

Good News! The Gospel of Mark



Peter was in prison again. This time, it was not going to end well. Herod had gotten violent with the followers of Jesus. He had just put James, the brother of John, to death, and he arrested Peter with the same intent in mind (Acts 12:1-5).

Then something miraculous happened. Peter was freed from his confinement. He ran to the first safe place he thought of— Mary’s house! He knew the brothers and sisters would be there. It was their regular place of prayer, and it is in this home that we hear the name of Mary’s son, the Gospel writer’s name, for the first time— John Mark (Acts 12:12).

Marcus means “hammer.” How fitting it is that God uses this man to hammer home the good news of Jesus! He is mentioned only 8 times in the New Testament, but those references give us a solid picture of a man who was used by God to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to encourage the church.

Mark is the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), who

was a leading man in the early church. It was Barnabas who had first believed Paul’s conversion to be legitimate and who saw a faithful quality in his cousin, John Mark. Barnabas and Paul took John Mark with them on some of their missionary adventures (Acts 12:25, 13:5). Even after Mark inexplicably abandoned their mission (Acts 13:13), Barnabas didn’t give up on his young cousin, which resulted in him and Paul parting ways (Acts 15:37-39).

Some time later, Paul is reminded of the qualities in Mark that Barnabas had seen. In one of the most touching verses of scripture, written toward the end of his life, Paul writes, “Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11). Mark came to Paul and worked alongside him as seen in Paul’s salutations at the end of his letter to Philemon, verse 24.

As Luke was the faithful companion of Paul, who presumably stayed with Paul to the end, Mark became Peter’s companion. In 1 Peter 5:13, Peter writes, “She

who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.” This is a reference to Peter and Mark in Rome, where Mark wrote down Peter’s account of the ministry of Jesus which became the Gospel that bears his name. (As we study Mark, be aware of details revealed that only Peter could know.) One more thing: notice the term of endearment that Peter uses toward the younger Mark. He is his spiritual son in the faith. Their relationship in Jesus bears the fruit of the Gospel of Mark itself.

This school year, we will be walking with Jesus through the Gospel of Mark.

Why Mark? Because Mark has good news to tell. The best news, honestly. King Jesus has come, and he brings his kingdom with him. His kingdom is one of love and light and reconciliation and peace. All who belong to Jesus are a part of this kingdom and ambassadors of this kingdom. This will be significant for us to remember as we walk through another contentious election this fall.

Another reason to learn from Mark is that the Gospel of Jesus sets our hearts aflame and our feet to running. The Gospel of Mark is the gospel of immediacy— of action and of passion. The story is quick. Events are swift. Jesus and his followers are on the move and bringing the Kingdom to bear upon the earth. They act in obedience to Jesus,

and darkness flees. This is our call. As recipients of the grace of Jesus, we now act as missionaries, bringing light to dark places.

Are you ready? I am excited to begin this journey through the Gospel of Mark on Sunday, September 8!

Blessings and Love,
Pastor Jeff

P.S. Here are a few programming notes for the fall I’d like you to be aware of. Let us study Mark’s Gospel well and follow Jesus ever more closely.

1. Sunday evening **High School Discipleship** will be studying the sermon passage each Sunday, focusing on how to walk more closely with Jesus.
2. **Young Adult Bible Study** will be studying the Gospel parallels of the next Sunday’s Mark text as a way to prepare their hearts to receive God’s Word on Sunday
3. At **Wednesday Nights Together (WNT)**, Pastor Stephanie will be leading a class on the Mark passage from the previous Sunday, focusing on life application.

Greetings to our LPC family from Playschool!! We’ve been working very hard on our classroom to get things ready for our new bunch of cuties! Our classroom theme this year is Kindness Kingdom, where we grow His kingdom one tiny heart at a time! If you have a chance, please come downstairs to Room K-1 and see our classroom, which we could not have put together without donations from our faithful church family. Thank you so very much! Our class is full this year, with 13 children and a waiting list. We believe God placed each one of these children and their families in our room this year for us to love them to Christ. Please keep us all in your prayers throughout the school year. We are grateful to you for your continued support of the Playschool mission. With love and appreciation, Julie Crago & Mary Lou Kusler



LPC Preschool & Daycare

LPC Preschool & Daycare is getting ready for another great school year! Our teachers have been busy getting their classrooms ready with all their new themes and decorations. We have a total of 64 preschoolers attending this year. The supplies donated through the church have been such a blessing! We are so thankful to have a wonderful community that wants to be a part of our kids’ learning and growth. We know that God has a plan for each and every child that’s here, and we are excited to see them grow throughout the year!

