

A Good Day and a High Calling

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” - 1 Peter 5:1-5

The afternoon of Sunday, March 10, many of us gathered in the Sanctuary to participate in my Installation Service. An Installation is a bit like a marriage in that both parties take vows before the Lord in order to make certain promises to one another. Broadly, we promise to walk together in bonds of Christian love in service to our Lord Jesus. He is the Good Shepherd, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

When God called me to serve Him as a pastor, I understood that call to be the call of a shepherd to a flock. I’ve told the story a number of times at Meet and Greet and from the pulpit, but as a college student, after a lot of questioning and searching and prayer, I finally heard the call of God to me through this lyric: “I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.” From the very beginning of my ministry, I have known that to pastor people well means to lead, feed, guard and retrieve the sheep of God’s flock, much like the Good Shepherd does.

Peter says it plainly in the text above. “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you.” Then he defines what shepherding looks like in the words “exercising oversight.” To shepherd means to watch over. To attend to the wellbeing of the flock. To lead, feed, guard and retrieve. To lead the flock on the path through the treacherous landscape of the world to the green pastures of God’s peace. To feed the flock on the ever-fulfilling and life-sustaining Word of God and Table of the Lord. To guard the flock against all that threatens its peace, unity and purity. To retrieve the straying, the lost and the sick to the joy of the restored community of Christ.

These functions of shepherding are to be done “willingly,” “eagerly,” and with “humility.” These qualifiers describe the heart of those who seek to serve as both pastors and elders in the church of Jesus Christ. What a privilege it is to serve the people of God as we follow our Good Shepherd together!



Toward the end of the service, we all made our promises before the Lord. They are promises to shepherd and to be shepherded. I've included those promises here so that we can reflect on the commitments we have made to one another. I've also italicized some words and phrases that particularly move me. Maybe they move you, too.

Questions to the Pastor

1. Do you now reaffirm the vows you took upon your ordination, and do you recommit yourself to them in the discharge of your obligations?
2. Are you now willing to *take the charge of this church*, agreeable to your declaration when accepting their call? And do you, *relying upon God* for strength, promise to discharge to it the duties of a Pastor?
3. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to accept the office of Pastor of this congregation out of *love for God* and a sincere desire to *promote his glory in the Gospel of his Son in this place*?
4. Do you promise to continue to be *zealous and faithful* in promoting the *truths of the Gospel* and the *purity and peace* of the Church, *whatever* persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account?
5. Will you seek to be *faithful and diligent* in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a Minister of the Gospel, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to *adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of which God has made you overseer*?

Questions to the Congregation

1. Are you, the members of this congregation, ready to *receive* Jeff as your Pastor?
2. Do you promise to *submit* to Jeff in matters of spiritual discipline, and to *receive with humility and love* the word of truth?

3. Do you promise to *support* your Pastor with your prayers, to *give encouragement* in his work, and to *assist him* in every way as he seeks to instruct you in the things of the Lord and to lead you in the *building of the Kingdom of God in this place*?

4. Do you recommit yourselves to fulfill the terms of the call you have extended and to make provision for your Pastor's needs that the name of Christ might be glorified?

As we remember these promises in the days and years to come, may we see that our life together is far more than doing particular things to make our particular church a special place for us. May we see that we have promised to walk together in such a way that the Kingdom of God might be built in and through this place to the glory of Jesus Christ!

That is a high calling, indeed!

Your Shepherd,
Jeff



Growing in Faith

by Stephanie Poblenz

Our Children's Ministry Team has been hard at work creating spaces for parents to lead their children in discipleship opportunities. One of our pillar beliefs is that parents are the primary disciplers of their children, and yet most parents often feel stuck on how to train up their children. The Children's Ministry Team created a communion curriculum that provided parents the opportunity to walk with their children through what communion is and the importance of it. Our families will have the opportunity to take communion together on April 7, after having completed the curriculum. It is my prayer that our larger church family will be able to come around these families after the 11 a.m. service to celebrate not only the children who now understand the importance of the Lord's Supper, but also their parents who led them to this knowledge.

