

A Season of Seeking – Reflection and Hope

by Stephanie Poblenz

The new year often brings about seasons of change and renewal. For our church family in particular, this new year has brought an opportunity for us to reflect on the faithfulness of the Lord and how He is preparing us for this new season at LPC. The Session and members of the Staff felt called to have this time of in between pastors, be a Season of Seeking for our entire church family. This played out as having weekly prayer guides and a weekly prayer meeting at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

It was our hope that this weekly prayer guide would be a source of inspiration, unity, and spiritual growth during this time of pastoral transition. As we intentionally set aside time each day to seek God's face, we pray our hearts would be aligned with His will and that our church would continue to thrive and shine as a light in the community.

The first week of seeking, we focused on lifting our hearts in gratitude. This first week was dedicated to giving thanks for the faithfulness of our Almighty God throughout the history of our beloved church. Each day, we explored different aspects of our journey, from the founding of LPC to the present ministries that continue to impact lives. We joined in heartfelt thanksgiving, acknowledging the goodness of God in every season.

The second week, our focus shifted to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Guide. We entered into prayer, seeking a deeper encounter with the Holy Spirit, hoping our lives would be filled afresh with His presence and power. As we opened ourselves to the Spirit's work, we anticipated transformation and a renewed sense of purpose. Our prayer was focused on being a church where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and active in our midst.

The third week, we focused on unity within the body. Unity is a precious gift from God, and this week, we focused our prayers on fostering unity within our church family. In a world filled with division, we have the opportunity to be a beacon of God's love and harmony only because Jesus makes us one. We prayed for

strong bonds, open communication, and a shared vision. Our prayer continues to be that as we seek unity, we reflect the character of Christ to the world around us.

In week four, we will focus on the current ministries happening within LPC. Our ministries and dedicated Staff play a crucial role in advancing God's kingdom within and beyond our church walls. This week, we set aside time to intercede for these vital aspects of our church life. From worship and outreach to leadership and children's ministries, let's lift up each area in prayer. May the Lord continue to bless, guide, and multiply the impact of our collective efforts.

Week five will bring us to the end of this particular Season of Seeking. As we approach the culmination of our devotion guide, our focus turns to the anticipation of a new chapter in our church's journey—the arrival of a new pastor. Let us unite in prayer for the search committee, the pastor's family, and the pastor God has chosen for us. May this transition be marked by God's guidance, unity, and a fresh outpouring of His Spirit. Let us eagerly anticipate the new beginnings and possibilities God has in store for our church.

Please join us each Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Atrium as we pray for our congregation and where the Lord is leading us for the next 217 years.



Do you have good relationships?

ENCOUNTER'S RELATIONSHIP SCHOOL

by Andrew Johnson

Loneliness and the scourge of toxic relationships plague our world, affecting people of all ages. As a culture, we haven't always modeled what healthy connections look like, leaving our children and grandchildren susceptible to the detrimental effects of destructive relationships. The mental health implications are significant, and we, as a faith community, have an opportunity to address this epidemic.

Amidst the chaos, God's plan for relationships emerges as a beacon of hope. Scripture illuminates the path to flourishing connections, emphasizing respect, responsibility, and love. Sin separates us from God and one another, but Jesus shows us the way of reconciliation and gives us the mission of reconciling others to Christ. As believers, we are called to embody these principles and to help teens establish a foundation for healthy relationships (friendships & romantic) that brings glory to God.

Recognizing the need, Encounter's High School Discipleship introduces — Relationship School — a transformative Youth Relationship Education (YRE) class. This 14-session series is designed to equip young individuals with the skills to distinguish between troubled and healthy relationships. Our goal is to empower them to take responsibility for their behavior and cultivate connections that honor God.



Healthy relationships have a profound impact on mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being from a Christian perspective. Encounter's Relationship School is not just about avoiding toxic dynamics; it's about building a climate of respect, effectively dealing with anger, mastering conflict resolution, practicing forgiveness, and rebuilding trust.

