

See You in Church

As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. - Joshua 24:15

See you in church. That is how Christians used to greet each another. Whatever else was happening in the world, you could be sure of seeing your friends in worship on Sunday morning.

Not anymore. In the past 25 years, 40 million Americans have stopped going to church. That is 12 percent of the population and represents the largest decline in church attendance in American history. For many Christians who do go to church, it is no longer weekly but once or twice a month.

A recent survey revealed that only 28 percent of Gen Exers (those between the age of 39 and 57) attend a worship service during the week either in person or by live-streaming. In other words, 72 percent of Gen Exers have no connection with any church. For the millennial generation (those born between 1980 and 1996) it is no better.

Why has this happened? Some people blame technology and social media. Others blame their busy schedules. Others blame the Covid pandemic, when we got used to social distancing. However, I think the problem goes much deeper.

The truth is, everyone has a church where they worship. For some people, family has become their church.

For others, work has become their church. For others, sports and recreation have taken the place of church. Family, work and sports are not bad things. However, when they take the place of God they become idols and false gods. In the end, they will disappoint us.

Recently, I was talking to a young couple after worship. I realized that I hadn't seen them for months. The husband said to me, "We've been missing worship for a

long time, but I woke up this morning and I said to wife, 'We need to go to church!' After a long absence they are back.

Today, there are a thousand things that pull us away from worship. Behind it all, Satan is trying to lure, distract and wreck our relationship with God and our Christian community. It is a spiritual battle. It requires discipline and commitment to be here on Sunday morning.



Have you been missing from worship? On Sunday, October 29 we're having asking everyone – all our LPC friends and members – to be here. We're calling it, "See You On Sunday!" A guest preacher, Mark Vanderput, will be preaching a special message on how to share your faith and lead others to Christ.

Why do we gather for worship? We gather because we

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belong to God and are his family and flock. We gather because it is what God's people have always done for thousands of years. We gather because worship is a distinctive witness to our faith – something that sets us apart from the world.

We gather for worship because the Sabbath does not belong to us, it belongs to God. We are commanded to remember and keep it holy. Most of all, we worship out of love and gratitude to Jesus, who gave his life on the cross to save us. He is worthy of ALL our praise!

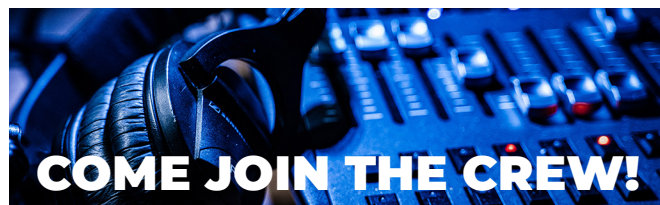
Your servant in Christ,
Peter



The time is near for the **AMAZING HUNT BREAKFAST** to be served in Williamsburg style for all our **PRIME TIMERS @ 8:59am** on Saturday, November 4, in Fellowship Hall (Room 101) on the lower level of our church.

A variety of over-the-top menu items will be featured to nourish you before the fox hunt. You will need to secure your dogs in their kennels before coming into the church. Make sure your riding boots are clean. If you ride your horses to the breakfast our security team will watch them via our camera system. We will conclude with games & a short program. You won't want to be in a rush!

- Sign-up sheets will appear at the Information Table starting October 15 with the deadline being November 1.
- Cost will be \$8.00 per person payable @ the breakfast.
- Your hosts will be Fran & John Morris. If you have questions 513-932-0360 or johnand-franm@aol.com



The Audio-Visual crew – the team who keeps our sound and live-stream running smoothly every week – needs more people to help with this fun and interesting opportunity. **YES, IT IS SERIOUSLY FUN!** You get to work with computers, cameras, microphones, and some very cool teammates. No experience is necessary – we will happily teach you all you need to know. We need help for all three services.

Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry. You can contact Jerry Hentschel at jerry@lebanonpresbyterian.org to help meet this very important and immediate need.

COME JOIN THE CREW! Have fun, learn something new, and serve God all at the same time!



WCCC Food Drive

BY STEPHANIE POBLENZ

Pastor of Pastoral Care and Family Ministry

Our Reach Out Team believes in building relationships with members of the community to share the gospel with them. With the emphasis on building relationships, the team was delighted to continue the relationship with Warren County Career Center for a second year. We started with breakfast for the entire staff during a staff development day. This then led to an invitation for some of the administrative staff to attend our Reach Out meeting to see how we could provide tangible help for the students as well as the staff.