Another example of parents taking the lead in their discipleship of their children was our Bible presentation and celebration. Every year, our children have the opportunity to receive a Bible as a gift from LPC. Any child from 6th grade to 3rd grade who have not previously received a Bible are able to receive one during the 11 a.m. service. Parents

work closely with Tracy to discover what type of Bible will be best for their child and then are presented the Bible during service. This year, Pastor Jeff invited all of the parents and guardians of the children up to also be prayed over as they lead their children in discovering Biblical stories and who God is. It was such a wonderful show of LPC's support of parents leading their children, and hopefully, an encouragement to the entire family unit.

All throughout the scriptures, we are encouraged to raise up our children in the Lord's Word and His instructions. While we believe strongly that this is primarily the job of their parents, it is not only their job. We are all one church family, and our job as one large family is to support each other! We can do this by coming around these parents and encouraging them. We can talk to these children and ask them questions! We can share with them stories of our own first Bibles! We are one large family, and coming alongside these young ones is a blessing for everyone together. Let us celebrate our children growing up in faith alongside our intergenerational church family.





Welcome Sixth Graders

by Andrew Johnson

sense of belonging. The evening kicked off with a warm reception as our leadership team and seasoned members of Encounter embraced the new students with open arms. The opening hang-out time activities quickly dissolved any initial nerves, fostering an environment of inclusivity and camaraderie.

We are thrilled to announce the recent addition of our newest members to the Encounter family (LPC's youth group) – new 6th graders! On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Encounter on Wednesdays warmly embraced these youth into our midst, marking the beginning of an exciting journey of faith and fellowship.

At Encounter, our mission is clear: to create an atmosphere where students can encounter the real and living person of Jesus Christ through intentional, loving relationships as we dive into His Word. Every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., our doors swing open to welcome teenagers seeking spiritual growth, community, and adventure. Encounter encompasses a diverse range of activities and events designed to nurture holistic spiritual development. Our focus areas include Service, Worship, Outreach, Discipleship, and Fellowship. Each aspect plays a vital role in shaping the hearts and minds of our youth as they navigate their faith journey.

Following the icebreakers, our dedicated youth leaders led a thought-provoking discussion on John 11:28-44 in which we see the love of Jesus and power of resurrection in the life of Lazarus. The 6th graders were encouraged to put their trust in Jesus in this life and for eternity. Throughout the night, relationships grew and bonds were forged as students from 6th to 12th came together in pursuit of a shared purpose – to encounter Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

As we "Welcome 6th Graders" to Encounter, we are reminded of the profound impact of nurturing young hearts in the love and teachings of Christ. We thank God for our dedicated youth leaders and the parents who entrust us with the spiritual guidance of their teens.



The "Welcome 6th Graders" night was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and most importantly, a deep

Looking ahead, we are excited to witness the continued growth and transformation of our newest Encounter members as they embark on this incredible journey of faith. With each passing Wednesday, may they draw closer to the heart of God and experience the love of their new Encounter family. Please pray for our 6th graders as they navigate this exciting chapter of their lives as they pursue a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ.

ENCOUNTER
LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES
STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS



RUMMAGE SALE 4.27.24



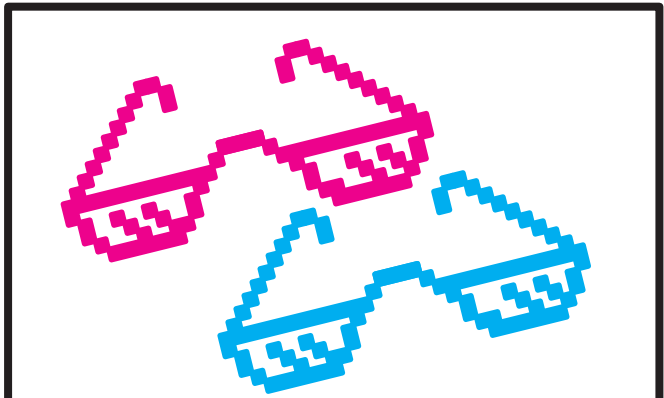
It's time to clean out those closets, basements, and garages for the **2024 LPC RUMMAGE SALE** sponsored by the LPC Mission Committee and LPC Youth Encounter. Our **SALE** on **APRIL 27** will last from **8 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

We take **almost** anything **EXCEPT** *old computers, TVs and other electronics, exercise equipment, construction materials, pianos, and large kitchen appliances.*

We will be taking in items from Monday, **APRIL 22** until Friday, **APRIL 26** until **2 p.m.**



SORRY, WE CAN'T STORE ITEMS BEFORE THIS TIME. MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.