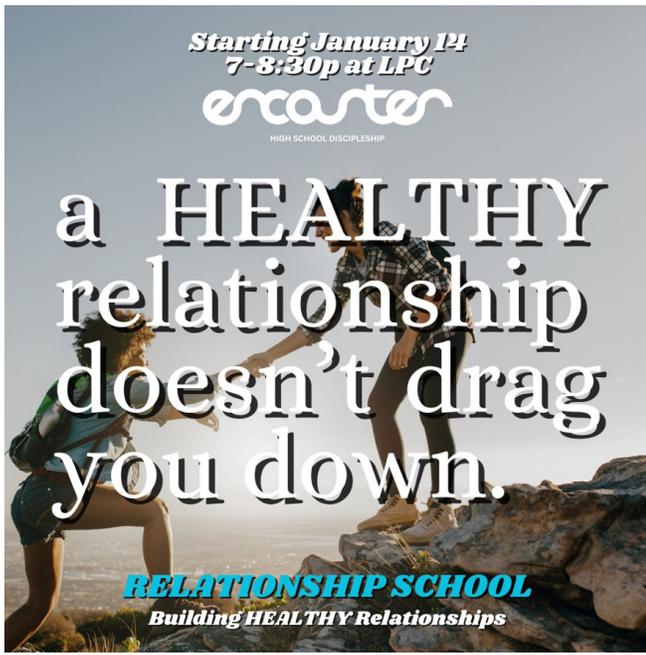
Led by LPC Members and Executive Directors of The Marriage School, Daniel and Rachel Sachs, Encounter's Relationship School is more than a class — it's a journey toward thriving connections. The Marriage School, known for its transformative programs for couples, will bring a wealth of experience to guide our youth.

We invite high school students to Encounter's Relationship School nearly every Sunday night from 7 to 8:30 P.M.

We open for fellowship at 6:30 P.M. Together, we'll explore topics like personality differences, managing emotional baggage, and the art of effective communication. Let's break the chains of loneliness and toxic relationships, ushering in a new generation of individuals equipped for flourishing connections.

In a world desperate for healing, Encounter's Relationship School aims to be a catalyst for positive change. Join us, or pray for us, as we embark on this journey to foster healthy relationships and witness the generational impact of teaching teens the principles of God's design for relationships.

encounter LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES
STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS



RELATIONSHIP SCHOOL
Building HEALTHY Relationships

**Starting January 14
 7 TO 8:30 P.M**

What makes a healthy friendship?

Weekly Topics Include: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, EXPECTATIONS, POWER, CONTROL, LISTENING, PERSONALITY, DIFFERENCES, EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE, ANGER, SPEAKING THE TRUTH, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, THE HURT SPIRAL, FORGIVENESS, TRUST

**Text your name to
 513-443-8464 and say,
 "I want healthy relationships."**



**Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 123 N East Street Lebanon, Ohio**



**KALEO EVENT
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024
 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Students 8th grade and above are invited to join your Encounter friends for a deep dive into your faith in order to grow in your faith!

In Kaleo, we'll learn more about God's call ("Kaleo") on our life to love, follow and serve Jesus. We will learn what it means to follow the call of Christ and why your membership in LPC should matter to you. **This includes the option of joining LPC as a full member.** Lunch included!

The Greek word "Kaleo" translates to "call" or "summon." In the context of God's call, "Kaleo" is often used to express the idea of being called by God for a specific purpose or to a particular way of life. It goes beyond a simple invitation and carries a sense of divine calling or vocation. When discussing God's call in the Christian faith, "Kaleo," emphasizes the notion that individuals are summoned by God to live according to His will, to love, follow, and serve Jesus, and to fulfill a unique purpose in their lives. It conveys a sense of divine purpose and the recognition that God actively calls people to a meaningful and purposeful existence.



Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to discover what it means to live a life responding to God's call. **Event: Saturday, February 24, 2024 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch included. Be sure to sign up using the QR code!**

Family Promise LPC Update

For the last 25 years, LPC has worked with Family Promise, formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network, to host families in shelters. In the past, families were hosted overnight in the church. Since COVID, families have been housed in local hotels.

The week of November 26, 2023, LPC served six families from Family Promise. That week, we were also able to host a dinner/play date with the families in the Ark.

Recently, the Family Promise staff moved into their new offices at Shaker Inn. Shaker Inn will soon be ready to house families. However, for our next rotation, Feb 4-11, 2024, the families will again be housed at local hotels as we provide meals. We will also host the families at LPC on Thursday, February 8, for a dinner/play date.

For our June 23-30 rotation, we believe we will be hosting at Shaker Inn, where we will provide meals, dine with

the families and fellowship, provide evening activities and stay overnight.

Our 2024 Family Promise rotations are:

- February 4-11, 2024 (provide meals while families stay at local hotel, dinner/play date Feb 8 at LPC)
- June 23-30, 2024 (hosting families at Shaker Inn)
- September 15-22, 2024
- December 1-8, 2024

We look forward to continuing this incredible ministry. What a blessing for our church family that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus serving our Family Promise families in their hour of need.

