

NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES

**FALL
2025**

NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES – November 2025

Terry & Sheryl Ambrose
Alex & Gaby Arseneau
Jack & Rachel Baker
Jacob & Natalie Bates
Jesse & Tess Buckwalter
Don & Jan Carper

Terry & Cindy Corl
Nick & Lauren DiPiano
Cheryl Forrey
Rebekah Hannon
Kaitlyn Hawbaker
Bob & Patti Kulp

Ash & Thiago Naque
Marcos & Casie Reynolds
Adam & Lauren Timmins
Don & Eunice Warfel
Dianne Wassall



Sheryl & Terry Ambrose

TERRY AMBROSE

I grew up in a large Catholic family with parents who were fully committed to raising their family attending church every Sunday as well as Catechism classes during the week. My older brothers all attended parochial school. We were taught about God, but little by way of developing a relationship with God. Church attendance was from a works-based, sin avoidance perspective. While I never doubted my parents' beliefs or questioned their motivations, we never read the Bible, and outside of saying "grace" before dinner, we never prayed together. Yet, every Sunday we were in a church, regardless of whether we were home, away for a weekend, or on vacation as a family. I was brought up to faithfully follow church rules about attendance, required dietary restrictions on certain days, communion, and others.

After high school, I joined the military, where for the first time I had genuine conversations about faith with people from many different backgrounds. Long deployments gave me time to reflect, and I began to see that what mattered most was not the denomination, but a church's belief in and worship of Christ. Still, I continued following the traditions I had been raised in, not yet realizing how different that was from truly knowing God.

When my military service ended, by God's providence I met a woman who helped me understand the importance of having a personal relationship with God. I would come to realize that the faith system of my youth ultimately differed from my what I thought I believed and differed from what I was able to discern from reading the Bible as far as following God. During our engagement, we agreed on the importance of finding a church where we could worship together and, if blessed with children, we would raise them in an environment with ministries for the whole family. Although I was never without God, I never experienced a special conversion moment. However, during a service in a large non-denominational church we attended in New Jersey, the Holy Spirit opened my heart. For the first time, I felt God's love as I never had before. My faith grew dramatically after that.

When we moved to Pennsylvania, God led us to a Presbyterian church that was equipped to minister across generations. We had opportunities for both adult Sunday school and children's Sunday school. Our kids went to Vacation Bible School and grew to be VBS volunteers. We devoted time to missional activities like feeding the homeless and making home repairs. We attended and led small group Bible studies, held church leadership positions, and participated in various fund-raising activities. It was through all these activities that I grew in my love for God and my appreciation for the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection on me, and the role of the Holy Spirit in my life. My faith grew tremendously, as did my boldness in speaking about it. I came to realize that I was dead until Jesus called me out of my sinful past, and that He raised me to a life that was increasingly growing in Him.

In 2020, God led us to Lititz, where we discovered LEFC during the pandemic through online services. Each week, the preaching spoke directly to our hearts, confirming that God had provided us

with a new church home. At the same time, my hunger for God's Word increased. I began to study books in the Bible more deeply. Verses started jumping off the page, especially from Romans.

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). "While we were still weak...Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). "While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin" (Romans 6:6). God placed on my heart a desire to know Him more deeply.

After spending two years in Florida, we moved back to the area this spring. As we join LEFC, I look forward to serving Christ within this church family, using the gifts He has given me to encourage others and to grow together in Him.

In summary, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who died for my sins and rose again, and that through faith in Him alone I have eternal life. My desire is to follow Him faithfully and to be a committed member of His church.

SHERYL AMBROSE

My relationship with the Lord has been slow but steady. While the pieces of theology were a little askew, Jesus was always faithful. I was raised in the Episcopal church and participated in Sunday School weekly. Sadly, the Bible was presented more like a history lesson. I had never heard the gospel in church nor was I encouraged to read the Bible.

My Nana talked to me about Jesus and taught me how to pray. She was strong in her faith and a good Christian role model. In high school I had a friend Peggy who spoke about Jesus as her friend, which caught my attention. She questioned me on my beliefs and really made me think about who Jesus was to me. While in college, I had a professor who taught sociology, and he was particularly fascinated with religions. He gave us an assignment with a list of specific questions and told the class to look at our places of worship with a critical eye. This assignment made me question the beliefs of the church that I was attending. However, I knew Jesus was real and this began my desire to want to know Jesus more deeply.

