

Wonderfully Made

For you created me in my inmost being; you formed me in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. -Psalm 139:13-14

We are living in an age of sexual chaos and confusion. Like an earthquake, it has shaken the church to its foundations.

There are men who identify as women. There are women who identify as men. There are people who claim to be "non-binary," meaning they have no gender at all. Same-sex marriages, once forbidden, are now legal.

In recent years, we have witnessed the rise of the transgender movement. Many teenagers are undergoing irreversible surgery and hormone therapies in a futile attempt to change their gender. For some, this has caused physical and emotional trauma.



It's easy to blame gay or transgendered people. However, the issue is much larger than that. Approximately 37 percent of all marriages end in divorce. Sex outside of marriage is considered the norm in our hookup culture. The internet is flooded with pornography that is accessible to children.

As followers of Jesus, how do we address this crisis? Unfortunately, some churches react with hatred and condemnation. Of course, that doesn't help. Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn us, but to save us. An-

ger and hatred doesn't help or heal anyone.

In other churches, they choose to remain silent. They are afraid of controversy or offending someone. However, the church must not remain silent. If we truly care about people, we must speak God's truth with love and compassion. What is urgently needed today is for the church to address these issues with grace and humility, recognizing

that all of us have struggled with our sexuality. Instead of reacting in anger and hatred, the church needs to proclaim a positive message about human sexuality.

The Bible is the owner's manual – it tells us how our bodies are designed to function. Our sexuality is a won-

derful gift. When we follow God's design, it brings life and joy.

However, when we abuse this gift, it causes pain, loneliness and brokenness. From the AIDS epidemic to the evil of abortion, sexual sin has caused great devastation. It's like a freight train that has gone off the rails. As a pastor, I have seen many lives and families wrecked and ruined by sexual sin and it breaks my heart.

continued on page 2

On Wednesday, September 13 I will begin teaching a 12-week class, "Wonderfully Made." Together, we will explore what the Bible says about sexuality and our bodies. The class will include video testimonies of men and women who have experienced healing and transformation. These issues are controversial. For some of us, they are personal. However, my prayer is that we will discuss them honestly and openly, without shame, guilt or embarrassment.

We are living in a time of great darkness. However, you don't get rid of darkness by condemning it. What we need is light. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, healing and restoring lost sinners. I encourage you to join us by attending this important class.

Your servant in Christ,
Peter



Coming Alongside

If you are looking for a way to connect with the women of LPC, please join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

September 19 at 11:30 a.m.
Acapulco Mexican
916 Columbus Avenue, Lebanon, Ohio

Please RSVP by text, call, or email to
Christine Olding at 513-405-9590 or
c. olding78@gmail.com



Prayer Meeting
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD
6 P.M. IN THE ATRIUM

PRIME TIMERS

Adult Ministry 60+

Prime Timers Plan Night of Bible Trivia

Pastor Peter and Beth Larson will be hosting Prime Timers on Friday, September 8 at 6 p.m. for dinner and a game of Bible Trivia. Prime Timers is a group for anyone over 60 years of age. We meet bi-monthly for food, fun and fellowship. Single people are welcome – you don't have to be married. If you have a Plus One or friend you'd like to invite they are welcome. If you are planning to attend, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share with others – main course and beverages will be provided. If your Bible knowledge is limited, please don't be intimidated – we'll be playing in teams and pooling our Bible knowledge. The Larson farm is located at 533 McClure Road in Lebanon. All are welcome! Please let us know you are coming by using the sign-up sheet at the Information Table on Sunday morning.



**BIBLE
TRIVIA
CHALLENGE**

School Supplies and Smiles

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

Pastor of Pastoral Care and Family Ministry

In August, our church began a school supply drive for the LPC Preschool and Playschool downstairs. The Preschool had expressed a need for some of the most used items throughout the year. While the children enrolled in the Preschool do pay a tuition that covers many supplies and salaries of the teachers, the increase in cost of many supplies has created a real need. The Preschool Ministry Team came up with the idea of asking the congregation to donate some of these supplies, and WOW did our church family step up!