Reading Glasses

Encounter Yucatan Mission Trip is looking for donations of reading glasses to take down and distribute to elderly in small villages in the Yucatan in Mexico. Many of the small villages that we have been visiting over the last 25 years do not have access to good eye care. We believe that this is small thing we can do to improve the lives of our Mexican friends and to share the Gospel.

Engage & Encounter in Fellowship

THE AMAZING GRACE RACE

by Tracy Untener

On a sunny and beautiful Saturday afternoon in March, our Engage 56 kids, and our Encounter Leadership Team spent time together just having fun and getting to know each other at The Amazing Grace Race event. Those participating were divided into three teams, each composed of both fifth and sixth graders and high school/young adults. Each team “raced” to four different LPC family homes to complete various challenges and earn points for their teams. From “Cookie Face” to “Tip Top Tower,” the challenges were... well... challenging, but always super fun!

During our time together, the Encounter leaders made a point of being very encouraging and involved with their Engage 56 teammates. They chatted with the kids in the vans as we traveled and cheered them on as they attempted challenges. It was a beautiful thing to see as our LPC Encounter leaders, teens and young adults, put on Jesus, reaching out to the kids in warm friendship.

After the race, the teams went back to LPC for some hang out time. Our Engage 56 kids were welcomed into the youth room, where they played games with the Encounter leaders. And then, of course, there was a slideshow with pictures from the afternoon and an awards ceremony.

Our evening ended with a shared meal at the Acapulco restaurant. You might think that the kids and youth would separate to be with their same age friends during this time, but they didn't. The Encounter leaders took on the mission of truly engaging with our fifth and sixth grade kids for the entire time they were together, and it showed on the faces of all who attended.

They did a great job reaching out to our tweens in friendship and everyone had a great time.

Many thanks go out to all those who helped plan and to those who hosted a game at their homes. This event bore lasting fruit. Thank you for helping it happen.





Servant's **HEAR**

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

Vicki Dalzelle for providing lunch for the Staff Retreat.

Evelyn Osborne and **Nina Dorsch** for maintaining the church libraries.

The many volunteers who help take down tables and chairs for WNT.

Bob Lane for repair work to the preschool doors.

Jim Vandegrift for replacing doorstops.

Dave & Patty Kuyper for electrical work throughout the church.

Lisa Ferber who stepped up to be the pianist for our With One Voice Children's Choir for the Winter WNT session.

Appreciation

Many thanks to the four hosts who opened their homes for February's Dinner for Eight: Joe McKenzie, Tari & Brad Heath, Linda & Jerry Hentschel, and John & Fran Morris. We could not hold these social events without their wonderful hospitality! Please mark your calendar for the next Dinner for Eight, which will be held on August 9th, 10th, and 11th.

Activating GOD SPACE

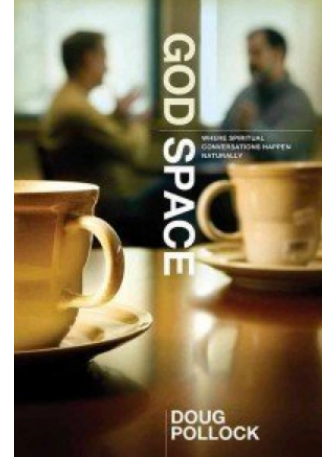
A.K.A. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

SENT...

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach without being sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

- Romans 10:13-15

How are people in this mixed-up, deceived world ever going to know about Jesus if you don't tell them? Do you think they will get it from watching the Discovery Channel? Or maybe the news? Maybe they will hear about it in school. Not very likely, huh?