My husband Terry and I married in our mid-twenties. He was raised Catholic and was also seeking a deeper faith. I knew enough about Catholicism that I didn't believe in their man-made rules. We had many discussions and agreed to leave both our denominations to find a church where we could both worship. During our search, we watched Charles Stanley on television weekly and felt like we were hearing the Gospel for the first time. I came to believe that Jesus was my Lord and Savior and pledged my faith to Him.

In our late thirties, now with three children, we moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. We joined a Presbyterian Church (USA) and stayed for many years where I started attending women's Bible study. It was then that I began to regularly read and better understand the Bible. I became a small group leader several years after I joined the women's Bible study. I grew a lot in my faith from participating for nineteen years. It was through studying Genesis that I finally understood why I needed a savior; it was to restore my relationship with God the Father, because of Adam and Eve's fall.

We moved to Lititz in May of 2020 during the pandemic. COVID made buying a home impossible for us, but we were blessed to find a rental. It was a strange time to try finding a church. We found LEFC online, and from the start, Pastor Tony preached messages that spoke to our hearts, and we felt at home with this church.

We fell in love with Lititz and had planned to stay, but God took us on a detour. My father, who lived in Florida, became ill, and he asked us to move in with him to help. After prayerful consideration, we realized this was the Lord's will for us. So, we moved again. Because of the livestream, we were able to

watch LEFC's services with Dad. It was a blessing for us and for him since couldn't leave the house to attend church in person.

Sadly, dad passed away nine months after we arrived. We prayed for a year after that to see what was next for us. In November of 2024, by God's grace, we bought a house in East Petersburg and couldn't be more joy-filled to have moved back.

I look forward to seeing how Jesus will use us in this season of our lives. I read the Bible daily and spend time in prayer in the joyful expectation of what is in store for us.



Gaby & Alex Arseneau

ALEX ARSENEAU

I grew up in Minnesota in a Christian home with both parents. I accepted Christ at an early age, but I didn't fully understand what that meant until later in life. In seventh grade, I re-dedicated my life to Christ at a youth retreat in Indiana.

During my junior high and high school years, I recognized that public school would lead me down a destructive path, so I requested to be homeschooled. The Lord used the friends I surrounded myself with during this time to draw me closer to Him and provide wisdom and clarity later in life. While my parents loved me very much, the knowledge I gained from my friends had a much greater influence.

Life experiences between 2011 and 2016 caused a lot of pain and hurt. The betrayal I felt was more than I could bear, but my friends and family helped me understand God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness on a much deeper and more personal level.

Fast forward a few years, and I am now married to my wife, Gaby. We have a two-year-old daughter and a four-month-old son. The Lord has continually blessed me and my family over the years. With children and a loving spouse, I have an even better understanding of God's love and mercy. The combination of maturing with age, being a husband and father, and my job in law enforcement has allowed me to witness God's love for me and others in new ways. It has also taught me to rely on God more than ever.

GABY ARSENEAU

Like many, I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at a young age. I was fortunate to have a family that fostered a continued growth and learning about Jesus and what it meant to lead a Christian life. I always felt that this made my testimony "boring" and that it was less impactful than some others. Since becoming a parent and shifting my focus to raising and discipling my children, that attitude has definitely changed. I now have a deeper appreciation for generational faith and I hope that the principles I'm instilling in my children have a lasting impact and allow them to have a "boring" testimony as well.

I have found that in the transition into parenthood, my faith in the Lord has been tested and has grown in new ways that I never could have anticipated. I always felt a level of pride that I was a capable and self-sufficient person. The Lord has used the challenges of parenting to teach me to lean into His sufficient love and to trust that He will sustain me. Parenting has acted as a mirror and shown me my own sinful nature and reminded me of the need for the Lord's grace and forgiveness on a daily basis.

I'm thankful for a Savior who meets me in my weakness, who is patient in my sanctification, and who offers rest in His finished work.