The Preschool and Playschool created their supply list with over 100 tags of things like glue, crayons, goldfish crackers, and many other options. After the first Sunday morning, there were only ten tags left! Our Congregation stepped up in an incredible way to care deeply for our Preschool, Playschool and the teachers. Each Sunday morning, we received bags and bags of supplies, coupled with stories from former teachers about their own experiences in teaching. Each week as we brought more bags of supplies downstairs, the teachers expressed so much gratitude. They were overwhelmed with how many supplies they received. I had one teacher express to me that she knew our church family was generous, but she could have never guessed they were this generous.

It is our goal to closely partner with our Preschool and Playschool. As we continue to engage in relationship with the teachers and staff, it is our hope that they will feel the tangible love of Jesus through our church family. As we minister to the teachers in such tangible ways, my hope is that we will see fruit of that partnership in Family Ministries and our Lebanon Community. Thank you for being a part of this church family and thank you for pouring out your love on all of our teachers. The teachers feel the love and are so grateful for it.



SOME OF OUR TEACHERS AND PRESCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DONATED SUPPLIES. THE TEACHERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: CASEY OLIVER, SARA KJORVESTAD, ANNIE GIFFORD, CHRISTY BESSY, CINDY HENDRICKSON, BECKY CROWDER, AND SAM DIMODICA

Joy in Change

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Director of Youth Ministry

As the sun sets on the dog days of summer and the rhythm of a new school year begins, our Encounter youth group embarked on an end-of-summer retreat to the roller coast of Sandusky, OH. This journey proved to be an adventure-filled excursion and an ordeal of disappointment and yet it bound us together in Jesus.

Along with the fun, we found moments for devotion. Guided by the theme of joy, we dove into Scripture, one of which was Psalm 16. Through our studies, we sought to uncover the wellspring of true joy and understand how it can shape our perspectives when faced with life's inevitable disappointments.



Our plans led us to the heart-pounding excitement of Cedar Point Amusement Park, where we set our hearts on conquering thrilling rollercoasters, only to have a strong thunderstorm interrupt our plans with a power outage. Faced with this unexpected turn of events, we sought refuge in the large historic Coliseum Arcade, where, despite disappointment, creativity and community flourished. Amidst laughter and some silliness, we engaged in games like sardines and the enigmatic "Mafia," ingeniously turning a hurdle into an opportunity for deeper connections.

We coined our makeshift Arcade haven "Darkade," embracing the reality that life doesn't always align with our expectations, mirroring the unpredictability of our spiritual journey. Our exploration also took us to the picturesque Marblehead Lighthouse and the serene East Harbor State Park Beach, allowing us to bask in the beauty of Lake Erie and reflect on the wonders of creation in the warmth of the sun.

As we navigate the uncharted waters of a new school year, chasing dreams and encountering hurdles, let us anchor ourselves in the pursuit of lasting joy that comes from our connection with Jesus, transcending





the fleeting happiness the world offers. Our tight-knit Encounter youth group community serves as a beacon, reminding us to prioritize the pursuit of Jesus in the midst of life's storms.

As a church, let us uphold our students, parents, and dedicated volunteer leaders in prayer as we navigate the journey of discipleship throughout the upcoming year. May the joy we cultivate in Christ point us ultimately to the light of Jesus that illuminates our path, a light that dispels both literal and metaphorical darkness.



Yucatan Mission Trip 2024

Applications are now open to join the 2024 Mexico Mission Team, February 3-10. If you have a sense of adventure and love spreading God's word, come join us as we visit the indigenous Maya people to work, hold VBS in small jungle villages, and worship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Inga Kimple will lead the trip and Dan Grimwood will head up construction. This trip will mark 81 years that LPC has served in the Yucatan Peninsula. Is this your year to serve? Call Inga at 513-490-2423 to register your interest. We will have our first informational meeting soon.



Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network LPC September Rotation

We look forward to providing meals, encouragement and prayers for our Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality families who find themselves temporarily homeless. Our 3rd rotation for 2023 is Sept. 17-23. Watch for the LPC Weekly Updates starting Friday, September 1 for signups to cook, prepare side dishes and shop for supplies.

If you have any questions, contact Terri Catanzaro at 513-288-2313 or lebanonp-cihn@gmail.com.

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



Children's Ministry Team

BY TRACY UNTENER

Children's Ministry Leader

I work with some amazing and dedicated children's ministry volunteers who team with me in helping to create, plan and hold family events; maintain and improve regularly occurring children's programming; make suggestions to and coordinate events with other church teams; and brainstorm new ideas. In short their number one priority are the children and families of the church.



And now, the Children's Ministry Team has been working overtime! We've worked hard at creating a vision to put our goals for this ministry into words, and we've already started to take steps toward making that vision a reality.

What's the vision?

To introduce children and their families to the love of Christ and help them grow in their relationship with Him and our church family using Biblical teaching, service, prayer, and fellowship.

That's a large order, right? Well, the team has begun to break those goals down. As our first step, we've added some core Biblical topics to our already wonderful Sunday School curriculum. We'll be taking time in the various classes to learn things like the Lord's Prayer, the Fruit of the Spirit, the Ten Commandments, and the Four Spiritual Laws. We're also going to step up our efforts to have the children memorize scripture and will continue to encourage families to engage in Biblical learning at home.

Of course, we will continue to offer chronological Biblical lessons which connect to Jesus and the gospel, and to discuss salvation with the children. And, we will continue to make our classes a place where kids feel safe, loved, and are engaged and having fun.

The Children's Ministry Team is AWESOME! They are putting in a lot of work to make sure the kids that come through our doors are given a strong Biblical foundation and a place where they are accepted and genuinely cared for.

WNT KIDS FALL 2023

THIS FALL, JOIN US FOR...

BREAKOUT

WEDNESDAYS | SEPT. 13-NOV. 15 | 6-7:15 P.M.
FREE & FUN KIDS' PROGRAMMING

FOR CHILDREN
AGE 4 - 6TH GRADE
SIGN UP NOW!

FIND CLUES. SOLVE THE PUZZLE!

Children's Christmas Musical

Does your child like to sing and act?
Join the cast of...

THE SECRET OF SNOWFLAKE COUNTY

WEDNESDAYS | SEPT. 13- NOV. 29 | 7:15-8 P.M.
For Children age 5 - 6th grade
PERFORMANCE: DECEMBER 5
SIGN UP NOW!



ADULT CLASSES

Sept. 13 - Nov. 15, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Wonderfully Made

What does the Bible say about the human body? As Christians, how do we respond to people who claim to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transexual? In this class, we will explore what the Bible says about human sexuality and how we can speak the truth in love to people who are struggling with their sexual identity. Pastor Peter Larson will be teaching the class, using a video series and other teaching materials. The class is free. Led by Pastor Peter Larson.

Knowing Scripture

Every Christian has the privilege and duty to diligently study God's Word. Dr. R.C. Sproul's book, *Knowing Scripture* and its accompanying video series will guide our study. We'll learn numerous helps for personal Bible study through basic, foundational principles of biblical interpretation. Dr. Sproul offers several pitfalls to avoid and clear explanations of eleven basic steps of interpretation and simple how-to's for using them. It's important we improve our skills of interpretation because accompanying our privilege to study, is our responsibility to interpret correctly. This is a basic introductory course in hermeneutics or the science of biblical interpretation for lay people, not seminarians! Led by Steve Newby.

The Sermon on the Mount: Life in the Kingdom

A study of chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew's gospel, the Sermon on the Mount. Christ's clarion call to life in the Kingdom provides teachings about the hallmarks of the Christian character, the deeper implications of God's law, the righteous acts of giving and prayer, and the solid foundations of faith that guide the relationships among believers. Facilitated by Nina Dorsch, our primary text is Matthew's gospel; *The Sermon on the Mount* by Sinclair Ferguson is an optional resource.