How many people do you know who seem to be hopeless and depressed? How many people do you know that are worried or stressed out? I'll bet you know several. I do. How will they ever learn about the One who can give them true hope, peace, and love?

Do you think it's the job of professional preachers only?

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus gave this commission to his followers. That's us. That's you.

Do you think you don't have what it takes to do that? I know I don't. Not on my own. But Jesus promises to be with us as we do this! And we are so fortunate because there is a plethora of helpful training resources out there! *God Space*, by Doug Pollock, is only one. We just finished our class, *Loving People to Christ*, on March 20, using the book *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People* by Kevin Harney – that's another great resource, and there is a copy of it in the church library. There are many more – I'm sure there is one that will be a good fit for you.

Come join us on this exciting adventure as we put what we are learning into practice. The LPC E-Team will be meeting Monday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m.

What are you waiting for?

Karen Kilpatrick and Terri Catanzaro

PRIME TIMERS

Adult Ministry 60+



Prime Timers

The Prime Timers attending our next event will be “schooled” as we gather for a catered dinner at **Rock School House, 1026 OH-123, Lebanon, on April 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** Our menu from Tano’s will feature delicious springy appetizers followed by scrumptious Italian American cuisine. The meal will be concluded with a creative Lebanon - centric dessert! During our meal, we will have the opportunity to get to know the Moores as we host our new pastor and his family. Dan Cunningham will “school” us about some of the local historical figures whose legacies continue to positively impact Warren County today. Some of these figures were members of our congregation! **The cost for this event is \$8.00**, payable at the door. **Required reservations will be taken at the Information Table on April 7 and April 14**, or may be made via phone prior to April 14 by calling **Fran Morris, 513-932-0360**. This gathering is open to the first 50 who reserve their spots. No reservations will be taken after 12:00 noon on April 14.

Family Promise Facility Nearing Completion

Scan the QR to see a video of the fabulous, new Family Promise Warren County campus. The video is the first thing if you scroll after the header.



For our June 23-30 rotation, we will be at the new campus to serve our temporarily homeless families. Each night, our church will provide 2-4 Dinner Host volunteers who will provide dinner and dine with the families 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; 2-4 Evening Hosts will provide activities for the families 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; 2 Overnight Hosts spend the night at FPWC with the guests in their own room(s) 8:00 p.m.-6:30 a.m. Look for signup opportunities for you or your family in the May Chronicle.

Are you called to serve a shift for our June 23-30 rotation? Two-hour training is required for the LPC core team and others who are interested in training. Training dates are either **March 9, 16** or **April 6** at **Shaker Inn** (other dates available). The LPC core team would serve alongside other LPC volunteers the week of **June 23-30** to eliminate any concerns they would have as we leave our church home and move to Shaker Inn. **Scan the QR code to sign up.**



LPC Room Blessing at Family Promise

On **Sunday, April 7**, immediately after our third service, at approximately **12:30 p.m.**, there will be a **room blessing** and **open house** at the **new Family Promise location** on Cincinnati Avenue. LPC volunteers recently renovated and redecorated a family space there and this is your chance to see it, along with the rest of the facilities. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this process, plus a thank you to all of our LPC seamstresses, whose quilts will be cherished gifts for years to come.

Questions? Contact Marge Cunningham at olgrymre@aol.com or 513-289-3959.

*Family Promise LPC Leadership Team: Terri Catanzaro,
Marge Cunningham, Ally Bondurant, Megan Terrell*



JUNE 10 - 14
6:00 - 8:20 PM

BREAKER ROCK BEACH VBS

**God's Rock Solid Truth in a
World of Shifting Sands**

Every day is an ADVENTURE at BREAKER ROCK BEACH, from the morning waves crashing against the shore to evenings filled with bonfires and s'mores! Adventure awaits each day as kids EXPLORE tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock!

At BREAKER ROCK BEACH, kids will discover that GOD'S TRUTH never changes and that everyone needs JESUS. They will investigate the difference between what the world says is true and what GOD says is TRUE, and will discuss how to speak the TRUTH in love.