Family Promise Update



Hosting Family Promise September 15-22 at FPWC

Come help us as we serve our families who find themselves temporarily homeless. We will be hosting the families September 15-22 at Warren County Family Promise (former Shaker Inn) in Lebanon, 600 Cincinnati Avenue.

Volunteers needed for the week:

DINNER COOKS (5:00-5:15 p.m.) LPC volunteers prepare an entrée when appropriate, side/vegetable/bread or dessert. At this time, we are asking that the meal be prepared at home and delivered to Family Promise Warren County. Dinner cooks can also host.

DINNER HOSTS (5:00-6:30 p.m.) - 4 people needed per day (can provide meals, dine with families & fellowship).

EVENING ACTIVITIES HOSTS (6:30-8 p.m.) - 4 people needed per day (crafts, playtime, activities with children as their parents attend training M-F).

OVERNIGHT HOSTS (7:30p.m. - 6:30 a.m.)-2 people needed per day. Stay overnight in comfortable rooms.

SHOPPERS sign up for a grocery list of food that will be provided to the families for breakfast and lunch (signup available Sept 6).

Families are encouraged to serve together. All of these roles can be performed by a family. Feel free to sign up for two back-to-back roles, dinner and evening activities, or evening activities and overnight.

Thank you for your consideration. The many people who served the families in July had the same thing to say: "That was really fun," and "The new facility is amazing." Signups will be available in the Friday LPC Weekly Update starting August 30. This is an exciting opportunity to make a positive, face-to-face impact on the families that we are called to serve. The remaining rotation for 2024 is December 1-8. Questions-call or text Terri Catanzaro (513-288-2313).

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



Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor a special occasion or a loved one or give to the glory of God? You can get one or two floral arrangements to be displayed in the Sanctuary and/or Ark, which will also be mentioned in the Worship Guide. Please pick up the arrangement after the service.

If you are interested or have any questions, contact Naomi at 513-932-2751 or by email at naomi@lebanonpresbyterian.org. Please contact us at least two weeks before your desired date.

Picnic Party Time!

by Stephanie Poblenz

It was a joy to be able to spend the afternoon together in fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! Over 200 of our church family were able to spend time, play games, and eat too much good food with one another. Thank you to those who were able to join us to spend time together as a church family and welcome our Kenyan Friends to be with us.

As always, while it is a joy to spend time together, we don't just gather because we like seeing one another! We gather because we are called to be a body, specifically Christ's body, who loves one another. We love one another by knowing each other, and the best way to get to know one another is to spend time together. We spend time around dinner tables, small groups, and coffee shops with smaller groups of people every day. It is a blessing to spend time with a large amount of our congregation all together a few times a year to reestablish those connections. What a gift, and how much fun!

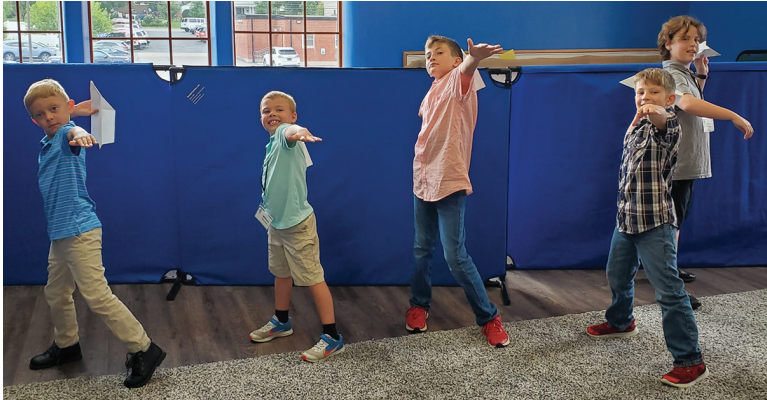




Back to School Prayers

by Tracy Untener

It's that time of year again when all the kids head back to school. Although this time of year can be super exciting for the kids, it can also bring with it some worries and fears. The Sunday before schools started, we had a special children's Sunday School session focusing on back-to-school prayers.