The Marriage School (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Why doesn't marriage, our most intense lifelong relationship, come with a manual? We want our marriages to glorify God, but what does that really look like? We know God calls us to love and respect our spouse, but we need some practical steps to get there. The Marriage School offers The Third Option a 14-week relationship skills course that helps couples build stronger, healthier marriages. This course is for healthy couples who want to grow stronger, committed couples who suffer from conflict or miscommunication, and couples who are in crisis. The class includes discussion, teaching and testimony. Cost: \$420 with partial and full scholarships available (free to LPC families). Led by Daniel and Rachel Sachs.



KICK-OFF BREAKFAST!

SEPTEMBER 10

9:45 a.m.

Free breakfast in the Ark
EGG CASSEROLE, PANCAKES,
BACON, FRUIT & MORE

Come for the fellowship and food; stay to
discover learning opportunities for all ages.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 13

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. | Classes at 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 17

Come join us! For our annual church picnic, hosted by the Congregational Life Committee. The picnic will be held on September 17, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Armco Park Pavilion. This is a fun opportunity to meet and socialize with our church community. Intergenerational games start at 3 p.m. Food will be served at 4 p.m.

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS AND REMINDERS:

People with last names

A - J: Please bring a side dish.

K - Z: Please bring a dessert.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, water bottles, and condiments will be provided. There will be signs posted to direct you to the pavilion. **Plenty of games, children's activities, and a bounce house will be set up.** Seating is limited outside so do bring a lawn chair if you plan to sit outside. We hope to see you all at the picnic!

Streams in the Desert:

MISSION TEAM TRAVELS TO KENYA

In July our church sent a mission team to Kenya, East Africa, to visit some of our mission projects. During the 9-day trip they visited Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Nairobi and delivered 55 pounds of beads and a supply of yarn to the Women's Guild. The beads and yarn will be used for making wool clothing and jewelry to support the Tumaini Home for at-risk children.

The following day we visited the village of Ilmamen where our church helped to drill a well 13 years ago that supplies fresh drinking water for people, livestock and growing vegetables. The well has transformed the village and resulted in people coming to faith in Christ and joining the church.

One of the highlights was worshiping with the Masai people in their colorful robes and beaded jewelry. We sang, danced and praised God together, our hearts overflowing with love and joy. Pastor Peter Larson preached a message that was translated into Swahili. His sermon was taken from Isaiah 41:17-20 where it says that the Messiah will make streams appear in the desert.

Another highlight was visiting the village of Kibini, where we hosted a games day in partnership with college students from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. We were expecting 300 children but 540 showed up, some of them walking for miles to get there. It was an unforgettable day of joy, love and laughter.

The trip ended with a Safari to the Masai Mara Game Preserve where we saw elephants, zebras, giraffes, lion, cheetah, leopard, warthogs, wildebeest, gazelles and hyenas. In awe, we marveled at the beauty of God's creation.

Members of the team included Dave Brandt, Cheryl Bogen, Margaret Bondurant, Marsha Klosterman, Ellen McIntosh, Bryan Anson, Karen Kilpatrick, Don Earnhart, Peter Larson, Beth Larson, Chloe Larson and Sydney Hanna, and Andy Rainey. The trip was a mountaintop experience for all of us and we are grateful for all of your prayers and financial support. The trip reminded us that to send money is not enough – we need to go in person to share the love of Christ.



After worship we dedicated the school that was built with funds from LPC. The school has two buildings of classrooms and an administrative building that provides an office for the principal, a library and a room where teachers can meet. It was a joy to meet the 150 students and their teachers. After the dedication we enjoyed a lunch of goat stew, including the goat eyeballs. Also, we delivered 50 pocket New Testaments donated by Ron Warncke and the Gideon Society of Warren County.