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

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR OR TWO

We are pleased that 90 Bible Reading Plans were picked up during the last weeks of 2023. We pray that the readers will be faithful to the commitment of daily reading. The Holy Bible holds many truths, promises and encouragement for our daily walks. We need to hide them in our hearts for the journey ahead. We are always happy to hear that past readers are reading the entire Bible again. The Almighty Lord be PRAISED! His Word still stands and sustains each of us in all adversity.

-The Bible Pushers -- John & Fran Morris



You are invited to participate in **Dinner for Eight**, a group of eight 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 who 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. Scan the QR Code to sign up on or before Monday Feb. 12, 2024. Choose to attend a dinner on Friday, Feb. 23rd at 6 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 24th at 6p.m.; or Sunday Feb. 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Activating GOD SPACE

A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

A Culture of Evangelism

Does it seem to you that more and more people are talking about sharing their faith than ever before? Or is it just my imagination? A few years ago, I was a little afraid of the word “evangelism.” But I see God working in all our hearts (I know He has in mine!). Over the last few years, I have heard more talk - whether in Sunday school, sermons, devotionals, small groups, etc. – about sharing our faith. I think this can only come from God because, if you’re like me, you may not have had a real desire to do that. It seems too intimidating.

But, let’s face it, we all know that Jesus told us to “go and make disciples of all nations...” We also know that the people we love will not spend their eternity with God if they don’t know Him. I don’t know about you, but I have a lot of family members that I am very concerned about.

So when I went to the God Space class with Doug Pollock in 2020, suddenly a light bulb went off in my head! Doug talked about not just telling people how to get saved by God, but building a relationship by listening to and understanding them better. It’s true: “People don’t care what you have to say until they know how much you care.”

“Culture” is defined by Merriam-Webster as “the characteristic features of everyday existence shared by people in a place or time; the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and

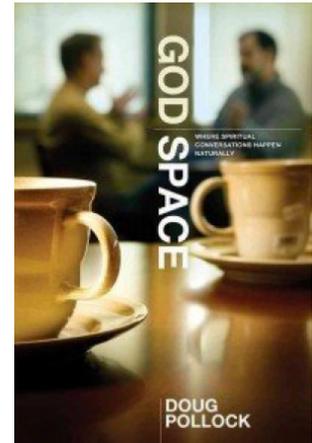
practices that characterizes an institution or organization.”

Can LPC have a culture of evangelism? Do we already have a culture of evangelism? I believe that God is continuing to form a culture of evangelism at LPC. I can see many changes in our attitudes over the last few years.

So many people around us are confused, anxious, and lonely – despite being in constant contact with “friends” on social media. The “experts” struggle to help people cope with stress and anxiety. The world looks to politics and social reforms to resolve the problems, but I believe the world needs to know the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

So, don’t be intimidated – let’s care enough about those people around us to love them to Christ!

I am very excited to see what God has planned for us in this next season at LPC!



The LPC staff is once again overwhelmed with your generosity! It is amazing to be able to work alongside all of you to serve our LORD! Thank you for the outpouring of love and support!

What's Happening at WNT Kids

by Tracy Untener

*If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels,
but do not have love, I am only a resounding
gong or a clanging cymbal. - 1 Corinthians 13:1*

In this session at WNT Kids, we are learning about love, specifically God's kind of love. Our focus is on the love described in 1 Corinthians 13. We are talking about how God shows His love to us and then how we should respond, how we should reach out to love others for Him.

Our first week was centered around how God's love is shown in Jesus and it set the foundation for the rest of our sessions. Below, are some snippets from the whole group science experiment and our various classes.

From our large group experiment: We had a huge God-moment during our first large group experiment, when our preschool through 4th grade kids got together for some Bible science fun. I had tried the experiment we were going to do at home and had trouble getting it to work. It looked so simple in the YouTube video, but it only worked about one out of every eight times I tried it. In the experiment, the kids attempted to lift an ice cube out of a bowl of water with a string. The water represented the world, and the ice cube represented them. Using the string, they were to try to get to God in Heaven by lifting themselves (the ice cube) out of the water. They couldn't do it. That part I knew would go well. They couldn't do it because they needed Jesus. We talked about how Jesus is the only way to Heaven and life with God. So, next, we added Jesus (some salt) to the equation. This is the part that I previously couldn't get to work. Can you believe that each and every group was able to lift their ice cube out of the tray with the string after adding the salt? They had no problems! One little preschooler said, "It's like Jesus comes down and grabs us!" I had been prepared to give a speech about how sometimes experiments work and sometimes they don't, but God showed up. I told the kids my story, and we decided that Jesus never fails!