Jack & Rachel Baker

JACK BAKER

I received Christ very young. I was four when my mom led me to Christ one evening after we had come home from Awana. I was raised in a Christian home with parents who loved the Lord and desired to serve Him in the mission field. When I was eight years old, I moved with my family to Brazil. My parents ran a ministry for children and youth in a very poor town along one of the major tributaries of the Amazon River. We lived in Brazil for 4 years and my childhood was very influenced by the culture, language, and environment that surrounded us. Unfortunately, my parents struggled in their marriage, and when we returned home to the US on a furlough, we did not return to Brazil as planned.

The transition to adolescence in the US was a difficult one for me as I was very culturally uncomfortable. By God's grace, I found friends in my church. My attendance in youth group was the highlight of my week as the social structure in high school caused me to feel outcast and alone. I became involved in many different ministries including choir, puppeteering, and Bible quizzing.

In college, I found that it was difficult to maintain my relationship with God. I found it easier to miss church and less important to pray. Without the structure and routine of my family, I drifted away from God. Focused on my own ability and the pursuit of my goals, I made some decisions that were not very wise. I was engaged to a young woman but ended up breaking off our engagement as our relationship was not a healthy one. Shortly after that time, I was reckless and was arrested for a foolish prank that went wrong.

As I dealt with the legal fallout of my arrest, I felt abandoned and alone. I questioned why God had deserted me. In desperation, I prayed for Him to save me, and He did. Miraculously, my legal turmoil was defused, and I was able to continue to finish college and pursue a career as a nurse. God renewed my hope and joy in the relationship that I had with Him, and I pursued involvement in ministry in my home church.

While working in the young adults group, I met my wife, Rachel. We dated and eventually were married after a couple years. Around that time, the ministries that we had been so involved in seemed to degrade. We decided to choose a new church, which took some time as this was just when the pandemic caused quite a lot of chaos. After a year of "pajama church" we felt convicted to begin attending in-person again. We felt the need for community and support. I felt very alone and that I was a failure for not being able to sustain the young adults ministry at our previous church. I was upset and angry with God for allowing this to happen.

It was around this time that we found LEFC. On the very first Sunday that we attended, Pastor Tony preached an incredibly convicting sermon that left us both feeling challenged but also encouraged. We continued to attend, and I became involved by serving with the security and medical teams. We became part of a life group and began to attend summer interest groups. The community that we had longed for was realized by God's grace.

As a regular attender of LEFC for about 4 years now, I continue to pursue depth in my relationships within this community. I have developed a desire to grow closer to God and to pursue Him in meaningful ways. I felt drawn to become a member of Re:Gen and have been attending since the beginning of the fall. I am so blessed to be a child of God who He has delivered from loneliness, shame, and isolation. Sometimes, in my own self-focus, I struggle to remember that fact, but it is nevertheless entirely true.

My relationship with Christ is much healthier now. I have seen God work in my life despite my lack of understanding. I remind myself that I am not in control, and that I am a broken person that has been redeemed by the saving grace of Jesus. I am made whole by His love and mercy, and He is my strength and hope when I struggle to understand life's potholes.

RACHEL BAKER

I was raised in a Christian home, and I accepted Christ when I was 5 years old. I had learned in Sunday School about Jesus and how He had died for my sins, and I asked my mom to pray with me so that I could accept Christ as my Savior. When I was 10, I made the decision to be baptized. As I grew older, I developed a better understanding of what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and to depend on Him for my salvation and forgiveness of sins. I rededicated my life to Christ at a Christian summer camp when I was 14.

During my college years, I struggled with wanting to feel accepted and loved. Rather than looking to find my identity in Christ and finding fulfillment in Him, I ended up choosing to pursue some unhealthy dating relationships. These relationships only led to heartbreak and pain, and I was left feeling empty and directionless. I thank the Lord that He provided caring friends who were there for me and who pointed me to Christ, and for my pastor at my home church who counseled me in that season. During that time, the Lord lovingly convicted me of my sin through the Holy Spirit and helped me to repent. I praise Him for His mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

A few years after graduating from college, I started serving on the young adults group leadership team at my church, and it was there that I met my husband, Jack. After getting married, we felt that the Lord was leading us to find a new church. The search became more challenging when the pandemic hit, but we eventually visited LEFC and we knew pretty quickly that it was where God wanted us to stay! We became involved in ministry, and I started serving as a shepherd in KidMin. I have always loved working with kids, and it has been such a blessing and encouragement getting to teach them about Jesus and see them grow in their faith.