Golf Tournament – Sept. 10

The Mike McIntosh Missions Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, September 10 at 2 p.m. at Majestic Springs Golf Course in Wilmington. The cost for playing in the tournament is \$60 which includes cart, 18 holes of golf, lunch and a beverage. It is a shotgun tournament and prizes will be awarded. You can play as a team or register individually.

In addition, we are seeking tournament sponsors. The cost of sponsoring one hole is \$200. Sponsors will be recognized with a sign at their hole and in the church newsletter. You can also sponsor part of a hole if you like.

All of the money we raise will go to support the school we built in Kenya, East Africa. The school currently has 150 students and seven teachers. The tournament has been named in honor of the late Mike McIntosh who had a passion for missions and also a passion for golf.

You can register for the tournament at the Information Table on Sunday morning or by calling the church office at 513-932-2751.



ALL-CHURCH SCAVENGER HUNT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Mark your calendars for our fun-filled, all-church Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Rain or shine. Teams will be given a list of items to hunt for within the city of Lebanon

during a two-hour search time, then meet back at the church for a pizza lunch.

Prizes will be given for first, second and third-place teams. Join as a family, or just show up and be assigned to teams of 4 or 5. Teams must work together as a team (no splitting up). No prior experience nor special talent is required, just your car and enthusiasm. No cost. The only prerequisite is people who want to have fun!

Please sign up at the Information Table on Sunday morning. Call Ann Loreaux if any questions at 513-228-2468 (no texting).

WHEN: Saturday, October 7, 2023

WHERE: Begin and end in the Ark at LPC.

WHO: All ages of LPC members and attenders.

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Meet at 9 a.m. Teams depart from church at 9:30 a.m. and return no later than 11 a.m. Eat lunch! Win prizes! Finish by 12 p.m.

Activating God Space

A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

BACK TO BASICS

Do you have family members that don't yet know Jesus? I think probably we all have someone – children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, parents. We ache for them to know the peace and joy that comes with trusting in Jesus. We watch them struggle with anxiety. We watch them run after the things that don't satisfy. And we yearn to see them turn to Jesus.

The whole purpose of the book *God Space*, and subsequently, this monthly article, is to help us find and use opportunities that God places in front of us to plant seeds, nurture the growth, and hopefully someday to see the harvest. The author of *God Space*, Doug Pollock, taught a workshop at LPC in 2020 for the winter WNT session. It opened up a whole new world for me! Prior to that, I thought evangelism was for someone who was outgoing, could rattle off chunks of scripture, and knew exactly what to say. Not me!

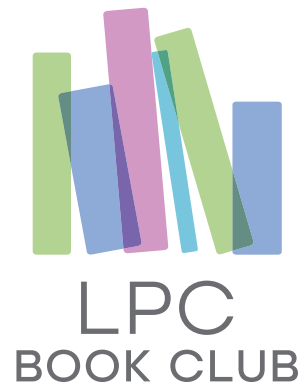
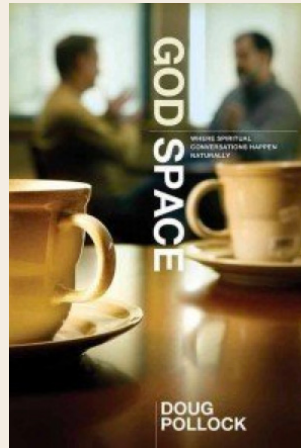
But ever since that workshop, I have been trying to put what he taught into practice. Am I like Doug Pollock? Not even close! Has it made a difference? Yes! Over the last three years, I have been able to develop better relationships with my children. They have become more open to seeds of faith (spiritual appetizers). They are not there yet, but I see God working in their lives.

For me, listening and asking questions has been the key. I used to try to create openings to talk about God, but it was forced, not natural – and I always said the wrong thing. But now I put that in God's hands and listen to what they are saying. I ask questions about what they're doing and feeling. Sometimes, God opens a door to talk about him. But I try to keep it brief. I'm trying to let God lead. I'm not very good at it, but amazingly, God is blessing my efforts!