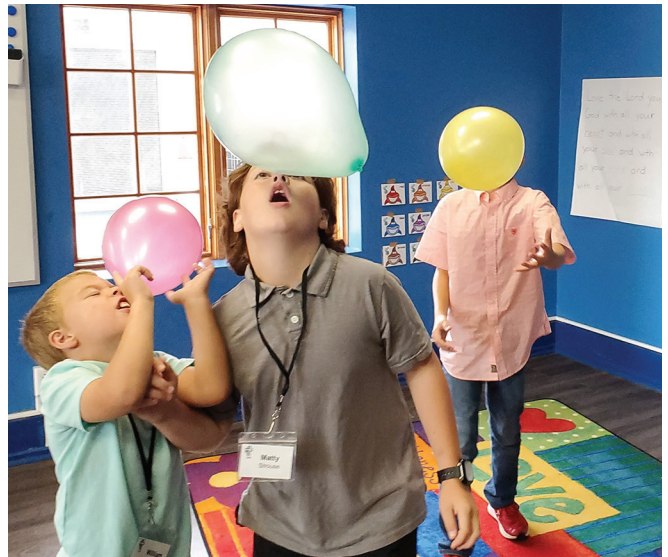
We started out with apple slices as a snack, and we discussed what kinds of things their new teachers might want prayers for. The kids listed things like: to be prepared, to have fun, a well-behaved class, and to get lots of supplies and gifts. We prayed for their teachers.

Then, we moved on to talk about things they were worried about with regard to school. Only some of the kids would share, but they shared about being worried that they would be made fun of, they would get left out, they would not know something about their schedule or not know an answer when called on. We listed their fears and talked about Philippians 4:6-7. We did a special activity with a heart and a band-aid, and we prayed for them to have God's peace as they started the school year.



Next, we stepped it up to actual fears they might have about school. One child said that they were afraid that they wouldn't have or make any friends in their new class, another spoke up and said that they were afraid that they might get a "hard" teacher, and one was afraid about their jungle gym on their school's playground. He said last year, lots of kids got hurt on it because it wasn't in good condition. We wrote our fears on a piece of paper, made paper airplanes out of them, prayed about them, and asked God to let our fears fly away. Of course, then we actually flew our planes across the room.

We ended on a high note and talked about some of the things the kids were looking forward to this school year: the food at their new school (one child was really excited about the pizza), gym class, field trips, field day, movie time, seeing their friends, and meeting new ones. We prayed and thanked God, asking Him to bless this year of school for each of them. Then we celebrated with some balloon fun!



Back-to-school time can be a time of fun and excitement, but the kids had some very real worries and fears, too. Would you please pray for them this year? Pray for God to bless their year, for them to make good friends, to do well in school, to go to the Bible when they are searching for truth, and to have God's wisdom for all the situations that they will face. Thank you ahead of time for blessing the children with your prayers.



SIGN-UP

ROCKIN' CENTERSTAGE ON TOUR WITH JESUS

YOUR CHILD IS INVITED TO COME "BACKSTAGE" AND LEARN ALL ABOUT
JESUS AND THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IN A NEW AND EXCITING WAY!

WEDNESDAYS | 6:00 - 7:15 P.M.
FREE & FUN KIDS PROGRAMMING
FOR CHILDREN AGE 4 - 6TH GRADE

**BIBLE STUDY, CRAFTS, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS,
ACTIVE GYM GAMES, SNACKS, AND MORE!**

CAKE

CHRISTMAS ACTS OF KINDNESS EXPERIMENT



SIGN-UP

DOES YOUR CHILD LIKE TO SING AND ACT?

Join the cast of...

CAKE: Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment

It is finally Christmas break and the kids are out of school! Now the real fun begins...
except the teacher gave homework! Join along as they embark on an exciting
experiment that will change the way they experience Christmas forever.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY | NO TRYOUTS REQUIRED

For children age 5 - 6th grade

WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS BEGINNING SEPT. 11 7:15 - 8 P.M.

