



Religion, Politics, Honor, Love and Fear

Is anyone ready for Wednesday, November 6 yet?

As the rancorous frenzy surrounding the upcoming election heats up, I've been chewing on these good words from 1 Peter 2:17: "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." What important words for us to remember and to obey, especially now! In a nation so divided, it's too easy to cling to our own talking points, or media spin, and demonize "them," whoever "they" are. So let's practice 1 Peter 2:17.

Honor all people. All means all. All means everyone. Those with whom we agree and those with whom we do not. Those whom we like and those whom we don't. When Peter says to honor everyone, he actually means everyone! Remember that Peter is writing to Christians who are NOT being honored by their neighbors. Infact, the opposite is happening. They are being tested and tried for their faith in Jesus. Yet, Peter admonishes followers of Jesus to honor everyone, because each person is made in the image of God. All people are worthy of honor and respect. This means that we prioritize people over politics. We honor the person even if we cannot agree with their political positions.

In our current politically polarized climate, it is so easy to discount or discredit another person or political figure. We can assassinate their character while knowing next to nothing about them. That is not honor. As Christians, out of reverence for Christ, we honor all people.

Love the brotherhood. Love. Love God's people. Now I don't have to tell you that you will not find political unanimity among followers of Jesus. You will find people with strident political views of many types. Over the last few weeks I have heard the following rhetorical question asked by two Christians in my presence, but filling in the blank at the end with different presidential candidates: "How can someone who follows the Lord vote for _____?" People have reasons for their views, but, regardless of their political affiliations, if they are in Christ, they are your brother and sister. Therefore, we love and love and love. And then we love some more. Love holds us together.

As followers of Jesus, we must choose a different way than the bloodsport of the world! We must love one another regardless of our current political moment. What would happen if we made a commitment that our political opinions ran a distant second to our love for one another? I think Jesus would be glorified and the church would model real, sacrificial love to a watching world.

In Colossians 3:8, after the Apostle Paul admonishes the church to put away all "anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth," he then exhorts them to "put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And, above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:12-14). Love the brotherhood.

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Fear God. God is king. God is in control. God is ruler. God is the judge. In our country, we are free to vote our consciences. Make sure to bring your conscience under the authority of God's Word and Spirit, fearing God above all else. Here are some helpful questions to ask ourselves when thinking about this election (from [4 Questions Before Election Day](#), Jason Seville, thegospelcoalition.org, November 1, 2020):

1. Do you expect the president to satisfy something for you that you believe Jesus fails to satisfy?
2. Do you get more worked up when someone speaks ill of your candidate than when someone speaks ill of Christ?
3. Do you feel more fundamentally aligned with a non-Christian who aligns with your political party than with a church member who votes differently from you?
4. Will it be impossible for you to experience the outcome of the election without being overly elated and euphoric if your candidate wins, or utterly devastated and destroyed if they lose?

By all means, vote your conscience. Just remember who is really in control and give glory to him alone.

Honor the emperor. Do you know who the emperor was when Peter wrote? Nero. Do you know anything about Nero? He was an awful person. There is a high probability that he set fire to Rome and then scapegoated the Christians for it in order to make

himself look good. He tried to root out Christianity by terrorizing the church. He arrested and tortured as many Roman Christians that he could find. Then executed them publicly through crucifixion, throwing them to wild beasts in the arena, and even using some believers as human torches set ablaze to illuminate his gardens. Nero was not a great guy.

Yet here Peter tells Christ-followers to honor a ruthless, brutal, pagan emperor, not necessarily because he is honorable, but because by doing so they honor the One who is sovereign even over him. We honor the God who makes nations rise and fall and appoints their rulers. Don't forget what the apostle Paul writes in Romans 13:1, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

No matter the outcome of the elections in November, we are called to honor our leaders out of reverence for the Lord God Almighty.

Friends, as we move through these next weeks, may we remember that God is sovereign, and, since he is, we are free to vote for our candidate, honor all people, love God's people and to fear God above all.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Jeff



Sanctuary & Ark 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.