At our meeting, WCCC shared that out of the 900 students on campus, over one third of them are on free or reduced lunch. This is a staggering number. It was also shared that many of the students will come to the school's food pantry on Fridays to bring food home not only for themselves but

for younger siblings as well. It was eye-opening for us as a team to realize that even with all the resources, food pantries, and programs available to individuals, there are still children in Warren County who are going hungry.

It is because of this reality that the Reach Out Team is asking the congregation to participate in a food drive once again for the WCCC. Last year we had an incredible response from the congregation in meeting this tangible need. We are so grateful to LPC for continuing to enable this partnership and help minister to so many in our county!

The food drive will take place October 8th – 22nd, please bring your donations to church on Sunday or the church office during the week.

FOOD DRIVE FOR WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

ANY CHEF BOYARDEE WITH A POP TAB

MAC N CHEESE IN A CUP

GRANOLA BARS

CRACKERS WITH CHEESE OR
PEANUT BUTTER

CINCI CHILI IN MICROWAVEABLE POUCH

OATMEAL CUPS

CHICKEN IN A POUCH, ANY FLAVOR
(BUFFALO, LEMON PEPPER, ETC.)



Encounter in Fall Swing

BY ANDREW JOHNSON

Director of Youth Ministry

As the leaves start to turn and the air grows crisper, our youth ministry is in full swing! We are excited to share the latest updates and adventures happening in our Youth Ministry. Our Wednesday nights, known as "Encounter Wednesdays," are back and better than ever, filled with laughter, worship, study, and games.

At Encounter Wednesdays, we believe in empowering our youth to take the lead in their faith journeys. Our upperclassmen high school students and college participants serve as leaders, planning engaging activities, performing entertaining skits, and guiding their peers through meaningful Bible study. While our dedicated adult leaders are there to provide guidance and support, our ultimate goal is for our students to take ownership of their faith and youth group.



Each Wednesday, we come together to sing, led by the student Encounter Band. Our worship time is a mix of silly and deeply faithful songs that reflect the diverse personalities within our group. We cherish these moments of heartfelt worship and spiritual growth through song.

During our gatherings, we take a break from singing for a short skit presented by our leaders. These skits creatively tie into our Bible study message and the evening's theme, helping to make our Scripture exploration even more engaging.



After our musical interlude, we divide into separate Bible study groups. Here, our student leaders take the reins, guiding their peers through the study of God's Word. These sessions provide a safe space for sharing experiences and deepening our understanding of the Scriptures. It's inspiring to witness the spiritual growth taking place within our youth community.

After diving into the Word, we continue to build fellowship with an active game in the gym. We firmly believe that by playing together, we strengthen our bonds and grow closer as a community. In a world where many of us spend a significant amount of time sitting still, these moments of physical activity are a welcome and joyful release.

This year's Wednesday nights have been an absolute

blast! We're immensely grateful for our youth room and gym space in The Ark, which provide the perfect backdrop for our activities. As we embark on this new season, we eagerly anticipate the spiritual growth and connection that will occur as we continue to discover what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ.



Before returning to our church for Wednesday nights, we had some fantastic off-site activities. We uncovered mystery and intrigue with a thrilling murder mystery game on LPC's 3rd floor. We also soaked up the last rays of summer with not one, but two pool parties at the Pierett's and Hodges' houses. We also snuck in a tailgating event at the Lebanon High School Homecoming football game. These events served as a reminder of the joy and fellowship that youth ministry brings. We invite the entire congregation to keep our youth in your prayers and offer your support as we continue on this faith-filled journey.



WNT KIDS are learning to BREAKOUT!

BY TRACY UNTENER

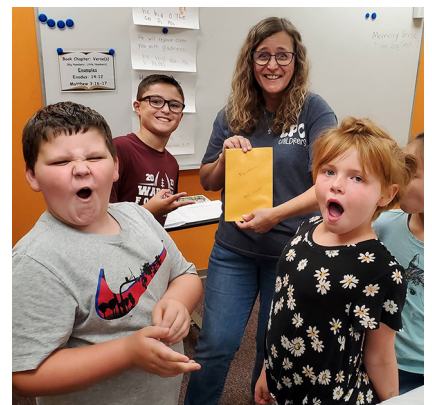
Children's Ministry Leader

WNT KIDS is off to a terrific start! In this BREAKOUT program, the kids are trying to find out how to break out of an ordinary life to have an EXTRAordinary life. There will be 5 clues to find throughout this WNT, and, on the last night, they will get to try to solve the puzzle and figure out the answer to this question.

