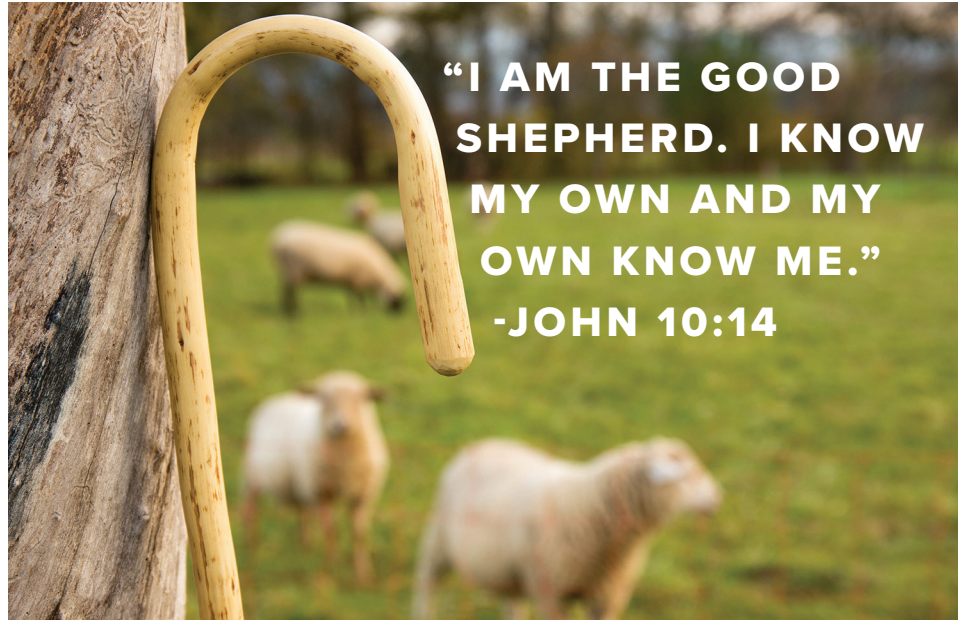


The Heart of the Shepherd

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows his flock. He knows where to pasture his flock. He knows what his flock needs, how to care for the flock, the places the flock must avoid, and how to lead the flock through tricky situations. He knows how to shepherd them. But that's not all. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows each individual sheep in his flock. Isn't that amazing? He knows us particularly and personally. Jesus knows the name of each one, and he speaks our names and beckons us to follow him.



Over the past 12 months, our session has been exploring the New Testament ministry of eldership, and we are convinced that the primary task of the elders is shepherding the people of God. In his farewell address to the elders of the church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul admonishes them to “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [elders], to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Do you see how valuable the people of God are to the Lord? The church is so precious that Jesus paid for her salvation with his blood! Since the church is this precious, her overseers are to represent Jesus in their manner of life for his glory and for the church's good.

Therefore, Paul reminds the elders of their responsibility to pay attention, first, to themselves. This is significant. Elders must watch, or mind, their relationship with Jesus. The elder must be progressing in his or her knowledge and love of Jesus in order to lead the flock to health. A shepherd can't lead a sheep to safe pasture if he's never been there himself! For an elder to fall into error, lethargy, or cynicism is to risk damage, not only to himself, but also to the sheep. So, elders must be vigilant in their own spiritual health, but that's not all.

Elders are to pay attention, secondly, to the precious flock of the Lord. Specifically, here Paul says to “care for the church of God.” Car-

ing means that elders must know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, and protect the sheep whom Jesus has placed under their care. In our context, this looks like knowing and encouraging every member and friend of our congregation. It means praying with and for every household. As attention is given to individual sheep, the health and vitality of the entire flock rise.

In light of these Biblical truths, the Session has developed and approved a shepherding plan which calls for contact with, eventually, every household of our congregation. The goal of our plan is: “the elders of Lebanon Presbyterian Church are committed to ongoing contact with every household in our con-

gregation for the sole purpose of serving and encouraging households in their spiritual journey toward glorifying and worshiping Jesus Christ.”

