Chronicle

MARCH 2025



The Power of the Cross

Over the years of ministry and mission travels I have accumulated a small collection of crosses from various places around the world. Each is wonderfully different...

An olive wood Jerusalem cross from Bethlehem
A metal celtic cross from Ireland
A stained glass Roman cross from Illinois
A large, vibrant, multicolored cross depicting the nativity of Jesus from El Salvador
A floral, pained, ceramic cross from Mexico

No matter the style or artist, the material or culture, each cross, though extremely different, speaks to one central truth: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

A cross fabricated from an oil barrel in Haiti

The cross declares salvation!

The cross speaks of the wondrous and deep love of God that he poured out upon sinful people through the sacrifice of Jesus, his Son and our Savior.

The cross is the epicenter, the crux, of God's love.

This Lent we are going to take a sustained look at the cross of Christ in a sermon series entitled, The Power of the Cross. This series is designed for us to listen to what the cross declares-- the depth of the love of God.

Not only does the cross speak, but the cross also accomplishes a number of things on our behalf. At the cross, we are loved, we are covered in the righteousness of Jesus, we are saved from God's wrath, we are reconciled to him, we are enveloped by grace, and we are given victory over all evil powers. The cross does all these things in the life of every believer!

As the final chorus of the song The Power of the Cross proclaims,

This, the power of the cross Son of God, slain for us What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

As we look to the cross, let us always remember that it is not the cross but the One who hung upon it and accomplished salvation and life for us. The cross, after all, is shorthand for the work of Jesus.

Reflecting on such a great salvation, the great reformer John Calvin writes,

"We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ...

If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is "of him" [I Cor. 1:30].

If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in his anointing.

If we seek strength, it lies in his dominion; if purity, in his conception; if gentleness, it appears in his birth. For by his birth he was made like us in all respects [Geb. 2:17] that he might learn to feel our pain [cf. Heb. 5:2].

If we seek redemption, it lies in his passion;

if acquittal, in his condemnation;

if remission of the curse, in his cross [Gal. 3:13];

if satisfaction, in his sacrifice;

if purification, in his blood;

if reconciliation, in his descent into hell;

if mortification of the flesh, in his tomb;

if newness of life, in his resurrection; if immortality, in the same;

if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in his entrance into heaven;

if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in his Kingdom;

if untroubled expectation of judgment, in the power given to him to judge.

In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other." (John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion (1559), 2.16.19.)
This Lent, may we drink deeply from the fountain of Christ and his work on the cross!

For His Glory and Our Good, Pastor Jeff

Picture Directory Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the
Picture Directory has been delayed. We
expect to have the Directory delivered by
the beginning of April. Universal Church
Directories and the Directory Committee would like to thank you for the patience and grace you have shown. We
are all working hard to get your directory
into your hands as quickly as possible.

Sanctuary & Ark FLOWERS

Would you like to honor a special occasion, 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.



Each year, Ash Wednesday kicks off the Lenten season. Historically, Lent has provided an opportunity for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for Easter by drawing near to God through prayer and fasting. Both practices help us focus on God by eliminating distractions that may cloud our ability to connect with the Lord.

Fasting can be a controversial topic for some; however, when done correctly, the practice of fasting from something during Lent can be a reminder to turn our attention to God during those times when our hearts desire something else. Examples of things to fast from include social media, shopping for fun, or a type of food. I even had a mentor who fasted from the taste of sweet. In his words, to be able to break that fast on Easter morning reminds him each year of how sweet Jesus' resurrection is for us all. The goal of fasting is that every time we desire that which we have given up, we are called to a time of prayer. We are reminded of our utter reliance on God in all our human weaknesses. Could the practice of fasting from something be helpful to you this year?

The second practice to really lean into during Lent is prayer. Prayer is always the life source of our relationship with God. The Lenten season is the perfect time to pick up new prayer practices. One easy way to kick start this is to join us on Sunday evenings every week during Lent starting March 9th. Each Sunday, we will be in the Sanctuary to bring our cares, concerns, joys, and pain before the Lord. In addition to our Sunday evening times of prayer, try adding in a new weekly prayer time! Maybe set an alarm on your phone to remind you to thank God for the blessings of that day. Pick up a new devotional or try reading through a book of the Bible in 40 days while journaling insights. There are many different options; the important thing is that your priority is connecting with God.