At our first WNT, the kids learned that God has a plan for each of us and we can choose to trust and follow His plan or we can choose to try to run away from it; keep things status quo. They heard about Jonah and how he tried to escape God's plan. That didn't turn out so well for him. But inside that big fish, Jonah spent some quality time alone in prayer with God, and Jonah got a second chance. This time he followed God's plan and saved the city of Nineveh.

Today, God has a plan for each of us. The kids could tell you that in order to listen to God's plan, we all have to stop our busy lives and spend time with Him, reading and studying the Bible, praying, and then tuning in to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. Even adults sometimes have trouble making time for God in our busy lives. However - *note to parents* - it's doubly important for us not to make this mistake, not only because we need to hear what God has to say, but because our kids are watching and modeling our behaviors and our priorities.

At our first WNT, there was so much fun to be had! From ocean pudding, to sand art, to traveling into "the big fish," all had a great time! And, the best part is, next time we'll get to discover our first clue. We can't wait!



Activating God Space

A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

The World of Wonder: Think of how powerful the question was when God asked Adam in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 3:9 "Where are you?" There are over 300 questions recorded in the Gospels that Jesus asked.

"Something remarkable happened to people when Jesus began asking questions. He invited others to participate in the activity of discovery, to take hold of the truth for themselves. His questions invited listeners to embark on a search, candle in hand, rummaging through the attic of their minds for an adequate answer. His questions were decisively clarifying. They peeled back layer after layer of what appeared to be the real issue to reveal the heart of the matter."

"Just like Jesus asked questions, "Wondering" is a natural way to help others think in ways they've never thought before by offering our curiosity in a conversation. In the land of wonder, we give up the notion that we need to have all the answers. We return to a humble mind-set in which asking, seeking and knocking are normal. Wondering helps us move into spiritual conversations authentically by eliminating canned or awkward transitions."

So when we try to have God Space moments, would a good first step be to ask a wondering question then listen, listen well and ask another?

Wondering ?s

- "Are born out of a desire to better understand someone.
- Flow naturally out of the conversations you're having.
- Demonstrate that you have listened thoughtfully.
- Are open-ended and promote more dialogue and reflection."
- Help others reflect upon their worldview and Christianity.

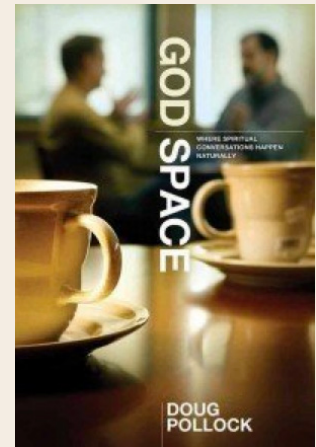
Some good ways to start a wondering conversation:

- "That's an interesting perspective; I'm wondering how you arrived at that conclusion.
- I'm wondering how my answer to that question made you feel."

I wanted to try it. Something that seemed very doable was the Faith Experiment at the end of Chapter 6 in God Space. The experiment was to think of a topic that's been stirred up by the media, and ask people to share what they're wondering about the topic. This was when the media was abuzz about foul play in Russia regarding an airplane crash. The previous day, I had seen an interview with Putin on the nightly news. So I asked several friends "I'm wondering, did you see the interview with Putin where the reporter asked "Are you able to forgive?" Wow, that immediately sparked God Space conversations.

Wondering ?s help us start God conversations naturally. Are you ready to increase the quantity and quality of your God Space conversations? I encourage you to read Chapter 6 of God Space as well as review Session 4 of YouTube/LPCsundays – search for God Space. Quotes above are from these resources.

Terri Catanzaro and Karen Kilpatrick



Deacons Blood Drive

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023
LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE ARK
7:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

*SOLVITA (NEW NAME FOR
COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER)*



REGISTRATION PREFERRED
937-471-3220
WALK-INS WELCOME

Get the "Count on Me" shirt
when you register to donate
blood during Oct. 2 - Nov. 4 for
Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



CANDY DONATIONS!

In October, we are accepting
candy donations for our
Hidden Candy Ranch. Please
place donations in the box
located by the Information
Table. This year, candy
doesn't have to be nut free.
We will separate it into nut-
free and regular options for
the kids. Thank you!

HIDDEN CANDY RANCH

Come have a Rip-Roarin' Time

Kids can come to the church and follow a map that leads them to various western themed games and activities. They will get a piece of candy at each stop, and as they reach their final destination, a big surprise of fun awaits them!

Questions? Contact Tracy Untener at tracy@lebanonpresbyterian.org.