Your elders desire to know you and your family better, and for you to know them. We want you to know how we are growing in our relationship with Jesus, and we want to hear about your experience of him, too. We want to spur one another forward in our pursuit of Jesus.

The way we will do this is quite simple. The elders are forming a shepherding team that is composed of both active elders and elders who have served previously on the session. The goal is for

an elder to visit with every household at least twice a year. These visits are not intended to be high-pressure or intrusive. That’s not the spirit of them at all! Rather, these visits are for the purpose of sharing with one another about how we are growing in our love and devotion to Jesus. We want to know one another and make Jesus known among us.

In the coming months, you may expect a contact from one of our elders. When they call, please welcome them into your lives. This could mean a visit to your home, their home, the church, or any other mutually agreed upon location-- preferably around a table filled with food!

One final thought. You may wonder about the role of our pastors. Aren’t they our primary shepherds? Absolutely, we are! Pastor Stephanie and I will continue all our pastoral duties to our beloved flock. We will continue to visit, counsel, teach, and lead, just like before. This is addition, not subtraction. Now all the elders will be keeping a watch over the flock of God (1 Peter 5:2). All your elder-shepherds love you and want to know you better, so that we can enhance our care for one another in the Lord Jesus and enjoy our life together.

May All Glory Be to Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the Sheep!
Pastor Jeff

LPC BOOK CLUB MAY 8



On May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 311, we will discuss a historical novel about a little-known aspect of World War II, The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only African-American WACs to serve overseas during the conflict. In early 1945, this battalion crossed the North Atlantic to their post in England. Their orders were to process the mail sent to GIs from their loved ones back home, an estimated 17 million pieces. The women arrive to find mail stockpiled for over two years, many pieces in poor condition, the names illegible. Join us as we discover a unique WWII story! *Questions?*

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

Do 9th Graders Dream of Ten-Digit Wealth?

From *Axis.com Culture Translator* 1/31/25 | Stephanie Poblenz

A teacher on TikTok commented on the trend of freshman boys wanting to simply be “billionaires” when they grow up. While their experiences and observations can’t be inferred to all students around the world, teachers on TikTok often provide a valuable peek into teen life for parents and caring adults. This shift in who 15-year-old boys look up to makes sense when we consider how many billionaires in the United States have gained celebrity status and a kind of public prestige. Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jeff Bezos are three such billionaires who were all front and center at President Trump’s inauguration. It’s not hard to understand why young adults might see the influence, power, and wealth of these men and feel some desire to have those things as well. To them, money appears to promise cultural significance and freedom. But does it really offer these things?

As we parent and disciple the rising generation, we can’t avoid conversations about money and wealth. Luckily, the Bible has a lot to say about money, and Jesus himself seemed to revel in discussing the topic. However, maybe to the dismay of some of our 9th graders, Jesus didn’t seem to think money was worth centering a life around. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells His disciples not to focus on acquiring material wealth, or “stuff,” but instead to focus on “treasures in heaven.” He argues that instead of building up their own earthly kingdom, His disciples should focus on building up the Kingdom of Heaven.

But He goes beyond just that. In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is most concerned with His followers’ hearts, and the ways that wealth can steal their attention. Over 2,000 years later, the



warning remains the same: where our hearts go, we go. Even more than that, the things we desire slowly shape us into their image, whether good or bad. It’s why Jesus concludes by saying “no one can serve two masters.” Jesus is encouraging us to serve, follow, and embody the better thing.

If we spend our time focusing on material wealth and earthly success, we may very well get it, but Jesus argues that in all that striving and all that effort, we can miss out on the thing that really matters. This isn’t meant to be a gotcha moment for 9th graders who dream of wealth and prosperity—and let’s be honest, us adults in the 25th grade still wrestle with keeping those things in their proper places. Rather, it’s a chance for adults and teens alike to be reminded of the constant work of realigning our hearts and desires with God’s—to continually choose to be more like Jesus.