PERFORMANCE | DECEMBER 8



Encounter Summer Camp: I Am Zacchaeus

by Andrew Johnson



As summer draws to a close and a new school year begins, our students at Lebanon Presbyterian Church had the opportunity to retreat from the busyness of their daily lives and encounter Jesus in a powerful way at our Encounter Student Ministries Summer Camp. From August 16th to 18th, our 7th to 12th graders gathered at Butler Springs Christian Camp in Highland County for a weekend filled with spiritual growth, fellowship, and unforgettable experiences.

This year's camp was intentionally planned to coincide with the start of the school year, a time when many of our students feel overwhelmed by the pressures of academic, social, and extracurricular expectations. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy for our students to fill every moment with entertainment, social media, and the constant buzz of their phones. These distractions, though entertaining, often leave them feeling emptier than before. As followers of Christ, we recog-

nize the importance of stepping away from these distractions to focus on our relationship with God. Just as Jesus frequently retreated to quiet places to pray (Luke 5:15–16, Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12–13, Luke 9:18, Matthew 14:13, Mark 1:35), we believe that our students, too, must follow His example to experience the fullness of God's blessings.

At Encounter Student Ministries, our mission is to help students encounter the living Christ through God's Word. This year's camp theme was centered on Luke 19:1-10, where Zacchaeus' life is transformed by an encounter with Jesus. Our theme, "I AM ZACCHAEUS," was a powerful reminder that we are all like Zacchaeus—broken, sinful, and in desperate need of a Savior. Through a series of talks, small group discussions, and reflective quiet times, our students explored how all relationships, and definitely with God, require both knowledge and proximity or to know who a person is and draw close to them. We learned that sin creates distance in our

relationships with God and others, and like fixing a broken friendship someone has to make the first move. God has made the first move to restore us through Jesus Christ.

One of the most impactful aspects of the weekend was the intentional disconnection from the outside world. With no cell phone service or Wi-Fi available at camp, our students were free to focus entirely on building relationships with one another and with Jesus. In a world where technology often dominates our attention, this was a refreshing and much-needed break.

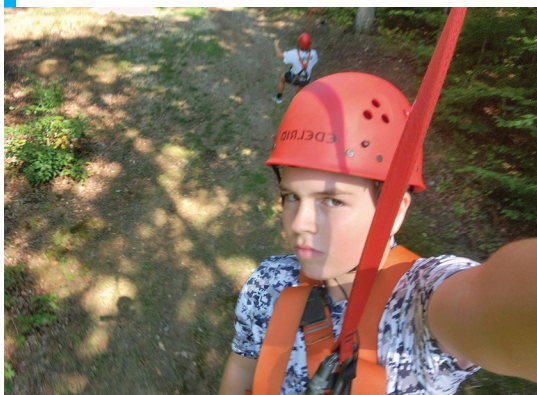


The weekend was designed as a time to "climb the tree" like Zacchaeus, to intentionally seek out Jesus, and to experience the life-changing power of His presence.

Throughout the weekend, our students engaged in a variety of activities that reinforced the spiritual lessons they were learning. From crazy outdoor day and night games to small group and late-night discussions, every moment was an opportunity to grow closer to God and to each other. One of the highlights was the "Slow Club Quiet Time," 30-minute sessions of quiet prayer, scripture reading, and reflection and journaling. These sessions helped students build a personal relationship with God by providing space to listen and respond to His voice.

The culmination of the weekend was a powerful reminder that when Jesus moves into our lives, Jesus doesn't want you to clean up before he comes over; he wants you to be honest and tell him where the messed up places are. He doesn't just rearrange the furniture—He remodels the entire house. Just as Jesus transformed Zacchaeus, He brings transformation to us, taking on our messiness, our sins, and our brokenness, and making us new. We sometimes read the story in Luke 19 and think “how nice that Jesus fixed that bad guy” BUT — the message of the weekend was clear: we are all Zacchaeus, in need of the life-changing encounter that only Jesus can provide.