**FREE INDOOR EVENT
COSTUMES WELCOME!**

123 N. EAST ST | LEBANON, OHIO | 513-932-2751





CAPTION



CAPTION

LPC Church Picnic 2023





Family Promise

of Warren County

Family Promise LPC Update

The week of September 17, LPC served six families from Family Promise, who are all awaiting more permanent housing. During this time, we were able to host a play-date/picnic in Harmon Park.

For the last 25 years, LPC has worked with Family Promise, formerly IHN, to house, feed, and fellowship with families in shelter. In the past, families stayed overnight in the church, but since COVID families have been housed in local hotels. When the Shaker Inn is completely renovated, families will be housed and fed there. We look forward to continuing this incredible ministry as families work towards their goals of employment, housing, and education. We look forward to what the future holds.

Our next rotation is Nov. 26-Dec. 2. If you would like more information about this ministry or want to find out how the play date went, please reach out to someone on the committee.

Your LPC Family Promise Committee,

Terri Catanzaro, Ally Bondurant, Megan Terrell



From Goldfish to Glue, We Thank You



From the bottom of our hearts, the Playschool cuties (and their teachers) would love to thank you all for the generous donations!! We feel so loved and cared for. We definitely feel the love of Jesus from all of you here at LPC. Come down and visit us in K-1 sometime! We'd love to color with you!! God Bless you all and thank you for taking such good care of us!! Keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours!

Teachers: Julie Crago & Mary Lou Kusler
Playschool Cuties: JuJu, Kash, Azlynn, Elizabeth,
Jolene, Dean, Paisley, Greyson and Oakley
(not pictured - Myla and Oaklynn)



The Mike McIntosh Golf Tournament was a huge success, raising more than \$8,000 to support the school we built in Kenya and setting an all-time record. We had 35 golfers and 31 hole sponsors, as well as spectacular weather at Majestic Springs Golf Course. Many thanks to Debbie Snider, Jack Victory and Cheryl Bogen for organizing this event.

SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT INCLUDE:

Martin Hubbell, Attorney at Law	Jack and Terri Catanzaro	Richard Beckwith
Ann Loreaux	Kenton Hill, DBA Kenton Hill Realtor	David and Patricia Corfman
Grandma's Gardens & Landscape	Kairos Guys	Monte and Charlotte Wiederhold
Ruth Miller	Ron and Ginny Kuntz (Kuntz Family)	Jim and Rosie Vandegrift
Cheryl Bogen	John Victory	Mary and John Linville
Peter and Beth Larson	Harriet R. Smith	Jenny Wyrick
J & S Remodeling LLP	David Heuser	Daniel and Katrina Grimwood
Richard and Jeanette Wardrop, Jr.	Heritage Financial Resources LLC	Janice and Michael Watsell
McIntosh Family (Ellen, Chris & Matt)	John and Pamela Hitchcock	Thomas Way
Michael W. and Amy Schneider	Barbara Aberlin	Family Denistry

Thank You

Dear LPC Friends:

Thank you so much for your gift of \$1,500 this year for our EPC World Outreach ministry. Pray for wisdom for us as we walk through doors the Lord is opening in SE Asia, West Asia and Berlin, Germany. Pray for an explosion of extraordinary prayer for the saving of souls. We are deeply grateful for your prayer and financial partnership.

*In his love,
Phil and Diane Thrash*



Dear Friends:

We at Elizabeth's New Life Center are so grateful for your support in donating to the Christmas giving tree. Because of help from churches like yours, we received baby items and gift cards valued at \$77,544 which were distributed to moms who have made the courageous decision to choose life. This year, more than ever, we need to stand with these women and families. Furnishing an infant with clothing or diapers may seem like such a small offering, but it's a huge encouragement for young moms trying to establish family life.

*In Christ,
Gregory B. Clark, Senior Director of Development,
Elizabeth's New Life Center*



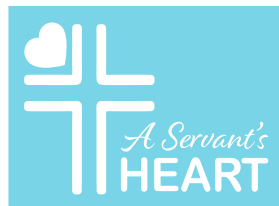
THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH OUR FAMILY PROMISE FAMILIES

The week of September 17, LPC served six families from Family Promise, who are all awaiting more permanent housing. Thank you to the many volunteers who shopped, cooked, and prepared side dishes the week of September 17-23. Also, thank you to our prayer warriors for praying for the families. We provided 324 meals for the week for our 6 families. A special thank you for those that hosted the picnic/play date at Harmon Park. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus as we provided for these families in their hour of need.