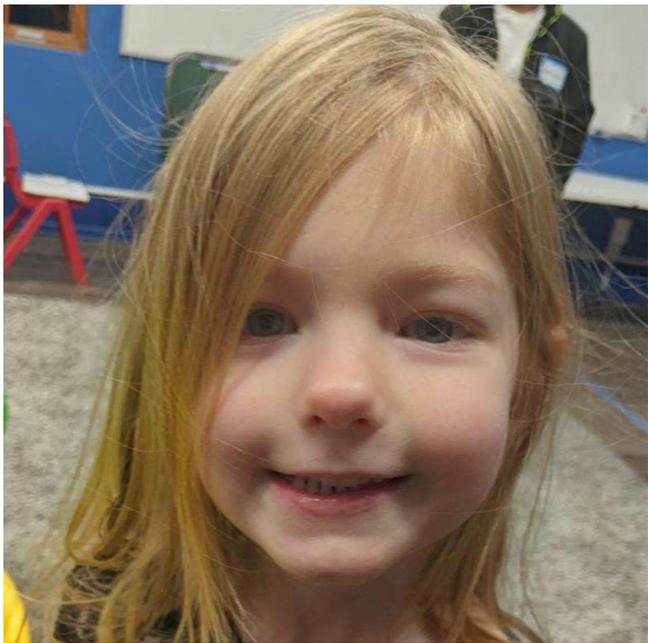
From our Preschool/Kindergarten class: We decided to reach out in love and serve our families for our first service project. So we asked the kids what they thought their families would enjoy receiving. Here's what they said: apples,

bananas, oranges, candy, water, SpaghettiOs, soup, and of course, chocolate chip cookies. So, the following week, we brought in those items, and the kids packaged them up with a note saying, "God's love is giving." Then, they took their love packages home to share with their families.

From our first and second grade class: The first story we looked at focused on God's love for us, and how we should share that love with others. As expected, when we asked the first and second graders how we show love to others, the answers were very sweet: hugs, kisses, and doing nice things for people. To begin "doing nice things for people," we decided to make cards and gift bags for some of our shut-ins, so they would know that they are loved and thought about. We made the cards our first week. They completed this service project at our second session when they decorated and then filled small gift bags that the Deacons will deliver with their cards when the shut-ins are visited.

From our Third and Fourth Grade class: We spent our first session of WNT examining God's love. We discussed how big God's love for us had to be for Him to send Jesus to earth to save us. The kids brought up how God knew Jesus would have to be killed. He knew that Jesus' death would not stop us from still doing wrong things sometimes, and He knew Jesus would suffer. One child also said that God's love had to be big enough to include all of us. We also talked about when showing love like God does is hard for us. The kids had some great examples: when someone is mean to you, when you're mad about something or at someone, when you're sad about something, or when you get mad at God - maybe because someone you loved died. We talked about how God understands our ups and downs and how He can get us through hard times and help us to continue to show love to those around us.

From Engage 56: After discussing how much God had to love us to give us Jesus, we had conversation around ways in which we could respond to His love. The kids had many great thoughts: loving Him, obeying Him, trusting Him, repenting from sin, telling others about Him, and sharing His love with others. This discussion helped to form a foundation around future topics and around what we might do to serve others and share God's love with them.



Thank You

Dear LPC Family,

The family of Bruce Bingham would like to say thank you to everyone at LPC for supporting our family during the passing of Bruce in October. Over the last 10 years Bruce had several health related problems, and you, our church family have been on this journey with us. Many of you helped by getting him to and from the hospital. We received many cards and notes of encouragement that have helped us in the grieving process. We would like to thank the staff and the Deacons, for their continued support, prayers and love. There will be a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, June 8, 2024 in Lebanon at the Jim VanDeGrift stadium on the soccer field where he coached the Lady Warrior Women's Soccer team, with a reception to follow in the Ark at LPC. Additional information will be available in May 2024.

In His Name,

Brenda Bingham

Blair, Randy, Sandler and Arli Robbins

Brittany Bingham

Bre and Matt Rios and Jameson and Ella Lake and Kaitlyn, Jonathan and Ryan Rios

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the use of the knee scooter as it helped both Nick and myself after our foot and ankle surgeries. We appreciated the loan so much.