Many of you may not have been here when we had the workshop, or were not able to attend it. If you have loved ones that you long to see come to Jesus, I urge you to get a copy of *God Space* and read it, or better yet, gather with a couple of friends and read it together and encourage each other.

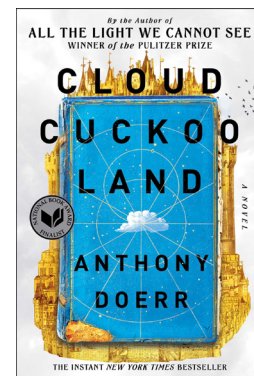
Note: If you want to watch the *God Space* Workshop, you can go to YouTube/LPCsundays and search for *God Space*.

Karen Kilpatrick
Terri Catanzaro



The LPC Book Club will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14 in Fellowship Hall (Room 101) to discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land* in which Pulitzer Prize winning author Anthony Doerr tells three stories bound together by an ancient Greek text.

Constantinople, 1453: An orphan girl



who finds an ancient Greek text, and a boy cursed with a cleft palate face risk on opposite sides of a city wall under siege.

Idaho, 2020: Seymour, an impoverished, idealistic kid seeks revenge on a world that's crumbling around him. A gentle old man, Zeno, translator of an ancient Greek story, stands between him and his plans.

Unknown "space" colony, Sometime in the Future: With her community in peril, Konstance is the last hope for the human race. She looks to an ancient story for guidance.

Questions? Contact Nina Dorsch at don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com.

Dinner For Eight

MEET NEW FRIENDS OVER SHARED MEALS

DINNER FOR EIGHT

You are invited to participate in Dinners for Eight, a group of 8 people, both singles and couples, to have dinner together at someone's home. This is an opportunity to meet new people and grow deeper relationships with fellow members and attendees of LPC through shared meals together.

Sign up to host the dinner in your home or to attend. The host will provide the main course and attendees will bring a dish to share. You will be assigned to a host family for your meal with the goal being to group people together that do not already have an existing friendship so that we can all meet new people.

Any adult member or visitor of LPC is welcome to participate. Sign up by scanning the QR code on or before September 11, 2023. The actual dinners will be on September 22 and 23, 2023.



Questions? Contact Ann Loreaux at 513-228-2468 (no texting)

On Friday night, Sept. 22, childcare will be offered at the church for any parents wishing to take advantage of this night out. Scan the QR Code for details.



LPC Special Music

WHY HAVE SPECIAL MUSIC?

At LPC, we take time to prepare our hearts for worship during the prelude. The prelude is an opportunity to quiet our minds and souls to intentionally focus on worship: *"Be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10). Offertories provide time to reflect on giving. Postludes are a "sending out" to take Christ's message to the world.

Special music is not for entertainment or to display exceptional technique but to provide times to intentionally focus on worship.

HOW DO I CHOOSE MUSIC?

Insight for choosing a song:

Ask yourself, what message will it communicate? Common questions include: Is it good music? Is it suitable for the use to which it is to be put? Will it draw attention to me, or will it tend to induce the proper worshipful, reverent mood? Please choose traditional songs that are familiar including an anthem, hymn, psalm, testimonial, and or encouragement. Songs should be inspiring, uplifting, and Christ centered including songs about faith, prayer, and the Word of God. Seasonal music may differ in purpose and mood.

Prelude: The music should typically be short (2-3 minutes), uplifting, and encouraging. Because preludes are designed to help prepare our hearts and minds for worship, there is a preference for melodies that are familiar so the people can easily relate. For example, renditions of familiar hymns help the listener to quickly relate and prepare for worship. Instrumental music should be assessed on the propriety of its use in worship.

Offertory: The music should be approximately 3-4 minutes, meditative, and can be themed to the pastor's message.

Postlude: Like the prelude, the music should typically be short (2-3 minutes), uplifting, and encouraging as the church service concludes.

INTERESTED? Please contact Tari Heath at tari.heath@gmail.com or the LPC office at 513-932-2751.

