

## Beyond Generous

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! - 2 Corinthians 9:15*

**S**ome people are cheap. Others are generous. But some are *beyond generous*.

A friend of mine was meeting with his accountant to go over his tax returns. When they got to his deductions, the accountant was stunned. "Why are you giving away so much money?" the accountant asked in disbelief. "I've never seen anyone who was this generous!"

My friend is not a tech billionaire. He is a college professor who receives a monthly paycheck. He lives frugally. He doesn't own a big house or fancy car. And yet, he gives a huge percentage of his income to support his church and to help those in need. My friend isn't just generous, he is *beyond generous*.

When I was a pastor in Indianapolis, Beth and I were invited to dinner by an elderly couple in our church. After dinner, they brought out two silver candelabra and an intricate flower holder. "We bought these at the silver vaults in London, and we want you to have them," they explained.

Beth and I were speechless. The gift was priceless. Probably, it was the most valuable thing they owned. We had done nothing to deserve such a gift. It was *beyond generous* – an act of reckless extravagance. Today, those candelabra sit on our dining room table, a constant reminder of God's grace in our lives.

Why are some people so generous? It has nothing to do with our income level. It has everything to do with our relationship with God.

You see, we worship a God who is *beyond generous*. When we were lost in sin – rebels and traitors - God gave his only son to save us. Jesus gave his life on the cross for a world that despised him. The only word for that is grace. Grace is the unmerited favor of God, given to people who least deserve it.

If you have received God's grace, it makes you gracious. Actually, I see that all the time in this church. Recently, a widow in our church had an old car she didn't need anymore. Instead of selling it, she donated it to another woman who desperately needed a vehicle. When she received the car, the woman wept for joy! It was *beyond generous*.



When our church adopted two families of Afghan refugees, they needed financial help to pay for food and housing. Without being asked, people in our church began giving! One family gave \$10,000. Another young couple gave \$1,000. It was *beyond generous*!

In July, when we sent a mission team to Kenya, we wondered if we would have enough money to cover all of our expenses. Because of your generous giving, we actually had money left over! It was almost like the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

We worship a God who is *beyond generous* – who has given us life, salvation and every good gift. In what we give back to the LORD, may we be *beyond generous*.

Your servant in Christ,  
Peter

# Welcome New Members

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

*Pastor of Pastoral Care and Family Ministry*

Hello, LPC Family! It's time to meet some of our new members. Please greet these new members with open arms and hearts! We so look forward to having them be a part of all that we do here at LPC.

**Scott and Marianne Kyle** are joining LPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Scott is originally from Tennessee, and Marianne is from New Jersey. They have resided in Lebanon for 25 years and enjoy nature and the outdoors.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LORRIE & GORDON PENNER, ELIZABETH LESSICK, LOU GRICE, SCOTT AND MARIANNE KYLE, LUKE AND LILY SWEARINGTON, AND JAMES ALLEN

## **Luke and Lily Swearington**

were both born and raised in the Wilmington/Lebanon area. They met in high school at Clinton Massie High School. They have a two-year-old daughter who you may hear laughing at the 8:30 service.

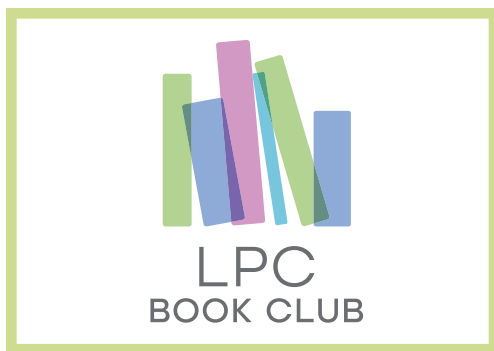
**Harold and Lou Grice** are both retired teachers from Mason and Kings. Harold coached at Mason High School as well. They have three grown daughters, two living and teaching in Columbus and one living in Lebanon and doing youth ministry in West Chester.

**Gordon and Lorrie Penner** have been in Lebanon for four years. Gordon is a pilot and instructor, and Lorrie is a magazine editor. They have two grown children. They came to LPC in search of a church home and choral music. They joined the choir in September.

**Elizabeth Lessick** is joining LPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. She was born and raised in Southern California, married, divorced, and raised three children. She graduated with a degree in Environmental Science. Due to work, she transferred to Ohio in 2007. She has lived in Lebanon for the last 13 years, working with farmers in Warren County. She enjoys traveling and hiking.