Over the past few years, I have struggled with some difficult health issues that have been hard to navigate and that led me to question God's plan for my life. It is still something that I wrestle with at times, but the Lord has been so faithful, and I cannot imagine walking through this season without Him. When I find myself doubting, He lovingly reminds me that I am His and that He is in control; He has a good and perfect plan for my life, even if it is different than what I may envision. I can trust in Him and know that He is always good!

Psalms 13:5-6: "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise for he has been good to me."



Jacob & Natalie Bates

JACOB BATES

My upbringing occurred within a non-Christian household, and I was primarily raised by my mother. As a child, I exhibited behavioral issues, often resulting in disciplinary actions. My mother would consult with my uncle, a pastor, who would engage me in extended conversations and share the Gospel. At the age of ten, I embraced Jesus Christ. Subsequently, I was baptized.

While I acknowledged accepting Jesus, my lifestyle initially remained largely unchanged. However, I began to recognize the wrongfulness of my actions. I started attending church regularly and participated in Awana, where I engaged in scripture reading and memorization. During my teenage years, I attended youth summer camp, where I recommitted my life to Christ during a service. It was after this experience that I observed a significant transformation in my life, as I became more involved in my faith and dedicated to living for Christ.

Currently, I integrate Christ into my daily routine through prayer, scripture reading, and actively living out my faith, including sharing my personal testimony to spread the Gospel. Throughout life's challenges, I have relied on my faith in Christ, recognizing His strength as my source of support.

NATALIE BATES

God has been a part of my life since I can remember.

Thankfully, I was raised in a Christian home. I don't remember the exact day I was saved, but I remember the moment vividly. In child-like faith, I was excited to share with the teacher the verse I had worked so hard to memorize - John 3:16 - to earn a prize from the Sunday school class treasure chest. Each Sunday the verse that was memorized the week before would be explained in the coming week. Little did I realize that once I heard the meaning of the verse, and the beautiful act of love that Jesus sacrificed for ME on the cross, I accepted the true prize and abundant treasure of eternal life.

A few weeks later, I was baptized to show the world that I wanted to be a follower of Christ. My life was far from perfect, but from that point on, I knew heaven would one day be my home. As I grew older, I realized that the Holy Spirit was working in my life, but I hadn't always felt close to Him. During my college years, I rededicated my life to God. He had always been with me though I didn't always remain close to Him. It wasn't until a few earth-shaking events in my life that my relationship with God ignited a flame like never before to live a life that honors Him. I am still far from perfect, but GOD. He is my Father, my Friend, my Provider, my Sustainer, and my Redeemer.

I second the words of a song by Steffany Gretzinger, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus:"

*If my heart could tell a story, if my life would sing a song,
If I have a testimony, if I have anything at all,*

*Let my children tell their children. Let this be their memory:
That all my treasure was in heaven, and you were everything to me.*

I'm still in love, You're still enough for me. Still all I want, You're still my everything.

*No one ever cared for me like Jesus. His faithful hand has held me all this way.
And when I'm old and grey, and all my days are numbered on the earth,
Let it be known in You alone, my joy was found. Oh, my joy, my joy.*



Tess & Jesse Buckwalter

JESSE BUCKWALTER

I was born and raised in Lititz, Pennsylvania. My mom had me when she was just 18, during her senior year of high school. My biological father was only in my life for the first couple of years, so I was primarily raised by my mom and grandparents. My grandparents played a significant role in my early development, instilling in me values like hard work, financial responsibility, and a strong commitment to family.

Around the age of five, my mom met and quickly married my stepdad, Matt. At first, I continued calling him Matt, but after my two younger brothers were born and started asking why I didn't call him "Dad," that slowly changed.

It wasn't until my parents got married that church and Christian community began to play a meaningful role in my life. I attended a Christian event with my parents and a family friend, and during an altar call, six-year-old me felt something real. I responded, and I gave my life to Christ.

From kindergarten through eighth grade, I attended Lititz Christian School, which was foundational to my early faith. I built lasting friendships, and much of my early Christian worldview was formed there. But things started to shift in eighth grade, specifically during Bible class. We began discussing topics like predestination, and for the first time, I found myself seriously questioning my beliefs, especially around the problem of suffering. Those questions haunted me throughout high school.