The goal of Lenten practices is not another task to check off our lists but resources to help us focus on the sacrifice of the cross and the beauty of the resurrection. I pray that as we engage in these Spiritual Disciplines as a church, we will all experience God's blessings and grace.



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.

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In Tune with God

by Cristy Doria



The greatest connection and relationship we can ever have is the one with our Lord. Music and worship serve as a powerful vehicle of expression and direct communication with Him. When our lives are in total agreement and alignment with Christ and His Word, we should be able to experience the sounds of the most beautiful piece of music ever written.

God has made music part of his creation. For example, when He made all things, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" Job 38:7. The word of God describes heaven as a place of unceasing praise, resounding with songs of worship to God and the Lamb. (Revelation 4:9-11; 5:9-13).

Music can touch and move us with a power that goes beyond words or any other type of communication. Music can elevate us to the very presence of God, where angels also worship Him with songs. To be in tune with God means that we bring our music not only to enhance and express our worship experience, but also to place ourselves in accord with the Almighty.

Music has become a powerful tool that surrounds us at every moment of the day. We hear music at stores, airports, restaurants, driving, and even studying and working.

Do you have a favorite song? Maybe there is a tune that lifts you when you are going through difficult times or a lyric that resonates with your life and personal situation.

Music is part of our worship experience and has great power. It can draw us in, evoke emotions, bring memories, relieve stress, and inspire change. It speaks to us, sometimes with or without words, and through it, God speaks to us as well. It can deepen our connection with God, foster community, and be an effective instrument for outreach.

My prayer is that each of us can recognize God's song, His voice speaking to us. Whether we hear it through music, a friend, a prayer, a sermon, or His Word, may we follow God's leading in the melody He writes for our lives. May we always strive to be in tune with God.

JOIN OUR TEAM! WE NEED AUDIOVISUAL VOLUNTEERS!

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. IT IS FUN AND EASY! IF YOU CAN PUSH A BUTTON, YOU CAN JOIN THE TEAM! CONSIDER JOINING THE AV CREW TODAY! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 513-932-2751.



Expanding Leadership Development in Encounter Student Ministries

by Andrew Johnson

This year, Encounter Student Ministries had the incredible opportunity to expand our leadership development efforts at Lebanon Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the ongoing support of our church leadership, we were able to send five of our dedicated leaders to the Reformed Youth Ministry (RYM) Youth Leader Training in Nashville. Our team included: Andrew Johnson (Student Ministry Director), Meg Elliott (Student Ministry Assistant), Daniel Frank, Grace Boyer, and Andrew Bicknell.



Leadership development is a core part of our ministry and discipleship efforts. At Encounter, we are intentional about cultivating the next generation of spiritual leaders. We invite high school juniors and seniors to serve as peer leaders to 7th-10th graders, giving them opportunities to grow in their faith and leadership abilities. It's a joy to watch them step into these roles and see how they mature spiritually over time, building a foundation for lifelong ministry.

But leadership development doesn't stop there. Many of our young adult leaders have continued growing beyond their initial student leadership roles, stepping into deeper areas of ministry. We are blessed to have college students and young adults, many of whom came up through Encounter, now serving in student ministries at LPC. These leaders are not only shaping the lives of

students in our church today but also preparing for future service in the broader church.

RYM Youth Leader Training is the natural next step in our leadership pathway. While our peer leadership program helps students develop a heart for discipleship and gain hands-on ministry experience, RYM training equips them with a broader theological foundation, a deeper understanding of ministry philosophy, and practical tools to lead effectively. Attending RYM YLT allows our leaders to continue their growth by learning from experienced ministry leaders and being trained in principles that will shape their future service in the church.

This year's training in Nashville was not just a moment of growth for the individuals who attended, but an investment in the future of our entire ministry. The tools, wisdom, and encouragement gained at RYM will help shape our leaders as they continue to guide and disciple the students entrusted to us. We are incredibly thankful for the church's commitment to supporting the development of our leaders and empowering them to grow in their roles.



We believe that this investment in leadership will bear fruit not only in the lives of those who serve but in the entire congregation as these leaders continue to disciple the next generation. Thank you for your continued support and belief in the transformative power of investing in our young leaders.