**James E. Allen** is joining LPC by Profession Of Faith. James is retired from the Veterans Administration and a USAF veteran. Originally from Columbus, James has lived in Springboro, OH, since 2013. James is the Guardian of two of his Great Nephews: Jason, soon to be 17, and Todd, 13. Both Jason and Todd play competitive travel baseball. Both boys enjoy working on their sports, movies, and fishing. Todd also spends his spare time with drum lessons and martial arts.





**The LPC BOOK CLUB** will meet on **Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. in Room 311.** We will be discussing *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pool-

ey. Every day Iona, travels to work by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people. A single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute find that a chance encounter can blossom into much more. It turns out that talking to strangers can teach you about the world around you--and even more about yourself.

**Questions? Contact Nina Dorsch at [don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com](mailto:don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com).**



## Coming Alongside

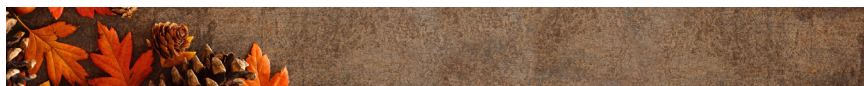
The November Coming Alongside will be held at **Barrel House Kitchen and Bar** on **9640 Mason Montgomery Rd.** We will gather at **11:30 a.m. on November 15th.** Please R.S.V.P. by text or call to Audra Morrison at 513-295-3804 before Nov 12th if you are planning to attend.



It's that time of year again. We will be providing Thanksgiving baskets to the needy in our community on **Saturday, Nov 18th.** The need has never been greater. Extra pandemic benefits have ceased for many families, which helped with much-needed resources during the height of covid. While extra benefits have ended, the costs have endured. We currently have approximately 130 families to serve for this year's campaign and want to serve as many as possible.

**We will be collecting non-perishable food items in the box located in the Narthex marked Food Pantry/Thanksgiving baskets until November 12.** Thanksgiving-type food items are preferred, but anything is accepted. We will also accept monetary donations toward the purchase of additional items. Please make checks out to LPC and put "Thanksgiving Baskets" in the memo.

Also, we are in need of volunteers for collection and distribution of baskets. For more information, please contact Tina Isbel at 513-532-9510 or [tina.m.isbel@gmail.com](mailto:tina.m.isbel@gmail.com).



## Advent Wreath Making & Soup Supper

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
**5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Ark**

Come enjoy supper together and then make an advent wreath with your family. Live greens, candles, and all supplies provided. Sign up now for this **FREE**, meaningful, and fun event!

Scan the QR Code to register.



**Lebanon Presbyterian Church**  
**123 N. East Street • Lebanon, OH • 513-932-2751**



## Navigating the Dark Nights with Christ's Light

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

*Director of Youth Ministry*

Each Sunday night, the high school students of Encounter gather in various homes, breaking into groups for guys and girls, delving into the riches of God's Word in what we call High School Discipleship.

Currently, our journey through Paul's Letter to the Philippians has been nothing short of transformative. Paul's deep affection for the Philippians is evident as he refers to them as **ἀγαπητός** (agapētos) - his loved ones. Like a proud spiritual father, Paul planted the seeds of faith in Philippi, witnessing their growth in the Lord even in his absence. Paul's desire for his spiritual children is the same desire we share as parents and as a ministry—to witness our youth embracing their faith, making it their own, and obediently following Christ into the world.



The backdrop of the Philippians' story mirrors the challenges our youth face today. In a world increasingly hostile to declaring Jesus as Lord, unity becomes crucial. Paul, writing to a church facing persecution and internal division, imparts timeless wisdom on maintaining unity in the face of adversity. Unity, he acknowledges, becomes challenging when external pressures intensify. How do we find common ground when the world outside our community grows intimidating?

Paul directs our gaze to Jesus—the ultimate example of humility, sacrifice, and victory. The Philippians, amidst cultural hostility, are urged to look to Christ, reminding us that in today's anxiety-ridden world, we too, find our anchor in the same source. The world may be a scary place for our students, but at Encounter, we seek solace and guidance in the teachings of Paul, pointing us to the timeless truths found in the life of Jesus Christ.