Unpacking the Lingo

by Stephanie Poblenz

I have had many conversations with parents and grandparents in the hallways of our church where they have expressed a desire to just understand where their child or grandchild is coming from. They want to connect with their loved one and understand the world they are living in. However, it sometimes can feel like adults and kids are speaking different languages! One resource I often point parents to is the Axis group. Axis is a non-profit, Christian resource that breaks down weekly culture moments within the younger generation's spheres and explains it to those hoping to connect with their children. The wonderful addition to these already helpful bite-sized summaries are the included discussion questions they provide to help engage your child in the subject further to have biblically based conversations about things happening in their lives. Below is an example of what types of topics and conversations the Axis group is helping parents foster with their children. If you would

like more information about Axis or other resources to help you connect with your child or grandchild, please reach out! The Family Ministry Team and I would love to help you!

Time to Waste (Taken from the Weekly Translator, Axis Sept. 20, 2024)

What it is: Social psychologist and author Jonathan Haidt partnered with the Harris Poll firm to try to capture what Gen Z really thinks about social media.

What it shows: The nationwide poll of over a thousand 18-27 year-olds asked “Do you wish TikTok was never invented” (47% said yes) and also posed questions about what steps they’re willing to take to limit their social media use. Maybe most eye-opening were the questions about time spent on these apps—over 60% said they spend over 4 hours a day on social media, and almost a quarter said they spend over 7 hours a day. The poll also captures

some of the complexity of Gen Z’s feeling toward social media, with many saying that it’s overall a negative thing for society (and children) but a positive thing for themselves as individuals.

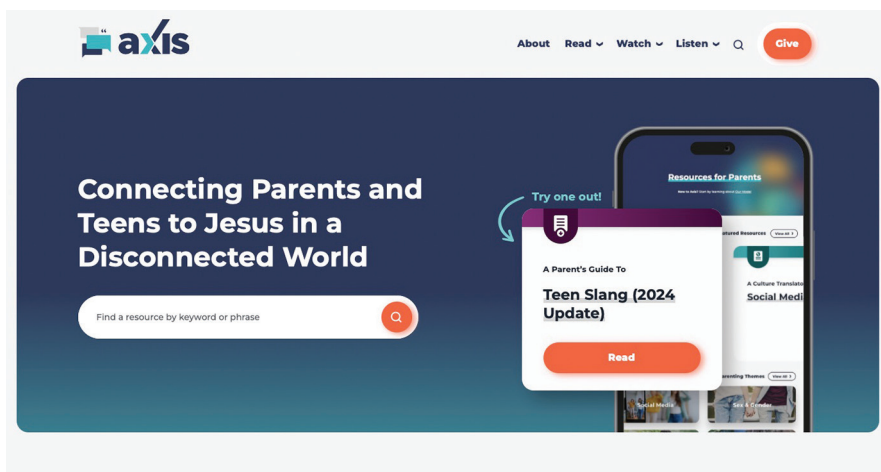
Let’s translate this one further...

Jonathan Haidt begins his commentary on the poll for the New York Times by remarking how “astounding” the average amount of time Gen Z is spending on social media is. But what’s maybe more surprising is the way these 18-27 year-olds describe how they would parent the upcoming generation. In the poll, 45% said they would not give a student a phone before they reached high school, and right under 60% support the idea of parents limiting smartphone usage before high school age.

It’s no secret that one of the most important decisions for modern parents is if and when to give their kids their first smartphone and the decisions about social media that come along with it. Social media platforms like TikTok and Snapchat have very serious downsides that many parents (and, apparently, teens) look at with fear and trepidation.

Parents should (and do) have the final say about their teen’s social media use. But it’s also fertile ground for parents to enter into conversations with said teens about patience, self-control, and

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integrity. While it might be easy to lament and wish for “simpler” days before smartphones and social media, Solomon in Ecclesiastes might argue this isn’t actually a healthy perspective.

In his wisdom, Solomon knew that the past has forever passed, the future is forever coming, and the present is as fleeting as breath on our lips. The tension for the modern parent is twofold. They have to help students navigate a world where presence on social media feels like a borderline social requirement. But they also have to maintain a sober estimation of the vacuum of time that social media can become for young hearts and minds—the way these platforms can diminish their tomorrow. Here are three questions to spark conversation with your teens:

Continue the conversation:

- What are some differences you see between the ways adults and teens use their smartphones?
- What do you think is the right age for someone to get a smartphone?
- What do you think is a healthy amount of time to spend on social media each day?