Even though I stayed active in church and youth group and still identified as a Christian, I carried deep doubts. I wrestled with whether God was truly good, or even real, and began trying to intellectually "disprove" Him. I wavered between belief and skepticism partly out of a desire to meet others' expectations and partly to maintain my place and success within my family and friend circles.

Leaving Lititz Christian and transitioning to Warwick High School and eventually college opened me up to vastly different perspectives. Playing in a band and touring across the country exposed me to a wide range of people, beliefs, and "cultures." For the first time, I was surrounded by people who didn't think or live like I did, and it caused a lot of deconstruction in my faith.

Despite that, I experienced a lot of personal growth in my late teens and early twenties. I formed new relationships, traveled, and gained insight into how diverse—and broken—the world truly is. Touring showed me both the beauty and despair in people's lives. I was struck by how different life is outside of our small-town bubble. In many places, hopelessness seemed the norm, and I began to wonder: if people are so lost due to circumstances beyond their control, how can I claim to know the truth? Why do I have the right to believe?

Even as my foundation started to feel more solid—especially after meeting my now-wife and going through premarital counseling (and our relationship blossoming)—I struggled with questions like: What does it actually mean to believe? If belief is real, what kind of transformation should it produce? I didn't see that transformation in myself, and I carried a deep sense of unworthiness. The idea of going "all in" for Jesus felt overwhelming—and unclear.

But through the responsibilities of marriage and eventually a growing family life, my walk with God began to change. Slowly, I started to feel real spiritual growth and transformation—not because all my questions were answered, but because I was learning how to approach God differently.

The passage that truly changed me was Genesis 32, where Jacob wrestles with God. This story hit me hard. Jacob's name is changed to Israel, which literally means "*struggles with God*." That blew my mind—God's chosen people are named after wrestling with Him.

This story symbolizes so much: the raw, physical struggle of faith; God's willingness to engage with us, even when we resist Him; and the idea that transformation often comes through struggle—not after we've cleaned ourselves up. God doesn't overpower Jacob. He allows the wrestling. And Jacob walks away both wounded and blessed. That's real. That's faith.

Even now, I still wrestle—with the problem of suffering, with reconciling biblical narratives and scientific realities, with what it means to have a relationship with Jesus versus just knowing about Him. I wrestle with my own selfishness, control issues, and daily failures.

But despite all that, I believe:

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- He died for our sins.
- The historical evidence affirms these truths.

And I believe that my ongoing struggle doesn't disqualify me from grace—in fact, it might just be the very place where grace meets me most clearly.

TESS BUCKWALTER

I am from small town in Prince George County in Virginia called Disputanta. I lived with my dad, mom and sister. In my home growing up, there was a lot miscommunication and fighting, mostly verbal and sometimes even physical. My parents separated when I was 11 and lived in separate places for about a year and a half. During that time, my mom started attending church, which meant I started attending church when I was 12 years old.

I do not remember getting saved as a kid, but I do remember being immersed in church culture. I was going to all of the youth events, attending Sunday services and Wednesday night groups. I was even baptized but it was because it was “what we did in the church.” Church for me was my social life, it was never about getting to know God and who He was. I was home schooled, so I did not attend school, and co-ops were not really a thing back then. So, I attended church solely to get my fill of relationship and belonging. I put a lot of faith in the people around me and in my close relationships, these naturally failed me in some way or another and left me feeling misunderstood and alone. Because of this, it created a lot of insecurity and anxiety. This anxiety and loneliness continued to follow me.

I graduated and my family moved up here to Pennsylvania because of my dad's job. I was angry and remember asking God, why? Why was I here? What was the purpose of me being here when there was nothing for me? I had put all of my eggs in one giant basket; my identity, my worth and my faith in the relationships I had made growing up were all in there. This left me feeling VERY alone. It was just me - or at least I thought.

I was still struggling with a ton of anxiety and insecurity when, after about a year of living in PA, it dawned on me that all of my friends were going to Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Naturally, I applied to attend and I got accepted. I moved to VA and attended Liberty for a year and a half. This is where my life would change completely. Liberty is where I found my personal relationship with Jesus - this is where I would encounter the Holy Spirit. He used convocation speakers, my RAs, and my friends that I had made there to show me His character and how He wanted me to live my life. I would not stay at Liberty; the Lord opened my eyes to see that Pennsylvania is where I belong. So, I moved BACK to PA and found myself once again sad and alone because my friends remained at Liberty.