The hymn of Philippians 2:5-11 tells the story of Christ—His nature, incarnation, death, resurrection, and glorification. It's a narrative that offers hope, purpose, and a model for facing the challenges of our time. Living a life of Christ means to embrace sacrifice and suffering. Our attitude towards one another must reflect the leadership of Jesus. As we dive into this scripture during our High School Discipleship, we hope to witness the transformation of anxiety into trust, fear into courage, and uncertainty into a steadfast faith.

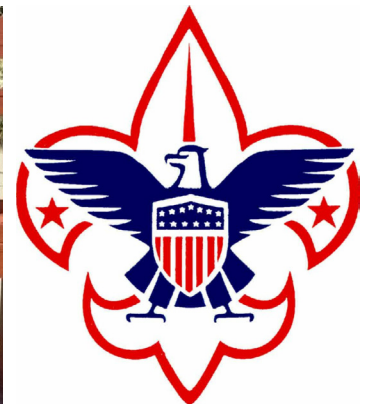
In a world that often seems dark and foreboding, our students are discovering the illuminating power of Christ's teachings. Every Sunday night, they come together not just to study the Word but to apply it in their lives. In small groups, we unite, fortified by the lessons from Philippians, learning to navigate the challenges with Christ's light guiding our path.

Encounter Student Ministries at LPC is not just a gathering—it's a sanctuary where our youth discover the relevance of ancient truths in their modern lives. We invite you to join us in prayer for these young hearts, that they may continue to grow in faith, finding strength and unity in the Lord as they journey through the uncertainties of adolescence.





SCOUTMASTER BERNIE MARSHALL CONGRATULATES BURKE MELZER ON BECOMING THE 79TH SCOUT IN TROOP 186 TO EARN THE RANK OF EAGLE.



WITH HELP FROM HIS FELLOW SCOUTS, ANDREW BICKNELL BUILT A NEW PLAYGROUND THAT WILL BE USED BY CHILDREN WHO STAY AT FAMILY PROMISE. FAMILY PROMISE PROVIDES MEALS, HOSPITALITY, AND TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES IN WARREN COUNTY. ANDREW RESTORED AN OLD SWING SET FOR THE PROJECT AND ADDED NEW SWINGS AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.



JOYCE PALMER CELEBRATES HER 86TH BIRTHDAY AT THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN SEPTEMBER



# More WNT Kids BREAKOUT Lessons

BY TRACY UNTENER

*Children's Ministry Leader*

The WNT Kids continue to search out the clues and solve the puzzle about how to break out of an ordinary life into an EXTRAordinary life. So far, they've discovered three clues. As mentioned in the October article, they discovered that God has a plan for everyone's life, and it is always good to follow His plan because it's always what is best.

The kids have learned that God loves us no matter what we do, and He is always ready to forgive us when we sin. These are important things for us to take to heart, and we should also follow God's example. We should be ready to love and forgive others. In our Bible story, we learned that Saul had gotten jealous of David and had gathered an army to chase him down and kill him. (An action that one of the kids thought was "a bit extreme.") As the story unfolded, we saw how David showed love and forgiveness to Saul by not attacking him when he

had the chance and then by talking things out with Saul. This story presented a great example for us to follow. As one of our third graders, Matthew Rachedi stated, "David showed mercy to Saul. We should show mercy to others too."

The next clue we discovered was that God is in control and is all-powerful. There's nothing He can't handle. We read about how Daniel bravely faced the lions' den, trusting in God and not wavering from following God's ways. The kids learned that they can trust in God too, because He is always with them and can help them through scary or tough situations. As one second-grade little girl explained, "When we have Jesus in our hearts, God is always with us to protect us."

We are having a blast at WNT Kids and can't wait to discover our next clue!

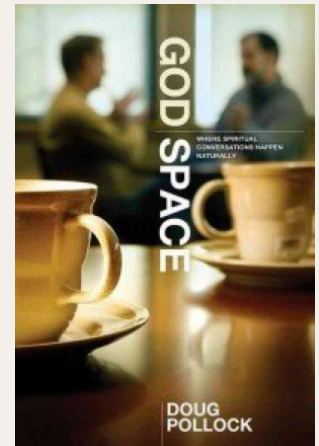


# Activating God Space

A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

This month Rachel Sachs offers a wonderful example of how patience and asking a good question can open a God Space door:

Born and raised in Switzerland, my husband, Daniel came from a home that was culturally Jewish but anti-religious, while intellect and classical music reigned supreme. When, as a young adult, he began to ask questions about the meaning of life, ultimately leading him to Jesus, his parents were shocked and dismayed. So, although we have been praying for the salvation of Daniel's Mama for years, even broaching the subject of faith or God can seem more challenging than climbing the Matterhorn.



