTECOST SUNDAY

The Martyr

Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60



TIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

ME ARE ON THE WEB!

The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Peter Larson

Senior Pastor

Modern Worship .m.s 11

Traditional Worship 10 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

MORSHIP TIMES

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