This time was different, though. I prayed to the Lord for peace, for direction, and specifically for friends that understood me as a person - friends that were believers, that loved the Lord, that pursued the same mission I was pursuing. The craziest thing happened: the Lord heard, and He answered. He answered every prayer to a T and then some! This is, I think, what people call an Ebenezer, where I can

look back and see the Lord's hand, His provision and deliverance not just in this answered prayer, but throughout my entire life.

This was all about 14 years ago. The Lord's plan for my life now looks so much different than I could ever have imagined for myself. I have seen my parents' relationship restored with each other and they have come to know the Lord. I met my husband, and we have three beautiful children. The Lord has blessed me with the most tremendous friends that point me to Jesus and bring me back when I am giving into the fears and anxieties of life. I can say with full confidence that I have put my faith fully and wholly in the Lord and what He has done for me on the cross. I am the Lord's vessel to do with what He pleases. My anxiety did not go away; I still struggle with it, but the difference is the Lord wants to hear my struggles and so I talk with Him and He truly does fill me with peace that surpasses all human understanding. I am still learning and growing and changing. This is such a beautiful journey, and it excites me to continue this next step in my faith.



Jan & Don Carper

DON CARPER

My testimony is like most in Lancaster County Mennonite communities. At the young age of 13, I gave my life to Christ, as did my brothers and sisters and a lot of my friends. In that setting, I viewed this new life as a set of rules and working for my salvation.

It was not until late in my teens and early 20s that I started to have daily devotions and was reminded of God's grace and forgiveness. I really started understanding this better when I read Romans 6, 7 and 8 - what a relief to know I wouldn't lose my salvation if I messed up! I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord for His promises.

I found comfort in Romans 8:1-2: *"there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit."* Another comforting verse is John 1:7, *"But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from ALL sin."* He also assures us in Psalms 103:12, *"as far as East is from the West, He has removed our transgressions from us."*

As I grew in my spiritual journey, I had a desire to gain more solid Bible teaching. Over time, we started to visit several different churches. We enjoyed the Bible-based sermons and ABF classes at LEFC. In one of my Bible commentaries, I like the introduction to Revelation 21. It says:

It is true that church is to be a hospital where people who are hurting can come and be healed through the body of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ (*Matthew 9:12*). It is also true that the church is to be a school where we can study to show ourselves approved unto God (*2 Timothy 2:15*). The church is also to be a gymnasium where we work out our own salvation (*Philippians 2:12*) and exercise unto Godliness (*1 Timothy 4:7*). But perhaps the church is to be a travel agency, booking people on our eternal excursion into heaven.

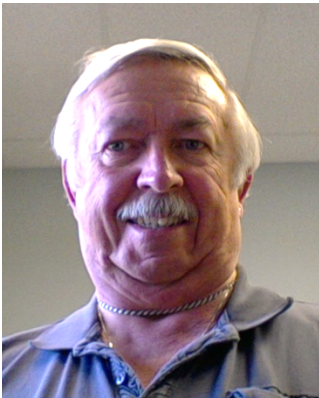
I see LEFC on this mission that I wish to be a part of.

JAN CARPER

I was raised in a Godly Christian home. My father was a Mennonite minister with a passion for studying the Bible and missions. My mother said that her gift was not in teaching and preaching but she was strong in hospitality, and our home was a welcoming place that hosted many international visitors. She was also a prayer warrior. When she was on her death bed at the age of 98, my one brother said, "I guess the baton is being passed on to us." With those words spoken, she took her last breath. Prayer has been an important part of my life and now that she is gone, I feel a responsibility to carry on prayers for family members, especially the unsaved.

When I was 9 years old, I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior and was then baptized at the age of 10. As a teenager, my faith was not as important to me but as I matured, got married, and started a family, my faith journey deepened. Through some of life's very difficult experiences, I have often said that I don't know what I'd do without my faith in God. A verse that has really meant a lot to me is from Isaiah 40:31, *"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like Eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

In recent years, we felt the need to visit churches that remained strong in teaching from the Bible in the culture that we are living in. We found this at LEFC and love that we are encouraged to bring our Bibles, something I always did growing up. We also are enjoying the ABF class. We look forward to becoming members at LEFC.