This summer, something shifted. We were in Switzerland for our annual family visit and had planned to lead a weekend marriage retreat in next-door Germany. Friday morning Mama ended up being admitted to the hospital for a kidney infection. After much prayer, we felt that Daniel and kids should go as planned, while I would stay and keep Mama company.

On Saturday, she told me about her different neighbors. I so badly wanted to share about God or to pray with her, but I had the impression that I should keep silent. Presently, she talked about some Christian neighbors who had lovingly cared for her when she had the flu. "Then," she said, "they put their hands on me and just started praying. It was so weird that I've never spoken to them again." I realized that she would have freaked out if I had tried to pray with her.

On Sunday, after a video call with Daniel, she abruptly burst out with painful memories about his baptism years earlier. She denounced religious fanatics who read their Bibles all of the time. As I listened, I was praying like mad on the inside, asking God to please give me a good question. Finally, I got it and asked, "Mama, what was religion like in your home growing up?" After she finished sharing, she asked me about my childhood home. That was my invitation to briefly and carefully share about my Christian family, my wandering and desperate unhappiness, and the peace and joy I found when I eventually turned to God. This led to more talk of God and her acknowledgement that she knows He is out there because whenever she has prayed, help has always come.

On our last morning, we were up early praying for Mama. Daniel resolved to go see her one more time even though it was outside of visiting hours. They ended up having a tearful reconciliation and it seems that the door to her heart, formerly closed and locked against Christianity, is now ajar. When you think of us, please pray that Mama Sachs will hear Jesus calling and open her heart to His love and salvation.

Karen Kilpatrick  
Terri Catanzaro



# Afghan Refugee Update

In April 2022, our church adopted two Afghan families who were among the 124,000 refugees airlifted out of Kabul. When we found them, they were living in a crowded hotel in Miami in very stressful and difficult conditions. We brought them to Lebanon and helped them start a new life here.

Since that time, the two families have come a long way. With help and support from our church, they have found jobs, learned English, started school, applied for permanent visas and received help applying for social services.

Both Samad Karimi and Mohammad Siddiqi have been employed at Walmart for a year, working afternoons and evenings. Their wives, Robia Karimi and Wahida Siddiqi, are working part-time in the mornings at a dry cleaners. Their employment has made them financially independent. Both of the men have received driver's licenses and have purchased a used car for driving to work.

Rashid Karimi is not old enough for school yet but learns from his family. Hamza Siddiqi thrived in Head Start and now is in Kindergarten. Ahmad Siddiqi and Rafat Karimi enjoyed Kindergarten and are now in first grade at Bowman Primary School. Mohammad Siddiqi (little Mohammad) completed third grade and is now

in fourth grade at Donovan School, where one of his teachers is Janet Terrell. Nahida Siddiqi completed 8th grade and is now in the 9th grade at Lebanon High School.

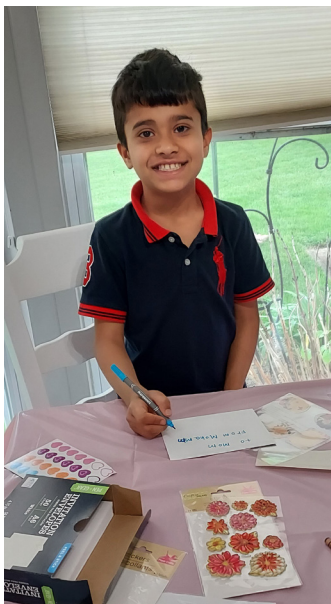
All of the children participated in the summer reading program at the Lebanon Public Library, reading 20 minutes each day to earn prizes. The children learn English at school through the ESL program. Volunteers, including several from LPC, have been teaching English to the adults.