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WNT Kids – Superheroes on Mission!

by Tracy Untener

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

The WNT Kids have completed their first mission night as they learned what it means to be a superhero for God. We had an awesome night preparing good things to bless others.

Our preschool and kindergarten class chose to use their first mission night to bless the LPC staff. They assembled love and appreciation bags to encourage and thank the staff for all that they do to love others. They surprised many of them with these gifts at WNT that very night. Everyone felt so blessed by these little angelic deliveries!

The first and second-grade class read the story of the paralyzed man and the four good friends who helped lower him through a roof so he could see Jesus and be healed. They discussed how the four men never gave up and put a lot of effort into helping their friend. This was a great example of serving as one of God's superheroes. They decided to make fun cards, which included a tea bag, for our Deacons to give to sick or shut-in people when visiting.

What did our third and fourth graders do? They discussed how we should always be using the talents and abilities that God gives us to help others as superheroes would, and what this might look like in our world today. Wanting to do something for other kids like themselves, they saw that LPC was going to be involved in serving with Family Promise in late February, so they chose to make goodie bags for the kids who would be there. These bags included games, candy, fidgets, play dough, and a small stuffie. The gift also included tic-tac-toe games that the kids made using felt. They even took time to decorate the goodie bags with encouraging phrases and Bible verses.

Finally, our Engage56 class chose to make encouragement cards and thank you cards for family members, teachers, and other significant people who have made an impact in their lives. They put great care into the cards and what they wanted to say, even making some that popped out! The kids were excited to take their cards home to hand deliver or mail.

The kids loved flexing their superhero God muscles through acts of kindness and service. They got a taste of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and their hope is that everyone they reached out to would feel encouraged and blessed.





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The Good News

Terri Catanzaro & Karen Kilpatrick



I just had new flooring put in my utility room. When the floor installer showed up, he was bringing all his tools in and asked if it was okay if he listened to "his preachers" while he worked. Of course, I was very glad for him to do that, and when he told me who he was listening to, I realized he was listening to WFCJ (93.7) radio. It was a pleasure listening to Nancy Wolgemuth, John MacArthur, Charles Stanley, and Chuck Swindoll. I wonder how many homes he has worked in that heard these messages for the first time? He is using his job as a floor installer to bring the Gospel into people's homes. It reminded me of my friend, Ed Smith. I'm sure many of you remember his job as a heating/air-conditioning tech was his ministry. He used his time in people's homes to reach out to them in various ways – always noticing their circumstances and bringing the light of Jesus into their lives in some way.

It got me thinking about what Peter instructs us to do in 1 Peter 3:15 "...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." We talk a lot about reaching out in love to those who don't yet know Jesus by noticing, listening, serving, and asking questions – and rightly so. But my hope is that somewhere along the way, I will be able to share the Gospel with them. I need to be ready to share what Christianity is all about in a concise way. That "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15:3-4) and he conquered death so that we could be with Him eternally. I also need to be able to explain it in more depth. There are a couple of easy presentations that can be used. One is called the Bridge to Life and the other is called the 3 Circles presentation. (See below for videos using QR codes.)

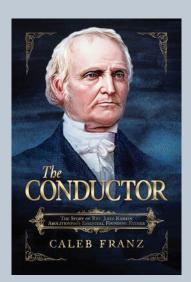
I want to learn these by heart so that when I get the opportunity to tell someone, I will be ready to make a defense for the reason for my hope.

BRIDGE TO LIFE





LPC BOOK CLUB MARCH 13



The LPC Book Club will meet on March 13 in Room 311 to discuss *The Conductor* by Caleb Franz, a biography of Presbyterian pastor Ren. John Rankin. Rankin was a prominent abolitionist from the day he came to pastor a church in Ripley, OH, through the Civil War and on to the effort to ensure the vote for freed slaves. His writings, based on biblical teachings, influenced many. His home in Ripley became a beacon on a hill in the Underground Railroad. *Questions?*

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

HOPE MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP TO KENYA

Join our new friend, Michael Panther, as we share the hope of Jesus through the gift of wheelchairs with the disabled of Kenya. We will serve together with Kenyan Christians and other believers from the US on an Outreach Team as we engage in this work.