As we return to our daily routines, we are grateful for the support of our church family, who made this weekend possible through prayer, donations, and encouragement. Please continue to pray for our students as they carry the lessons and experiences of this weekend into the school year. Pray that they would remain rooted in their identity as beloved children of God and that they would be empowered to live out their faith in every area of their lives. We believe that to see Zacchaeus' transformation in this next generation we must go away to pray and to meet Jesus. And it may be helpful to go to a place with trees. Thank you, LPC, for being a part of this transformative journey. We look forward to seeing how God will continue to work in the lives of our students as they grow closer to Him.



enoco **LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES**
STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS





enoco **LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES**
STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

Why Didn't I say....?

by Terri Catanzaro and Karen Kilpatrick

As I get more comfortable with initiating spiritual conversations, there have been times when I have been surprised where the conversation went.

First example. When my friend said he used to go church but quit going when he moved. I shared that our minister said that the most common reason that people stop going to church is moving.

I encouraged my friend to search for a church. His comment was he really only used it to network, so not a big deal. Hmm, we are all on our own spiritual journey. I told him that I hoped that he would change his mind since God had blessed him so richly. Reflecting back, I turned to God Space by Doug Pollock. Doug suggests a reflective listening phrase such as "So, if I'm hearing you right, you attended church only to network?" Then as appropriate, Doug has many good follow-up questions:

Have you ever met anyone or experienced anything that made God seem real to you?

If God called you on your cell phone and gave you the opportunity to ask him one question, what would you ask him, and why?

What do you understand the core message of Christianity to be?

What do you find to be the most difficult thing to buy into when you consider the claims of Christianity?

The second example happened on a cruise. There was a crew member taking reservations. I saw a book about Buddhism by her workspace and asked if it was a good book. Her response was, "That is not my book, I'm holding it for a guest who left it." She was very shaken and seemed upset that I would think it was her book. My response was, "Oh, OK." Rewind. Why didn't I say something that could have helped me understand her better, like: "You seem a little anxious that anyone would think it's your book. What kind of books do you like?"

It's hard to keep questions in mind when someone blindsides me with a comment. I think the most important thing for me (us) to remember is to try to understand the person we are talking to. Then we are more likely to ask a question that gets to the heart of the matter.

For support in your Loving People to Christ efforts, join us (the E-team) on September 4th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 311 for our bimonthly get-together where we learn from each other.

A note on our Director of Worship and Music Search

Our hiring team has been working diligently to find our next Director of Worship and Music. It is safe to say that the process has been much slower than any of us had originally thought. We have received very few qualified candidates. As we continue to pray and prepare to meet the person the Lord is sending to us, here are a few updates we would like to share:

First, we have contracted with Celebration Ministry Staffing, which is a search firm that specializes in assisting churches like ours to find church musicians. They have an excellent history of matching musicians to churches, and we are confident that their network and experience will result in us meeting high-quality candidates more quickly.

Second, we have a volunteer interim choir director to lead the choir until a permanent director is found. Marlene Wilson has served as a church musician for decades and was the wife of a pastor who is now with the Lord. She relocated to Lebanon to live with her daughter and family. Marlene learned of our search and contacted us a few weeks ago to see if we needed any assistance while we were looking for a permanent director. What an answer to prayer!

You all will meet Marlene on Sunday, September 8, when the choir sings, but here she is in her own words of introduction:

"I'm excited to volunteer as your interim choir director. I grew up in Cincinnati and attended public school. About the time I was 7 or 8, the school offered piano lessons. I think Mom and Dad paid \$1.25 per lesson. We didn't have a piano, but my grandmother did. So many days after school, I would walk to my grandmother's house to practice.

I have always had a love for God and especially for the music of the church. As a young adult, I became very active in accompanying soloists, choirs and special groups. Music has been my passion since I can remember. I strive to continue expanding my knowledge by learning different styles and ways to communicate musically with praise and worship to God. Just a few of my favorite groups include Brooklyn Tabernacle, Prestonwood Baptist, Andrae Crouch, Casting Crowns, and I could go on.

It is my hope and desire to be used and my talents not wasted, so long as God gives me breath and strength. I look forward to what the Lord has in my future as I continue to serve Him.

*Sincerely in His Service,
Marlene Wilson"*

Amen! Friends, please continue to pray for the Lord to send us his person for our position, that we all may make a joyful noise to the Lord Jesus, who is worthy of our praise.



FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 9:45 A.M.
FREE BREAKFAST IN THE ARK
EGG CASSEROLE, PANCAKES,
BACON, SAUSAGE, FRUIT & MORE

**COME FOR THE
FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD,
STAY TO DISCOVER
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**



Lebanon
PRESBYTERIAN
Church
Loving People to Christ

VOLUNTEER

JOIN OUR AV TEAM

We need audio-visual volunteers!
No experience is necessary.
It is fun and easy!
If you can push a button,
you can join the Team!
We hope you will consider
joining the Audio-Visual Crew.
For more information,
contact Jerry Hentschel at
ghentschel@gmail.com or call the
church office at 513-932-2751.



Coming Alongside

**Hi Ladies! You are invited to a day
of great food and fellowship.
Please join us on September 17th
at Twin Dragon, 7763 Tylersville
Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069.**

We will meet at 11:30 a.m.
**Please RSVP to Donna
Kaufman, either by email -
dduke401@yahoo.com
or text 513-239-9567.**

Please respond by September 15th.

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Servant's **HEAR**

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

Doug Morgan, Alex Pierett, and Matt Poblentz for grilling during the All-Church Picnic.

Rhea and Mike Vezmar, Christine Olding, and Vicki Dalzelle for hosting for and cooking for the New Member Luncheon.

Phil Craig, Dave Lupberger, Rick Oliver, & Mike (Donna) Schneider for work at the Blair House.

Roger Sims for assembling the new grill.

Mike (Donna) Schneider for building a cart for the new grill.

Session Notes

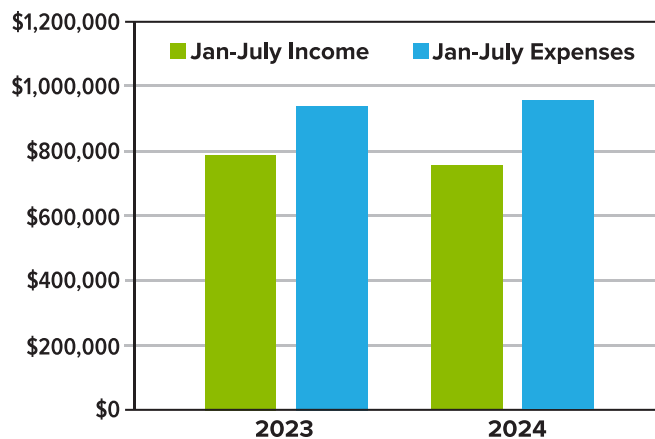
The LPC Session took the following actions at our July 2024 Meeting

- Both Pastors and Elder Commissioners reported on General Assembly.
- Approved Warren County Career Center Food Drive.
- Approved additional Healthcare Coverage Proposal.
- Approved the expense required to repair the porch and roof of Blair House.
- Authorized Neil Tunison and Roger Sims to investigate the possible sale of the Blair House.
- Approved the Boy Scout car wash fundraiser for August 17.

The LPC Session took the following actions at our August 2024 Meeting

- Approved Cindy & Steve Culham, Ted & Phoebe Ingram, Sandy Burns, John Sparks, Michelle Teska and Bruce Terrell for membership.
- Approved collecting Shoe Box donations for Operation Christian Child.
- Approved new staff position "Young Adult Ministry Leader."
- Approved bringing Daniel Frank under care and recommendation for candidacy for Midwest Presbytery.
- Approved collecting Thanksgiving Basket donations.
- Approved pastors to perform at-will communion.

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 online giving. To begin online giving, 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, focus 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.



Need Prayer?

prayerlist@lebanonpresbyterian.org
will get your request to the
Prayer Warriors ASAP.

prayerrequest@lebanonpresbyterian.org
will get your request to a staff member
who will handle your request confidentially
and will only send out information you
would like shared with our Prayer Warriors

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, September 1

COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Power of God

Romans 1:16-17

Sunday, September 8

NEW SERIES: GOOD NEWS!

THE GOSPEL OF MARK CH. 1-6

The Beginning of the Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, September 15

Know Who You Are

Mark 1:9-13

Sunday, September 22

Gone Fishing

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, September 29

Kingdom Come

Mark 1:21-45



Like us on Facebook!

www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Pastor Stephanie Poblentz

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Moore

PASTOR

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

WORSHIP TIMES

513.932.2751

123 N. East St. Lebanon, OH 45036



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