Gradually, the Afghan families are adjusting to American culture. For Halloween, the children dressed up in costumes, carved pumpkins, and went trick-or-treating and to a hayride. For Thanksgiving, they cooked turkeys donated by LPC. At Christmas, they attended the Lebanon Horse Carriage Parade and the LPC Open House. For Mother's and Father's Day, the children made cards, baked cakes, and decorated t-shirts.

Our Afghan families are very grateful for all the love, support, and financial assistance they have received. In the words of Jesus, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in"* (Matthew 25:35).







**Saturday, November 11, 2023**  
**Countryside YMCA**

## Feed Nicaragua

Feed Nicaragua is a large scale community event with 300+ volunteers who pack over 100,000 meals for children who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Meal packets have a mixture of rice, soy, dried chicken, and vegetables and contain a full day's nutrients for the kids who are served.

### VOLUNTEER!

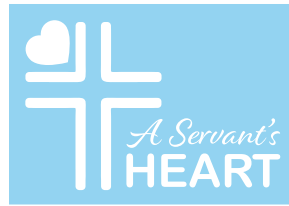
On Saturday, November 11, we will be partnering with other Lebanon churches to help pack these meals. We are looking for two teams of ten volunteers from LPC to pack meals from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Countryside YMCA. Volunteers will work a shift from either 9-11:30 a.m. or 12-3 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer, please scan the QR code to sign-up.



## 2024 Quilt-A-Thon

Start the new year by making a resolution to serve others. The LPC Quilters invite all women of the church to join us as we again sew on Tuesdays in January. The Quilt-A-Thon will kick off on **Tuesday, January 2nd, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** We will meet in three classrooms on the third floor of the church. Last year's Quilt-A-Thon proved to be a wonderful time of fun and fellowship as we worked together to create a cover to wrap others in love. The quilts will again be donated to Warren County Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network. LPC Quilters will be accepting donations of 100% cotton fabric during November & December. For more information, please call Sharen Benner at 513-409-5278 or email [ghbenner@yahoo.com](mailto:ghbenner@yahoo.com).

# Thank You



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

**Dear LPC,**

Eric and I just want to thank our mowing team. They have kept our yard looking beautiful all spring, summer, and now fall! May God bless you for caring about us and all your wonderful work! Also, thank you for all the phone calls, cards, food, and rides to my appointments and doctors. Thank you also for my hair dresser! We love each and everyone of you *and are so thankful for you!*

*Love,*

*Donna and Eric Hancock*

**Dear LPC Friends,**

We are grateful and appreciative of your prayers and support of Paula and her family during her battle with cancer. A special thanks to Peter, the Deacons, Jerry Hentschel and the video crew, as well as the music staff, for their participation and guidance for Paula's Memorial Service. Her Memorial was very meaningful to us and her many friends. Thank you.

*Sincerely,*

*Family of Paula Bohl*

**James Allen, Rick Beckwith, Becky Creech, Lana Johnson, George Meloy, Dick Wardrop, & Jenny Wyrick** for faithfully volunteering in the church office week after week.

**Mary Deerhake, Cathy Riggin, and Debbie Snider** for cleaning out church closets.

**Lynn Steinkirchner** for faithfully going above and beyond by staying to help clean up WNT Kids every Wednesday.

**Rob & Cindy Hoover, Mark & Christina Pierett, Rob & Kristen Hodges, and Shelley Bondurant** for hosting High School Discipleship guys and girl Small group Bible studies.

**Rhea Vezmar** for providing lunch for our New Member's Class.

**John and Fran Morris** for hosting our Kenya mission partner, Solomon Gacece, during his recent stay in Lebanon.

**Steve Newby and Nina Dorsch** for leading adult classes on Wednesday Nights.

**Beth Larson** for leading the Children's Christmas Musical.



**with one voice**  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

**THE SECRET OF  
SNOWFLAKE  
COUNTY**

Join us as the children of With One Voice present...

***The Secret of Snowflake County,***  
a Christmas musical.  
**DEC. 3 AT 10 A.M. IN THE ARK.**

In Snowflake County, Christmas celebrations have become so extravagant they threaten to overshadow the simplicity of Christmas' true meaning. It seems the only one who understands the secret of Jesus' simple birth is little Suzy Hallmark-but no one is listening. It will take a series of crazy mishaps during the community's annual seasonal program before the noise stops and everyone realizes that Christmas isn't about how brightly lights and decorations shine-it's about Jesus, the light of the world.