Good Stewards!

by Cristy Doria

“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



trusted to you, manage them for the glory of God.

The parable of the talents reminds us that we have all received gifts or abilities to contribute to this life by serving God and His people. What we do with the talents we receive will have powerful effects on our relationship with God and others.

One of the qualities I enjoy the most about God is His breathtaking creativity. A reflection of this is the many ways He provided us to give Him praise and honor.

In her book “Worship,” Rosalie Zinke states that “worship isn’t just a physical act such as kneeling to pray. Rather, it’s a heart that loves and reveres God; a heart that has been humbled before a great and powerful Creator. It’s a heart that has been broken on Calvary, consecrated to death to self, and committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.”

How can we worship God in a way that glorifies His name? Worshipping God is giving the best of what we have: the best of our talents, of our resources, and of our time. This means that we worship God not only when, on our knees, we recognize His greatness and majesty, but also when we use the talents, He Himself has given us to glorify His name.

What talents has God given you? Is it leadership? Eloquence? Singing? Playing an instrument? Organization? Prayer? Service? Whichever talents God has en-

Christ has given us something valuable; He expects a return. He wants you to return it to Him in a better state than when He gave it to you. That is our duty.

Our Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we want to give You the best of our talents, our resources, and our time. You deserve this and so much more!

Would you like to use your musical talents to serve the Lord? We’d love for you to consider joining our music groups. We are always happy to connect with you and give you more information.



The Boiler Room

by Pastor Jeff

I've heard it said, *when we work, we work; but when we pray, God works.*

The story goes that several young college students spent a Sunday in London. At some point, they decided to visit Charles Spurgeon's church to hear him preach. They arrived before the doors opened, so they waited outside the church. Eventually, a man greeted them, saying, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the boiler room of this church?" It was in the middle of hot July, so they weren't that excited to visit the "boiler room", but they didn't want to offend the man, so they joined him on the tour.

The young men were guided downstairs, and they came to a door where their guide slowly and quietly opened the door as he whispered, "This is our boiler room."

The young college students were overwhelmed with what they saw! Seven hundred people bowed, praying for the church service that was about to start in the auditorium above. Their guide gently closed the door and then introduced himself. It was Charles Spurgeon himself.

Spurgeon had a powerful preaching ministry because his church had a genuine reliance on prayer to provide the power necessary to reach, teach, and train souls for Jesus Christ!

LPC is a praying church. We believe in the power of prayer. We know that when we post on the prayer chain or share a prayer concern in a class, our brothers and sisters knock on the door of God's throne room on our behalf. We lift one another up before the Lord in many ways. We know that our Father answers the prayers of his children.

Knowing this, we are expanding our prayer offerings by adding Boiler Room Prayer to our ministry. Simply put, a team will gather in the prayer room on the main level during each worship service to pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's people through the preaching of the Word.

Is this something the Lord might be calling you to do?

Would you intercede for the Lord's ministry among brothers and sisters at the other service?

Are you homebound and able to pray during one of the service times?

If so, please be in contact with Joyce Palmer, who is coordinating this effort. I know she would love to get you on the schedule and give you prayer tips and prompts about how to proceed prayerfully through the worship time.

May we all pray for the ministry of the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all who attend each worship service. As we do, let's see what God will do among us!