SPOOFING – Do you know who is sending you a text message or email?

If you saw our congregational email, you know that some of our church family received a text from what appeared to come from either Pastor Jeff or Pastor Stephanie. When you receive a text or email, here are some questions to ask yourself to determine if it is legitimate:

1. Is this the person’s cell phone number or email address? If you are not sure, call the church office. Please keep in mind that sometimes phone numbers and email addresses can be spoofed to look exactly like the person they are pretending to be – so this is just one way to check the validity.
2. Is this how this person would speak to me in a text or email?
3. Are they asking me not to call them and only reply via text or email?
4. Are they asking for gift cards?
5. Are they claiming it is urgent and you must act now?

Other things to keep in mind:

1. Our staff will never ask you individually for gift cards.
2. Our staff will never ask you individually for monetary help.
3. Our staff will never ask you individually for personal information.
4. Our staff will never contact you via social media.

Best practices:

1. Never give your personal information to anyone who calls, texts or emails.
2. If you receive a call from any organization you deal with – hang up and call them back on a number you know is associated with that organization.

It's Time You Haven't Missed It

LPC WOMENS RETREAT 2024 - OCTOBER 19TH

You won't want to miss this time together with all the ladies of LPC.

Stephanie Poblenz is our speaker this year.

All women are welcome, invite your friend, neighbor, sister, mom or daughter. High school young ladies and women are all welcome. Together we will experience a day of fun, fellowship and Christian learning. Our retreat this year will be at the church as it was last year. The cost is \$25 and includes breakfast and lunch. We will have an optional game night again in Fellowship Hall with pizza and yes, more snacks that evening if you would like to stay.



Sign-ups begin Sunday September 29 and will end October 13th.

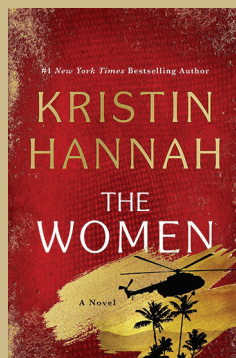
LPC BOOK CLUB | OCTOBER 10

7:00 p.m. | Room 311

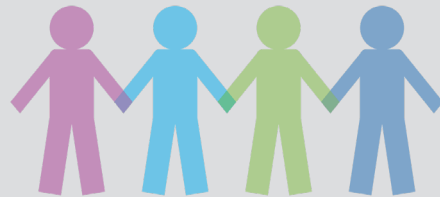
The Women by Kristin Hannah

In 1965, the world is changing. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, 20-year-old Francis "Frankie" McGrath joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

The Women is the story of Frankie's experience in war and the challenges of coming home. Her story shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten.



Questions? Contact Nina Dorsch
at don.nina.dorsch@gmail.com



Get **CONNECTED**
at LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING OUR
WEEKLY UPDATE EMAILS OR
OUR CALLS ABOUT IMMEDIATE
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
SHERRY SHOWALTER AT ADMIN@
LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG AND
WE WILL GET YOU ADDED TO OUR
CONGREGATIONAL LISTS.

We are God's Superstars!

by Tracy Untener

WNT Kids, Rockin' Center Stage - On Tour with Jesus, is off to a great start! In just the first couple of weeks, we covered our first rock-solid truth: We are special to God, His Superstars, fearfully and wonderfully made in His image. God wants to take us on tour and show us the wonderful plans He has for each of our lives.

We started off by discussing whether we'd have liked to be an Egyptian, with all their wealth and prosperity, or an Israelite, enslaved and poor. At first the kids thought that the Egyptians had it made, but then they learned about how God freed His people and blessed them. Although the Egyptians had riches and many resources, they did not acknowledge God or live for Him. The Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians and, even though their lives were made difficult, they believed in God and obeyed Him. The children learned that following God may not be popular or easy, but

it is worth it. God always remembers His people and He has good plans for them.

The Israelites put their whole identity in God and we should too. The kids' learned that we are His and, as our Fifth and Sixth graders concluded, we are created by God, known by God, and loved by God. That is all that really matters. If we put our identity in God, our loving Father, then we will never be disappointed, no matter what life brings our way.