Sincerely,

Christine & Nick Pierett

Dear LPC Family,

We can't thank you enough for the cards, visits, prayers, and support during our mom's passing. We certainly felt all the support. I don't know how non-believers and non-churched people get through times like this. We will always remember the love of Christ shown to us through our LPC family.

From,

The family of Jo Snider

A BIG THANK YOU to all the LPC quilters, seamstresses and friends of LPC who offered hours of service, sewing skills and talents to the January Quilt-A-thon. We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks also, to the Missions Committee for their monetary donation and other church members for their donations of sewing machines and fabric. Just as a quilt is more than a blanket, quilting is more than just sewing, it is a universal art form of color and design. The joy of quilting is a common bond of creating something of beauty and function in an environment where we teach and encourage one another. The quilts we made in January will be given to Family Promise of Warren/Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Serving Christ Together,

Sharen Benner

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for the wonderful retirement celebration on Sunday, January 14. We were amazed by the number of people who showed up on such a bitter cold morning to worship and say farewell, and by the outpouring of love, affirmation and generosity. It was far beyond anything we expected or imagined. Thank you for all of your cards, gifts and for the beautiful quilt created by the women of LPC. Thank you especially to Brad and Tari Heath for planning the celebration and to Brad for serving as Master of Ceremonies. It has been an honor and joy to be part of this congregation and we are so grateful to God for calling us to Lebanon 21 years ago. You will always be in our hearts and prayers. Please pray for us as we begin this new chapter of life. God has already written it so we know it will be good.

Love always in Christ,

The Larson family

Peter, Beth, Abby, John and Chloe



Dear Christmas for Tots Supporter,

Our organization would like to thank you for supporting our program during this challenging year. Economic struggles continue to cause many to experience new hardships in their lives that they have not dealt with before. Your gift of a donation, the volunteering of your time or a toy collection for our Christmas for Tots program, shows that the "Spirit of Christmas" is alive and well in Lebanon!

This year we received contributions that were used right here in Lebanon for children in need in our school district. We were also excited to have over 110 bicycles donated this year. This was an amazing addition greatly appreciated by our parents, as they happily chose bikes for their children. This project was organized by a few men in our community that have a true heart for children receiving this special gift for Christmas. Toys and bicycles were distributed on December 9 to parents, with several gifts being given to each child. We were able to provide toys for over 800 children this year! Our program is very grateful to have the monetary means and toy donations to assist this large number of children. It truly was heartwarming to be able to extend our help and a caring attitude toward these hurting and struggling families.

Lebanon's Christmas for Tots is a wonderful way to bring a brighter Christmas to families in our community. Our group is always open to new members who would like to have an active role in this organization. Please contact Jenny at 513-331-0045 for more information. We will be purchasing toys for December 2024 throughout the year, as monies become available. As you plan for the year ahead, please continue to support our local organization. Thank you!

*In appreciation,
Jenny Flaig, President
Lebanon's Christmas for Tots*

**THIS MONTH WE HONOR THE FOLLOWING MEN
AND WOMEN FOR THEIR LOVING SERVICE TO
JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHURCH:**

Boy Scout Troop 186 for their help with setting up the Nativity stable on November 26, 2023.

Bob Lane for replacing ceiling tiles and odd jobs around the church.

Dave & Patty Kuyper for electrical work and odd jobs around the church.

Dave Lupberger and **Roger Sims** for painting the Worship & Music office.

Brent Abbott, Kathy Anderson, Jennifer Anson, Cheryl Bogen, Randy Fannin, Jason & Leslie Fisher, Christina French, Gary & Elizabeth Griffin, Beth Gully, Nancy Haire, Dave Jaynes, Beth Larson, Renee Lay, Roy Miller, Mike & Jan Watsell, the Boy Scouts and **LPC youth** for decorating the Church for Christmas.

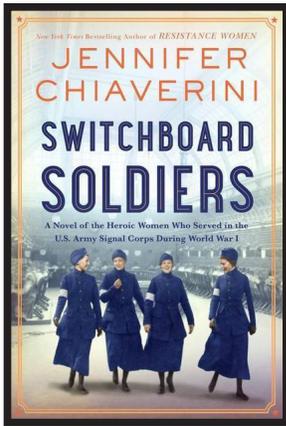
Need Prayer?

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



**Feb. 8
7 p.m.
Room 311**

The LPC Book Club will meet on **Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 311** to discuss *Switchboard Soldiers* by Jennifer Chiaverini, a novel based on the experiences of women in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War I. Joan Cummins will lead our discussion.