Palm Sunday Children's Praises

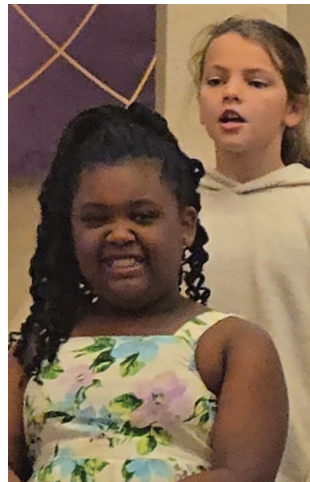
by Tracy Untener

On Palm Sunday, the With One Voice Children's Choir sang at both services. They had been preparing for this since they started back on January 8, after Winter Break. It was fun working with them, and they loved Miss Naomi, who at one point did push-ups to get them to memorize the first song. To help them learn the lyrics, we also played games like "Finish the Line," where we would give them part of a phrase from one of their songs, and they had to finish it.

Throughout this process, the children also learned about Palm Sunday and why the crowd was shouting "Hosanna" which is both a praise and a cry to

be saved. Miss Lynn led them in heartfelt prayers, and she made sure that they were in tune with the fact that they weren't just practicing for a performance; they were practicing to help lead worship. Miss Lynn made sure that they knew that singing was one way in which we worship God.

They worked really hard throughout, and it paid off. They did a fantastic job singing! Even when a quick change in the order of songs came up, they kept their cool and focus, and the congregation didn't even know there had been a glitch. Miss Naomi, Miss Lynn, and I are so very proud of them!



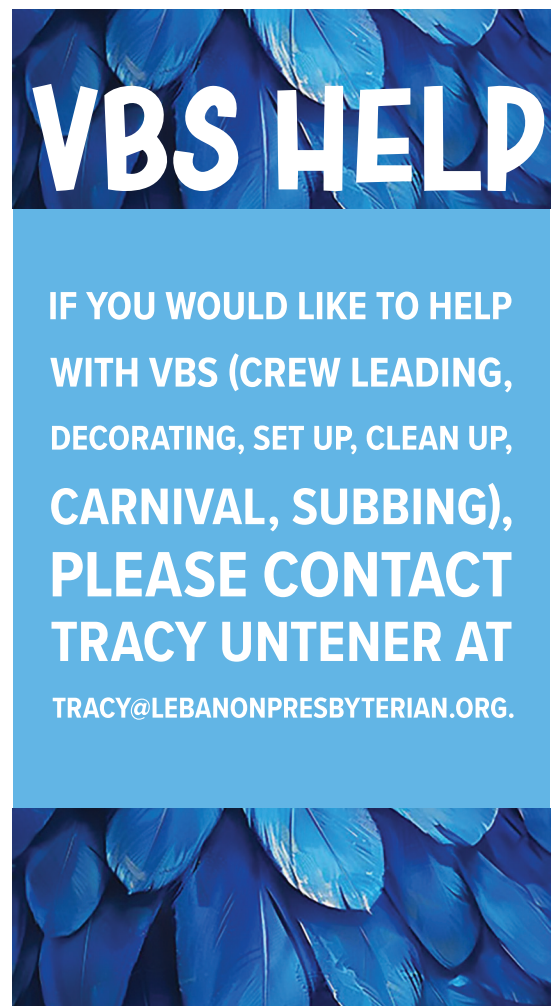


MAGNIFIED!
PSALM 34:3
DISCOVERING THE BIGNESS OF GOD
IN THE SMALLEST OF THINGS

SCAN QR
CODE TO
REGISTER

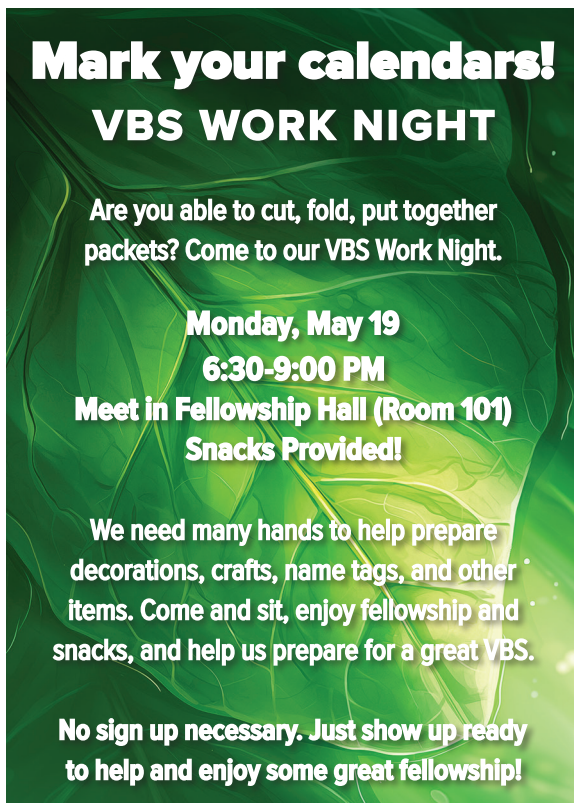
LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS...