THE WORSHIP MINISTRY

LPC encourages the congregation to contribute musical gifts in the Sunday morning church service through special music opportunities in both traditional and modern services. Along with special music (prelude, offertory, postlude), the Worship Ministry is comprised of a Worship Ministry Team, Creative Planning Team, Sanctuary Choir, Hand Bell Choir, Praise Band, Live stream and Media Crews.

A Report from the Young Adults

BY DANIEL FRANK

Young Adult Ministry Intern

Hello LPC family! Thanks for an amazing summer as your Young Adult Ministry Intern! It was an honor to serve as your intern and truly a blessing to see the love our congregation pours into its people and ministries. It is so abundantly obvious that the Holy Spirit is working and present in this church! On behalf of the young adults, I want to thank you for your kindness, provision, and prayers. As the summer is coming to a close and students are heading back to college and work again, please be praying for the continued fruitfulness of our church's young adult ministry and that the seeds of the gospel planted this summer would come into full bloom this year. Peace be with you all!



Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The Senior Pastor Search Committee has been very busy over the summer seeking candidates to follow Peter as our next Senior Pastor. With a very limited availability of pastoral candidates due to high retirements, our committee has been on the recruiting trail versus waiting for candidates to find us. We have contacted both EPC large and mid-size church networks, made contact with ECO resources and we asked Stephanie to advertise our opening at the General Assembly meeting in June.

In June, our eight members started to research church websites in the 8 Presbyteries surrounding the Midwest Presbytery. We reviewed every church for similarities to LPC, and if we saw a promising pastor, we listened to their online sermons. If a member was impressed with their sermon, we asked another committee member to listen as well. If two of our members were impressed with the sermon, we would then contact the pastor to invite them to an exploratory phone call. This process led to reviewing over 400 church websites, listening to ~ 200 online sermons, sending invites to 22 pastors for phone conversations and we have conducted phone conversations with 6 candidates. Three of these phone conversations led to candidates applying for our position.

To date, nine pastors have applied for our position. After diligently reviewing these applications, our committee has determined that seven of the candidates do not meet our qualification standards. But for the exciting news, we did conduct an interview for one of the top qualified applicants on 8/16 (just before the Chronicle deadline). An interesting point about this EPC pastor is that he approached Stephanie after hearing her talk at the GA. Thank you Stephanie!! We also have another qualified candidate that we will consider interviewing.

Patience, perseverance, and prayer has been prevalent with our committee over the last 8 months. And we appreciate learning that many of you are praying for us and the persons who apply to be our next senior pastor. We are so grateful to Peter for his willingness and flexibility to shepherd all of us until we find the next senior pastor that God is calling to LPC.

In His service,
Mike Schneider for the Search Committee

Thank You

Dear LPC,

My nephew, Victor Osorio Castillo, recently graduated from Florida International University with a doctorate in biochemistry. He will now teach at the post-doctorate level, while also conducting cancer research using some of the plants known to the indigenous Maya. All of this would not have been possible without the church's continued support and encouragement through the years, especially regarding my late father's (Rev. Sixto Castillo) vision of Mahanaim. We want to thank the LPC Mexico Mission team especially Inga, Ruth, Mike, and Ellen for their friendship and leadership over more than 25 years.

With gratitude,

Dr. Juan Castillo Cocom

Professor of Maya Studies



Dear LPC Members,

Thank you for supporting the Illmamen Primary School in Kenya.

The Africa Mission Trip Team - 2023



Thank you LPC for the Father's Day gift of 'Pop'corn, it is one of my favorite treats and I enjoyed every bite.