CANDY HUNT

**SEARCH FOR THE
LOST CANDY**

KIDS CAN COME TO THE CHURCH AND FOLLOW A MAP THAT LEADS THEM TO VARIOUS ADVENTURE 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 OR 513-932-2751.**

OCT. 26 • 4-5:30PM
123 N EAST ST. LEBANON. OH



SAVE-THE-DATE
**Family Advent Wreath
Making & Soup Supper**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
5:30 – 7 p.m. in the Ark

**Come and enjoy making an
advent wreath with your family.
Live greens, candles, and all
supplies provided.**

How does your garden grow?

Do you ever think that you are someone who is making a big impact on the Kingdom of God? No? I think most of us don't. We tend to think that those who are making a big impact are pastors, evangelists (like Billy Graham), scholars, or missionaries. Well, think again!

It's fun to look into your family genealogy. But, have you ever thought about your spiritual genealogy? Somewhere along the way people shared the gospel and you were introduced to it. Someone planted a seed, someone watered that seed, and God made it grow.

You have a sphere of influence – a garden where the gospel can grow!

You can start out by planting some seeds – every time you go out of your way to help someone, especially if they know you are inspired to love by God's love, you are planting seeds. Every time you point someone to God, even in a very small way, like noticing the beauty of creation – you are planting seeds.

Sometimes you might get the chance to water seeds that have already been planted by encouraging and strengthening someone with a scripture or a card, a visit or a listening ear.

We started a little challenge for ourselves at our Evangelism group. We are making it a point to talk to someone we have never met on Sunday mornings at church. Sometimes they are new people and we are making them feel welcomed. Sometimes they've been attending for years, but we just haven't ever met them. But who knows? Maybe God led us to them because they needed some encouragement that day. Talking to people and asking them about themselves is a great way to plant seeds or water them. This applies to conversations outside of church as well.

I bet you are having a bigger impact on the Kingdom of God than you thought. In fact, all these small things that you are doing are probably having a HUGE impact on the Kingdom of God. What can God do with our little garden? I think he's pretty good at making gardens grow!

Join us in our challenge to ourselves. Talk to someone you've never met this Sunday!

Karen Kilpatrick
Terri Catanzaro



BREAKFAST AT THE TRACK KITCHEN WITH THE MISSIONARIES FROM KENYA

Vintage in Today's Culture: From Mindless Consumption to Mindful Critique or How to Follow God Without Becoming Amish

by Andrew Johnson

We are excited to announce the start of a new series in our Vintage Family Sunday School class, where students and parents will gather to explore the crucial cultural issues of our time from a Christian perspective. Beginning September 29 and continuing through most of the fall semester, we'll be diving into key topics such as worldview, media, advertising, technology, and cultural trends, all through the lens of Scripture.

In a world saturated with media and information, it's easy to fall into the habit of mindless consumption—passively absorbing the messages, values, and worldviews presented through entertainment, social media, and advertising without giving them much thought. This series will help families move from being mindless consumers to practicing mindful critique—carefully and thoughtfully evaluating the media we engage with, discerning its impact, and aligning our lives with biblical truth.

Together, we will discuss how to filter the constant stream of media through a Christian worldview, celebrating what is good and rejecting what pulls us away from God's truth. Our goal is to equip both parents and teens with the tools to engage responsibly with media and culture, making choices that honor God and reflect His values in our daily lives. By learning to evaluate the messages we receive critically, we protect our hearts and minds from being unknowingly shaped by the world.

This series will provide a unique opportunity for parents and teens to come together, share insights, and learn from one another in a supportive environment. As we tackle the challenges of living in a media-driven world, we'll explore practical ways to live faithfully as followers of Christ while navigating cultural trends that influence how we think, feel, and act. We can't avoid the call of Jesus for us to be "in the world but not of the world" and so we can't avoid exposure to the culture all around us. When should we participate in culture? When should we abstain? These are questions we will walk through as we work out our discernment muscles together! During this series we will look at particular "media artifacts" of pop culture, use them to practice and train ourselves to move to a place of informed discernment.