MAGNIFIED!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ZOOM IN ON GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS
JUNE 9-13 | 6:00 - 8:20 PM
FREE FOR CHILDREN AGE 4 THRU ENTERING 6TH GRADE
QUESTIONS? CONTACT TRACY UNTENER at TRACY@LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG
123. N. EAST ST. LEBANON, OH | 513-932-2751 | LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG



VBS HELP

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP
WITH VBS (CREW LEADING,
DECORATING, SET UP, CLEAN UP,
CARNIVAL, SUBBING),
PLEASE CONTACT
TRACY UNTENER AT
TRACY@LEBANONPRESBYTERIAN.ORG.



Mark your calendars!

VBS WORK NIGHT

Are you able to cut, fold, put together packets? Come to our VBS Work Night.

Monday, May 19
6:30-9:00 PM
Meet in Fellowship Hall (Room 101)
Snacks Provided!

We need many hands to help prepare decorations, crafts, name tags, and other items. Come and sit, enjoy fellowship and snacks, and help us prepare for a great VBS.

No sign up necessary. Just show up ready to help and enjoy some great fellowship!



LPC SUNDAY KIDS!

PARENTS, SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

We have planned some fun events
that will take place on the
following Sundays during the
Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45am)!

June 29
July 27
August 24

encounter LPC STUDENT MINISTRIES

STUDENTS PARENTS LEADERS

The first two weeks of April were full of life for Encounter Student Ministry at LPC! We had our Spring Camp retreat at Butler Springs Camp, where Pastor Stephanie Poblentz shared about taking Jesus' words seriously as we studied the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. We worked to carry our faith into our lives "Sunday through Sunday" and even "Eight Days-A-Week." The Wednesday following Spring Camp, Encounter partnered with LPC's Buildings and Grounds Team to have a work night where we weeded and mulched. It was a wonderful time of intergenerational service and fellowship! Buildings and Grounds even fed hungry teenagers... Bless them! God is good! We hope you enjoy the pictures from our full and wonderful April.





The Light in the Darkness

Terri Catanzaro & Karen Kilpatrick



When the electricity goes out and it gets dark in your house, what do you do? Do you sit around bemoaning the darkness? Do you blame the darkness for your stubbed toe? Do you fumble around trying to find your way in the darkness? No! You put some light into the darkness, right?

Why is it that when it comes to spiritual darkness, we tend to sit around and bemoan the darkness or blame the evil in the world for all our problems? Or maybe we fumble around in the darkness, trying to figure out how to live in the darkness without being part of it. What would happen if, instead, we put as much light in the darkness as we can? This dark world is full of people stumbling around because they can't see the path. Can we be the ones who will hold the light out to them?

Loving People to Christ is not only about doing loving things, but also about loving people enough to want to rescue them from eternal separation from God – from “weeping and gnashing of teeth” - to tell them about what Jesus has done.