Dates: October 22 - November 3, 2025

Team Lead: Pastor Jeff

Cost: \$3500 all-inclusive (a \$500 non-refundable deposit will be required once approved for the trip)

Other Information:

- Must be 18 years or older to join the Outreach Team
- Must have a Valid Passport with at least two blank pages and six months validity from the trip dates.
- Must be willing to have a background check and sign the HMI volunteer consent form.
- Must participate in pre-trip weekly training meetings held over Zoom. These meetings are held weekly beginning 8 weeks prior to travel.

Two Additional Opportunities on This Trip:

The Nairobi Marathon. On October 26, Hope Mobility will have a team racing in the Nairobi Marathon Races alongside Michael. Currently, the HMI team has 3-4 runners, but they would love to increase that number. Anyone interested in the outreach team who would also like to participate in either a marathon, half marathon, or 10K and raise support for pediatric wheelchairs is welcome to join the marathon team! This is an incredible opportunity to raise support for the very pediatric wheelchairs we will be giving to beneficiaries on the trip. There are additional fundraising opportunities for those par-



ticipating in the Nairobi Marathon Races.

St. Andrew Parish. We are working on plans to connect with our brothers and sisters at St. Andrew Parish. While these plans are still emerging, there may be an extension option for any team member who may wish to see the progress of the construction project in Ilmamen. LPC is helping to fund a new church there.

Here's how you can sign up to participate or to inquire for more information:

- Contact Pastor Jeff at jeff@lebanonpresbyterian.org.
- Sign up on the clipboard at the Information Table starting March 2, 2025.

Sign-up Deadline is April 1, 2025.

For more information on the ministry of Hope Mobility International, please visit www.hopemobility.



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HURRICANE HELENE MISSION

by Don Bohl

On Sunday, December 14, nine men, led by Pastor Jeff, traveled to the Irwin, TN, area to help homeowners whose housing had been destroyed by Hurricane Helene flood waters. We were grateful for the prayers and well wishes of many as we departed LPC. Our housing and accommodations were provided by an Appalachian Christian Camp near Unicoi, TN. Our work plans and meals were provided by the Next Step Storm recovery organization that we partnered with on this mission.



Our team had seen news reports and videos of the destruction caused by Helene's flooding of rivers and streams in the North Carolina and Tennessee mountains and had a strong desire to help in some way. As we traveled roads along the Nolichucky River, we saw where whole houses had been swept away; debris from homes, cars, outbuildings, etc. was embedded everywhere in sand and soil along the riverbank. We saw firsthand and up close the devastating disruption to people's lives and property. Seeing this in person brought an emotional and caring response for those impacted.



We were assigned three work sites the owners of which were Matthew, Jerry, and a grandmother named Jackie. Despite their losses, as we began to work with them, we saw glimpses of hope for rebuilding and reclaiming their lives. Matthew's house, built by his grandfather 100 years ago, was not in good condition before the flood, yet his will to stay there was strong. The LPC team completely renovated his bathroom which was damaged. For Jerry, we winterized an RV he was temporarily living in after his house was destroyed. We winterized an RV for Grandmother Jackie; we also removed dirt and mud from the lower level of her building that had been completely flooded. We provided exterior siding, windows and a door for this structure that Jackie, her grandson and daughter want to return to.



As work began, it was apparent that our purpose was more than repair and construction. These people had been through traumatic events and needed to talk about the destruction and its effects on their lives. Our team realized this was a major purpose of why we were there. As Jackie talked with us about her situation and her family, we knew she was an amazing woman of faith. In fact, Jackie asked to pray with us before we left at the week's end. With these examples of HOPE, we could see God's hand beginning the massive recovery needed.

LPC TEAM: Pastor Jeff Moore, Andrew Johnson, Matthew Moore, Jeff Isbel, Andrew Bicknell, Larry Bracey, Don Bohl, Don Earnhart, Andrew Harbort

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF TRIP

VALLEY HOPE CHURCH SWANNANOA, NC

Dates: April 21-26, 2025 **Team Lead:** Dan Grimwood

Sign-up Deadline: Sunday, March 23, 2025

Cost: \$337.50 for lodging plus meals

Lodging: Christmount Conference Center, Black Mountain, NC

Total Spots: 4
Remaining Spots: 2



The purpose of this trip is to work with our brothers and sisters at Valley Hope Church (EPC) in Swannanoa, NC, who are ministering to their neighbors who have been devastated by the flooding resulting from Hurricane Helene. We will know what kind of work we will do closer to the trip time. Skilled workers are requested for this trip.