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for your generous support for homeless families. Your donation in the amount of \$600 will support our mission to provide shelter, meals, hospitality and support for families who are temporarily without a home. In the past 24 years, Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network) has provided housing for 833 families, including 2382 individuals. A total of 1,377 children were housed, including 140 unborn children. The face of homelessness in Warren County continues to be that of a 6-year-old child. In addition, more than 19,313 referrals were made to Family Promise, many of which resulted in preventing homelessness.

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:*

Cheryl Bogen, Jack Victory, and Debbie Snider for organizing the Mike McIntosh Memorial Golf Tournament.

Tari Heath for serving breakfast to our LPC Preschool Teachers and for leading music for the preschool children.

Doug Morgan and the ReachOut Team for serving dinner to the Lebanon High School football players before their homecoming game (need to check details on this).

Bernie Uchtman for agreeing to lead the Nominating Committee.

Carolyn Lucke for serving as our Clerk of Session for many years.

Heather Forster and **Meg Elliott** for providing face painting at the church picnic!

Mark & Christina Pierett and **Rob & Kristen Hodges** for hosting Encounter (7th-12th) Pool Parties in August and September.

Roger Sims for taking on the role of LPC Treasurer.

iPray

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

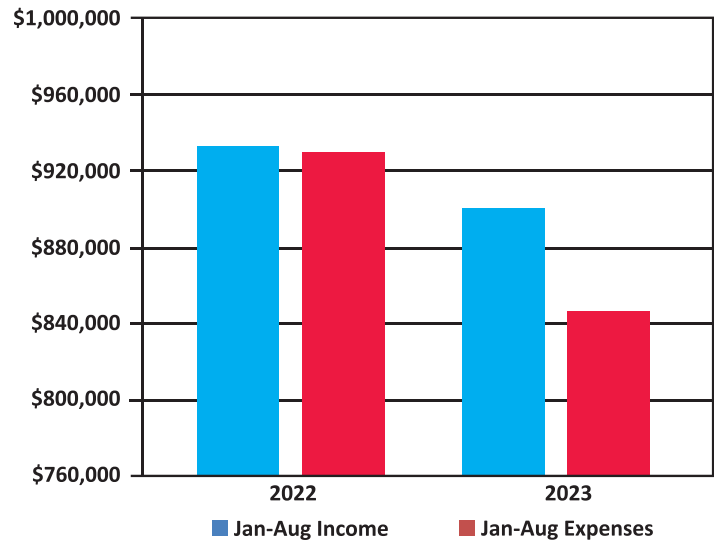
- For the Search committee as they seek a new pastor for LPC
- For “See You on Sunday,” October 29, that all us will make the effort to be in worship that morning.
- For our New Members Class on Saturday, October 14, that many people would take the step of faith and commitment to the church.
- For the children’s ministry Team as they offer the Candy Hunt on Friday, Oct. 27, that it would have a spiritual impact on kids and families and draw them closer to Jesus.
- For Daniel Frank, Meg Elliott and Nick Pierett as they launch a new outreach for college-age adults.
- For the pastor’s luncheon our church will host on Wednesday, Oct. 11, that other churches will support the mission of India Gospel League.

Session Report

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our September 18 monthly meeting:

- Approved a recommendation from the Long Range Planning team to seek approval from the city to vacate two alleyways on the west side of the church property.
- Approved a recommendation from the Long Range Planning team to enter into an agreement with the owners of the house on the corner of Cherry and Warren Streets giving us the option to purchase that property when it becomes available. (Note; The Long Range Plan will be presented to the congregation for approval in the future when it is completed).
- Approved the Oct. 15 infant baptism of Landon John Gillis.
- Approved a motion to invite Craig MacDonald to preach at the Sept. 23 memorial service for Don Lycan (Randy Fannin will be presiding).
- Received a report from the Finance Team that our income is \$53,000 ahead of expenses as of August 31.
- Approved a recommendation from Worship and Music team to offer only one Sunday morning worship service on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. (In addition, we will offer three worship services the night of Christmas Eve, as usual).
- Approved a recommendation from the ReachOut Team to hold a food drive for the Warren County Career Center.

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, October 1
COMMUNION SUNDAY
Wrong Number
Exodus 3:1-14

Sunday, October 8
A Voice in the Night
2 Samuel 3:1-10; 19-21

Sunday, October 15
The Why Question
Job 40:1-13; 42:1-6

Sunday, October 22
Who Will Go?
Isaiah 6:1-13

Sunday, October 29
See You on Sunday!
Matthew 9:35-38



Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Stephanie Poblenz

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Peter Larson

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

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

Non-Profit Organization
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