In 1917, General John Pershing arrived in France and found that he needed telephone operators who could swiftly and accurately connect multiple calls to troops in the field, speak fluent French, and English, remain steady under fire and be discreet with classified information.

While nearly all well-trained American telephone operators were women, they were not permitted to enlist. Nevertheless, the U.S. Army Signal Corps promptly began recruiting them, and more than 7,600 women responded. Deployed throughout France, including near the front lines, the operators endured hardships and risked death or injury from gunfire, bombardments, and the Spanish Flu.

For additional information about the LPC Book Club, contact Nina Dorsch at don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com.

YOU'RE INVITED!
SCOUT SUNDAY
AT LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEB 11 **WORSHIP SERVICES**
8:30 A.M. CUBS SCOUTS
11 A.M. BOY SCOUTS

DONUT FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING THE SERVICES

Let Us Celebrate Scout Sunday.

   **Lebanon PRESBYTERIAN Church**
Living People to Christ

SEASON OF SEEKING



January 28 - February 3 (Days 15-21)

Pray for Church Body (Unity)

Unity is a precious gift from God, and this week, we focus our prayers on fostering unity within our church family. In a world filled with division, we have the opportunity to be a beacon of God's love and harmony only because Jesus makes us one. Join us in praying for strong bonds, open communication, and a shared vision. As we seek unity, we reflect the character of Christ to the world around us.

Week 4 - February 4-10 (Days 22-28)

Pray for Ministries & Staff

Our ministries and dedicated staff play a crucial role in advancing God's kingdom within and beyond our church walls. This week, we set aside time to intercede for these vital aspects of our church life. From worship and outreach to leadership and children's ministries, let's lift up each area in prayer. May the Lord continue to bless, guide, and multiply the impact of our collective efforts.

Week 5 - February 11-17 (Days 29-35)

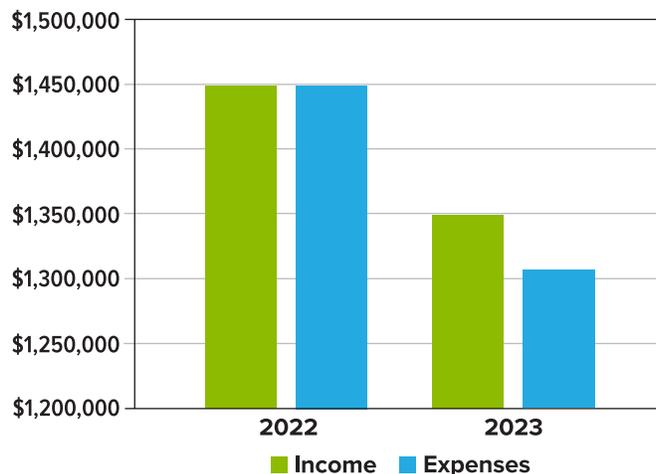
Pray for New Pastor

As we approach the culmination of our devotion guide, our focus turns to the anticipation of a new chapter in our church's journey—the arrival of a new pastor. Let us unite in prayer for the search committee, the pastor's family, and the pastor God has chosen for us. May this transition be marked by God's guidance, unity, and a fresh outpouring of His Spirit. Let us eagerly anticipate the new beginnings and possibilities that God has in store for our church.

Scan to visit our prayer page for more prayer resources and to sign up for our 24 hour prayer vigil on February 17-18.



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's QR code banner that pops up on your phone. You will be directed to the Suran website for giving at LPC.



Session Report

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

- Accepted the Year End Financial Report.
- Nominated Commissioners for February 9-10 Presbytery Meeting. Jim Garrett, Ron Benedict, and Ron Warncke are the Elder Commissioners along with Pastor Jeff Moore and Pastor Stephanie Poblenz.
- New Elders were trained in how to prepare and serve communion.

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, February 4

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Birth of the Church

Acts 2:42-47

Sunday, February 11

The New Earth

Revelation 21:1-7

Sunday, February 18

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Beginning

Ephesians 1:1-2

Wednesday, February 12

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service in the Sanctuary

at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 25

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Beloved

Ephesians 1:3-6



Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Pastor Stephanie Poblentz

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Moore

SENIOR PASTOR

Traditional 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. | Modern 11 a.m.

WORSHIP TIMES

513.932.2751

123 N. East St. Lebanon, OH 45036



Non-Profit Organization
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