***Following the musical, there will be a cookie reception. Please stay, enjoy, and extend a warm welcome to the cast and their families.***



## iPray

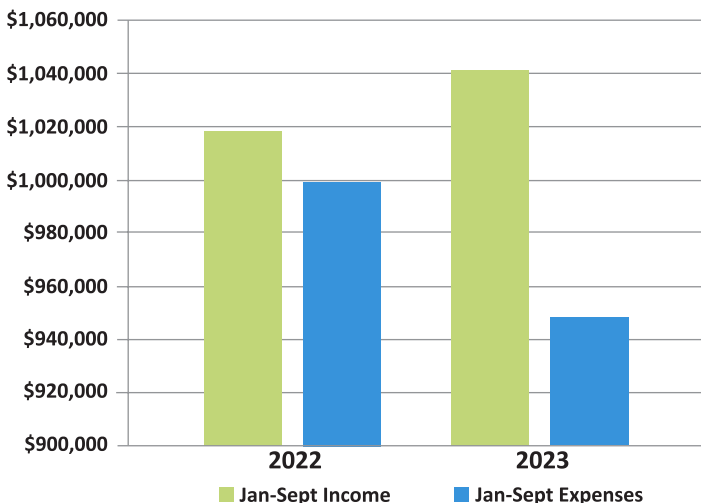
SCOUTMASTER BERNIE MARSHALL CONGRATULATES BURKE MELZER ON BECOMING THE 79TH SCOUT IN TROOP 186 TO EARN THE RANK OF EAGLE.

— Abraham Lincoln

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

- For the Rev. Jeff Moore and his family as he comes to Lebanon the weekend of Nov. 12 to preach for our congregation.
- For the congregational meeting Nov. 12 when we will vote on calling Jeff Moore to be the new Senior Pastor.
- For Pastor Peter Larson, the staff and Elders, that God will give us grace and wisdom during the transition time between pastors.
- For the 130 families who will receive food baskets at Thanksgiving, that they would experience the love of God through our giving.
- For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus Christ.

## LPC Income vs. Expenses



## Session Report

***The LPC Session took the following actions at our October 16 monthly meeting:***

- Approved a motion to reinstate Phyllis Nischwitz to membership.
- Approved a motion to receive the following men and women into membership: Harold and Lou Grice, by Letter of Transfer from Faith Community United Methodist Church; Elizabeth Lessick by Reaffirmation of Faith; Gordon and Lorrie Penner by Reaffirmation of Faith; Luke and Lily Swearington by Reaffirmation of Faith; Scott and Marianne Kyle by Reaffirmation of Faith; and James Allen by Profession of Faith.
- Approved the Oct. 22 infant baptism of Finnian Lucas;
- Approved a motion to have one combined worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 when the children present their Christmas musical.
- Approved a motion to hold a congregational meeting in Sunday, Dec. 10 following the 8:30 a.m. service and to cancel the 10 a.m service on that day.
- Approved a new Child and Youth Protection policy.
- Received a report from the Finance Ministry team that our annual income is \$51,300 ahead of expenses as of September 30.
- Received the 2022 audit report with no exceptions.
- Approved financial and food donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Approved a motion to hold one combined worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12 in the Ark with The Rev. Jeff Moore preaching that day.
- Approved a motion to hold a congregational meeting Sunday Nov. 12 to vote on calling The Rev. Jeff Moore as our new Senior Pastor.

# Preaching Schedule

**Sunday, November 5**

COMMUNION SUNDAY

**No Risk, No Reward**

*Matthew 25:14-30*

**Sunday, November 12**

**His Mission is Ours**

*Luke 19:1-10*

**Sunday, November 19**

**Treasure in Heaven**

*Luke 12:22-34*

**Sunday, November 26**

**The Other Nine**

*Luke 17:11-19*



*Like us on Facebook!*

[www.lebanonpresbyterian.org](http://www.lebanonpresbyterian.org)

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**

The Rev. Stephanie Poblentz

**Associate Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Larson

**Senior Pastor**

11 a.m. Modern Worship

10 a.m. Traditional Worship

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

**WORSHIP TIMES**

LEBANON, OH 45036 513.932.2751

123 N. EAST ST.

**LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Permit No. 94

US Postage Paid

**Non-Profit Organization**