We invite our teens, their parents and anyone interested to join us on this journey of faith and growth. Mark your calendars for September 29 at 9:45 a.m. (October 6 at 9:00 a.m. for the combined service) in the Encounter Room, and come prepared to engage in meaningful conversations that will help us live intentionally in today's fast-paced world.

For more information, please contact Andrew. We look forward to seeing you there as we move from mindless consumption to mindful critique together!





ENCOUNTER LEADERS SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AT THE HOMECOMING PARADE



STUDENTS IN PRAYER



MICAH & SAM



STUDENT LEADERSHIP



ENCOUNTER AT DAIRY QUEEN



Thank You

Thank you to the people who provided dinner and supplies, dinner hosts, and overnight hosts to our three Family Promise families the week of Sept. 15: Becky Creech, Vicki Dalzelle, Colleen Ensing, Linda Fulmer, Ellen McIntosh, Evelyn Osborne, Christina Pierett, Jamie Strouse, Lauren Yankoff, WNT cooks, Marge Cunningham, Jim & Trish Garrett, Kathy Hand, Tina Isbell, Donna & Dick Kaufman, Karen Kilpatrick, Connie Purdum, Paulette Rhinehart, Cathy Riggan, Joanie Rollins, Harriet Smith, Debbie Snider, Ron & Barbara Warnke, Roseann & Jeff Walker, Terri, Jack & Noah Catanzaro. Know that your meals, supplies, and hospitality were so appreciated by the families.

LPC Leadership Team



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

Gayle Newby for creating the “Shining for Jesus” photo-op for WNT Kids. She is so talented! It looks amazing!

Rick Oliver for plumbing work throughout the church.

Dave & Patty Kuyper for electrical work throughout the church.

Phil Craig, Del Everett, Neil Tunison (week 1); the **Building & Grounds Crew** (week 2); **Gary Ensing** (week 3); and **Session** (week 4) for setting up chairs in the Ark for second service.

Deacon Visitation Team Spotlight



AMY SCHNEIDER VISITS NEVA TOSH



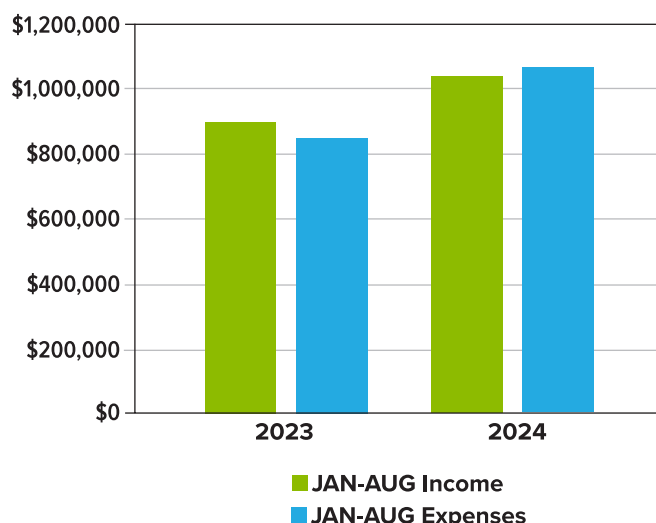
NINA DORSCH VISITS TALITHA COLSTON

Session Notes

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

- Approved Anna Bracey for membership.
- Approved holding one combined service on October 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ark with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- Approved Communion at Women’s Retreat on Saturday, October 19, 2024.
- Approved Kirby Fleischer wedding on October 24, 2024/ Rev. Peter Larson Officiating.
- Approved hiring Courtney Williams as Financial Secretary.
- Approved placing the Playschool under the supervision of the Preschool.
- LPC 2023 Minutes were approved with no exceptions from Midwest Presbytery.
- LPC 2023 Audit Report was received with no exceptions.
- ReachOut Team will be under Missions Team starting in 2025.

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.



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.

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 6

COMMUNION SUNDAY

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

Jesus Is the Son of Man

Mark 2:1-12

Sunday, October 13

Jesus Is the Bridegroom

Mark 2:13-22

Sunday, October 20

Jesus Is Lord of All

Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, October 27

The Madman

Mark 3:7-12, 20-35



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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

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