Jerry Hentschel



LPC,

Thank you for letting us use your classroom space. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Bright Ideas Co-op



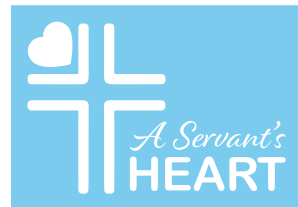
Dear Friends,

On Behalf of the Board of Directors of Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC), I want to thank you for your generous support of the homeless families that we are so blessed to serve. Your donation in the amount of 652 will support our mission to provide shelter, meals, hospitality, and support to families without a home. As we approach our 25th year of service to the community, we thank you for your support of Family Promise of Warren County. We take great pride in our mission and our accomplishments. We greatly appreciate your support, as together we assist families with children who are without a home, to achieve their goal of housing and self-sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Rabolt

Executive Director, Family Promise of Warren County



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

Rick Oliver for replacing two toilets.

Mike (Donna) Schneider for spraying weeds.

Dave Lupberger for work on the vestibule ceiling.

Cheryl Bogen for organizing the Africa Mission Trip.

Patty Corfman for volunteering to lead the Sanctuary Choir during a time of transition.

Our **Junior** and **Senior High Students** for playing in the praise band August 20.

Cindy Jaynes for volunteering to serve as Elder representative with our Boy Scout Troop.

Courtney Williams for volunteering to serve as Elder representative with our Preschool Team.

Our **Safety Team** for assisting a troubled woman who visited LPC during worship and was seeking spiritual help and guidance.

iPray

We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties. -Oswald Chambers

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

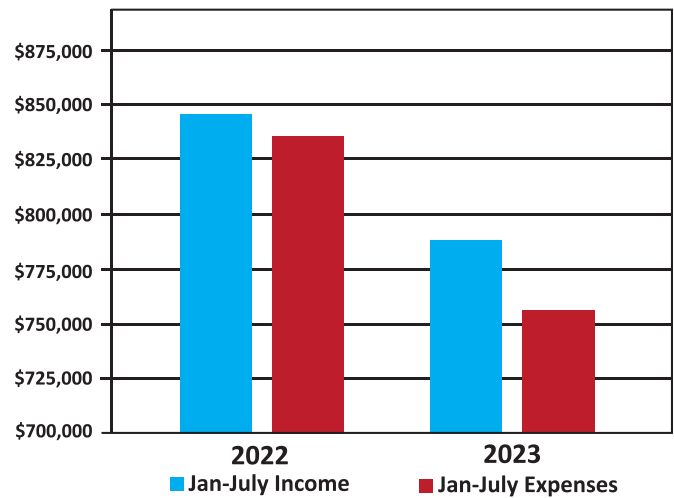
- For the Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue the search for a new Senior Pastor, that God give them discernment and patience.
- For the start of Wednesday Nights Together on September 13, that God would give us a hunger to study and know his Word.
- For the ministry of Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network) that they would receive permission to move into their new location at the old Shaker Inn.
- For the LORD to send more families and children to our congregation and that we would welcome them enthusiastically when they get here.
- For one of our missionaries in North Africa, Abdellah, that he will have faith and courage to endure persecution by the government.
- For the spiritual revival of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus Christ.

Session Report

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our August 21 monthly meeting:

- Approved John Morris, Cindy Jaynes and Brad Heath as elder commissioners to the Sept. 15-16 meeting of Midwest Presbytery in Warsaw, Indiana.
- Received a report from the Finance Ministry Team that income through July 30 was \$788,000 and expenses were \$756,000, which puts us \$32,000 ahead of expenses.
- Approved a motion to cancel the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10 due to the Kickoff Breakfast.
- Approved a motion to serve communion at the Women's Retreat on Saturday, September 30.
- Approved \$4,625 to cover additional architectural fees as we continue to pursue plans for our West Campus properties.
- Approved a motion authorizing Neil Tunison to work with the architect and City of Lebanon to consolidate our property (on the West side of the campus) and vacate the current alleys associated with existing lots.
- Approved a recommendation to create a standing Family Ministry Team to focus on reaching young families with children.

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, September 3

COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Danger of Drifting

1 Timothy 6:11-21

Sunday, September 10

Flood Warning

Genesis 6:9-22

Sunday, September 17

What is Faith?

Genesis 12:1-9

Sunday, September 24

Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:6-12;22-32



Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

The Rev. Stephanie Poblentz

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 94