During this VBS, kids will experience impactful BIBLE FUN, amazing CRAFTS, exciting GAMES, energetic MUSIC, tasty SNACKS, MISSION, and MORE!

Free for Kids Age 4 thru 6th Grade

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration opens May 1, 2024

Questions? Contact Tracy Untener at
tracy@lebanonpresbyterian.org or 513-932-2751



Mark your calendars for our fun-filled all-church **Scavenger Hunt** on **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, rain or shine. Teams will be given a list of items and will find all of them within the city of Lebanon during a ninety-minute search time. Then we'll meet back at the church for a pizza lunch.

Small prizes will be given to 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 or special talent is required, just your car and enthusiasm. No cost. The only prerequisite is people who want to have fun!

Please sign up by scanning this QR code or using the sign-up sheet on Sunday morning. Call Ann Loreaux if you have any questions at 513-228-2468 (*no texting*) or email admin@lebanonpresbyterian.org.



WHEN: Saturday, April 20, 2024

WHERE: Begin and end in the Ark at LPC.

WHO: All ages of LPC members and attendees.

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Gather in the Ark no later than 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.



Session Report

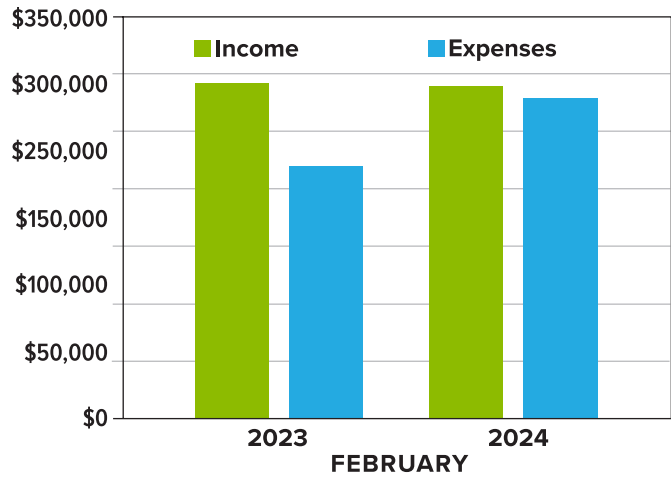
The LPC Session took the following actions at our March 2024 meeting:

- Discussed and approved Pam Allen for member reinstatement.
- Discussed and approved the Palm Sunday special offering to be split evenly between the Lebanon Food Pantry and half to Soldiers of Christ (located in Ukraine).
- Discussed and approved the cost for site clearance and backfill of the house and garage for the house on Warren Street and Cherry Street, after approval from Long Range Plan Team and Finance.
- Informed Session of the hiring of Megan Elliott for the Female Student Ministry Assistant.
- Discussed General Assembly coming up in June in Memphis, Tennessee.

Long Range Planning News

At their March meeting, Session authorized the Long Range Plan Implementation Committee to contract with Stark Wrecking (Miamisburg) for the demolition of the house and garage at 203 Warren Street and the house at 118 Cherry Street, both of which are owned by LPC. Stark Wrecking will also provide the backfill necessary for the sites. As reported at the Congregational Meeting in December, the facilities are no longer being used by Family Promise (formerly IHN) since their relocation to another location. Plans for the property continue to be developed and we will provide updates as appropriate.

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.



DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION OR QUESTION FOR SESSION?

Comment Cards are available in the Friendship Pads. Just fill out a card and drop it in the collection box located in the back of the Sanctuary or Ark. You must provide your name and contact information to have your thoughts brought to the proper person or group. Don't want to fill out a card? – just email comments@lebanonpresbyterian.org.

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, April 7

COMMUNION SUNDAY

How God Builds His Church

Ephesians 2:11-22

Sunday, April 14

How God Sees His Church

Ephesians 3:1-13

Sunday, April 21

How God Fills His Church

Ephesians 3:14-21

Sunday, April 28

How God Holds His Church

Ephesians 4:1-6



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www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Stephanie Poblenz

ASSOCIATE 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



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