Partial scholarships from our LPC Mission Committee may be available.

You can sign up two ways:

- Contact Dan Grimwood at kdgrim32@aol.com
- Sign up at the Information Table in the Narthex beginning Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Deacon Visitation Team Spotlight



REVA COCHRAN & PASTOR JEFF



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Thank You

We at Valley Hope Church have been moved by your generosity, which in turn has supported those who are facing extraordinary challenges in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

This has served as a poignant reminder to cherish the people and moments that truly matter in our lives.

What a privilege it is to serve. God, in the midst of this, is doing His work.

We continue our efforts. Thank you for being an integral part.

Serving Him, Pattiee Sibbett for Valley Hope

Dear LPC Family,

Our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Jeff for coming to Miami Valley Hospital on Saturday night (late) before church the next morning when Jim had his accident. For all his visits and prayers.

Special thanks to Ron Warncke for stepping up to an emergency call to teach Sunday School the next morning and for coming to the hospital that night to pray with us.

Special thanks to Sherry Showalter for all the extra efforts in helping our family set up for the visitation at LPC.

Special thanks to Cathy Riggin for providing the hospitality room for our family during visitation. Also, thanks to Nona McCauley and Teri Abbott for assisting Cathy.

Special thanks to the Deacons for the wonderfuly hot lunch they so lovingly prepared for our family members.

We thank God for all your thoughts and prayers, the food brought to us, the cards and the visits. God has richly blessed us through our LPC faithful servants.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The VanDeGrift Family

Dearest LPC Family,

Our sincere thanks to you during our loss of my husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Ron Kuntz.

We sincerely appreciate you, our Sunday School class, Deacons, and all who participated in Ron's services.

We thank you for the prayers and donations from our church family.

You truly are a church that "Loves People to Christ."

Your sister in Christ, Ginny Kuntz and the Kuntz Family

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 hardships in their lives that they have never 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 here in our Lebanon school district for children in need. We were able to provide toys for over 855 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 Flaig at 513-331-0045 for more information. We will be purchasing toys for December 2025 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



A BIG THANK YOU

With gratitude and thanksgiving, I express my appreciation to all the women who participated in the 2025 Quilt-A-

Thon. Their commitment and enthusiasm for the project are evident in the over-the-top results. Fifty-two quilts were completed to be donated to the following charities:

Family Promise of Warren County (IHN) North Carolina/East Tennessee Mission Trips Elizabeth's New Life Center

We thank the congregation for their support and prayers.

Serving Christ Together, Sharen Benner

Quilt-a-Thon Participants

Vicki Dalzelle, Co-chair

Becky Adams Leanna Bowers
Pam Fornshell Phoebe Ingraham
Fran Morris Audra Morrison
Gayle Newby Linda Oury

Beth Statt Rosie VanDeGrift
Rhea Vezmar Sue Waits
Louise Wolfer Mary Wortham
Jenny Wyrick Maxine Young

Coming Alongside

Women of Faith are invited to a luncheon for Coming Alongside.

March 18th • 11:30 a.m.

Kelly's Meat and Deli

1001 W Main St Suite D,

Lebanon, OH 45036

Tari Heath and Beth Gully are our hostesses this month.

Please RSVP to Tari

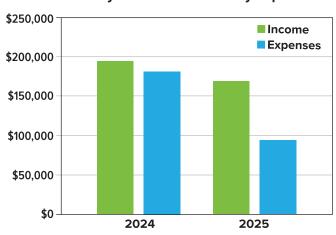
Heath by Mar. 16.

Text or call: 937-725-5665

Email: tari.heath@gmail.com

LPC Income vs. Expenses

January income and January 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

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Preaching Schedule

Sunday, March 2 | Sunday, March 16

COMMUNION SUNDAY **The Meaning of His Death**

Mark 10:32-45

Sunday, March 9

The Cross Shows the Depth of God's Love

The Cross Reveals God's Righteousness Romans 3:21-31

Sunday, March 23

The Cross Reveals Reconciliation

Philippians 2:1-11 2 Corinthians 5:11-21



TIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

Pastor Stephanie Poblenz

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pastor Jeff Moore

AOTZA9

Traditional 8:30 a.m. | Modern 11:00 a.m.

MORSHIP TIMES

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