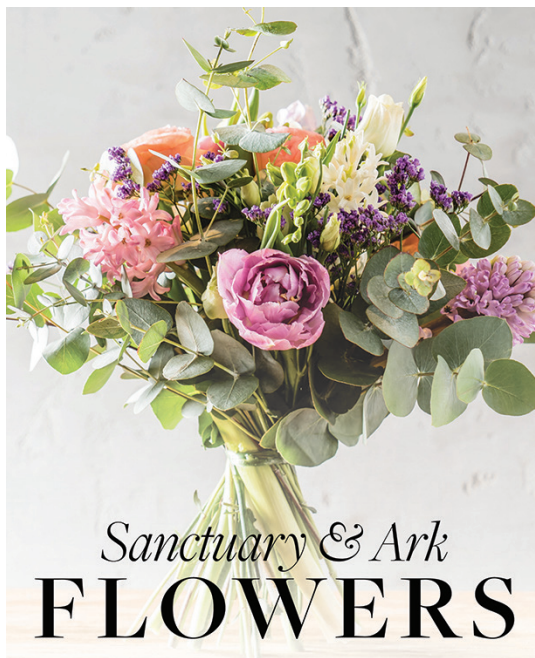
I (Karen) get updates from VOM (Voice of the Mar-

tyrs) about Christians who are being persecuted in other countries. Do you know what amazes me the most? As soon as they come to know Jesus, they immediately go out and tell people about Christ. Here's a quote from Vang in Laos: “Christ says, ‘Deny yourself, take your cross and follow Me.’ So why do we have to live calmly and comfortably and settled when Christ said, ‘You will get persecution because of My name’? If what the Bible says is true, it is true. So why do you try to avoid it? I don't want to die in a bed; I want to die so God can be glorified and for the kingdom and the ministry.”

Wow! I want to be “all in” like Vang.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

How can you (we) be the light for someone today?



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.

Thank You

We would like to thank our church family for all of your prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, well wishes, hugs, flowers and visits. Words cannot express how much they mean to us. When it comes to our church family, we are truly blessed!

God bless all of you.

Margaret and Bernie Uchtman

RUMMAGE SALE 5.3.25

THE RUMMAGE SALE

is coming Saturday,
MAY 3

Get ready to drop off your stuff
Monday, April 28
through
Friday, May 2

Do you have a suggestion or question for Session?

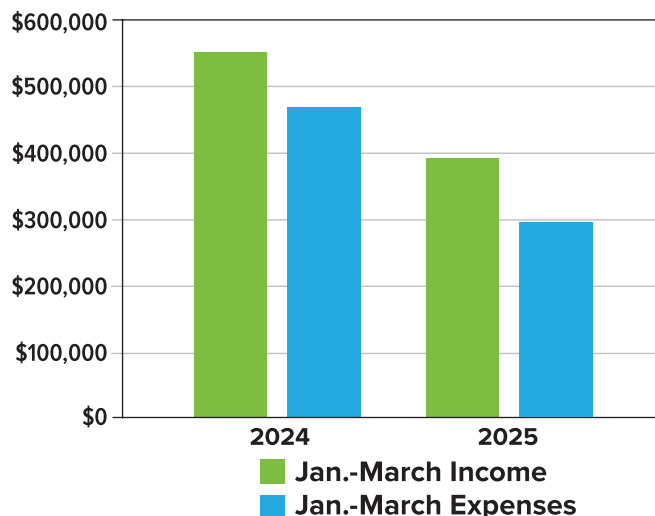
Comment Cards are available in the Friendship Pads.

Just fill out a card and drop it in the giving 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.

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 confidential-
ly and will only send out information you
would like shared with our Prayer Warriors

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, May 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY Jesus Is Lord of All <i>Mark 12:13-17</i>	Sunday, May 18 GRADUATION SUNDAY Jesus is Lord of Love <i>Mark 12:38-37</i>
Sunday, May 11 Jesus Is the Greatest <i>Mark 12:35-37</i>	Sunday, May 25 The End (Part 1) <i>Mark 13:1-23</i>



Like us on Facebook!

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Pastor Stephanie Poblentz

PASTOR
Pastor Jeff Moore

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