Terry Corl

TERRY CORL

I believe I have known Christ since I was able to talk and understand. I was baptized at Mellinger's Lutheran Church, and I had perfect attendance in Sunday school there. During my youth, Pastor John Minnich would visit with me at my grandmother's store where we would sit on the front bench and drink Coke and eat pretzels and talk about Sunday school and Jesus. I attended Catechetical Class to become part of the congregation, and I played in the church band on Sundays. I worked for and achieved the God and Country award as an Eagle Scout with troop 71 in Mount Airy, PA.

There were times when I neglected going to church regularly for various and sundry reasons. I became a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Akron and played in the Sunday service band with my friend and band leader of the No Limit Band, but I stopped going to church there when a new pastor was installed that had a persona that I felt was in conflict with the teaching in the Bible.

Throughout my entire life I have been aware that Jesus died to save us from our sins and that everyone is a sinner that needs His redemption to enter Heaven. My wife and I drifted apart and had some difficulties in our relationship and there seemed to be something missing in our lives. My wife and I were invited to attend LEFC for a service by our grandson and I was thoroughly intrigued by the level of faith that abounds in the congregation. My wife and I have been attending Sunday service since our invitation, and we would like to become official members. We have already participated in some of the classes, and we both feel welcomed by many of the elders and members. I am planning to stay with LEFC and hope to participate in the worship band at times during the Sunday morning worship service.



Cindy Corl

CINDY CORL

I was raised in a dysfunctional home with a dominant alcoholic father. There was absolutely no religion in our house. I remember going to Vacation Bible School with friends here and there but that was it. Jesus wasn't talked about in our home at all. Over the years, my siblings and I endured several different types of abuse. Afterwards, in an effort to ease the emptiness, I lived a reckless life. For many years, I was wandering, knowing something was missing in my life. Other families I knew went to church every Sunday, but not mine.

My fiancé (now husband) was raised in the church and had such a different outlook on life. He answered questions I had about Jesus and his faith. I was curious and wanted to see more of what the Bible was about.

My husband took me to a Lutheran church. I loved what I saw and people I talked to. I realized even though I was damaged and a sinner, God still loved me. We regularly went to church as a family. In 1992 I gave myself to Jesus Christ and was baptized along with my three daughters. We were all active in the church until a new pastor came.

Political things happened and our church changed and we left the church. Things in our marriage and in our lives changed when we stopped living our lives in Jesus Christ and the church. My husband and I became distanced from each other. Problems started showing in our marriage. We knew we needed a change in our lives and in our marriage.

Then our grandson Harley Foster invited us to come to LEFC for the Easter Sunday service in 2024. We enjoyed that service so much and we've been coming mostly every Sunday since. We love the sermons and the classes that are offered to all. This church saved a marriage that needed some extra help. We attended RelEngage and the regular Sunday church services and our faith and marriage has become stronger because we're living our lives in Christ. We found ways to serve in the church that interest us as well. I would like to become a member of LEFC. My life is so much more enriched since returning to Jesus Christ and attending LEFC.



Lauren & Nick DiPiano

NICK DiPIANO

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian family and accepted Christ into my life at the age of eight. Since then, I have continued to live my life with Him alongside. Raised in Malvern, PA, I attended Covenant Presbyterian Church, where my mom, dad, and grandmother made sure we never missed a Sunday. It was there that my true faith journey began. During my teen years, I got very involved at Covenant. As a result, I was able to help found the youth praise band, serve on multiple mission trips, and volunteer to mentor younger kids and share my testimony with them. It was at this time and through that community that I began to really understand what it truly meant to be a follower of Christ.

I attended Eastern University, where I played lacrosse and met my now wife, Lauren. There I found tremendous value in the community surrounding the athletics program, and it was through them that I really began to solidify my faith and define my walk with Christ. It was here that I first faced real-life challenges and was presented with opinions and ideologies that I did not agree with. This allowed me to solidify my own beliefs and to

cling to Scripture as the ultimate playbook. I learned the value of mentorship, and how we can be “perfectly imperfect,” fail consistently, and still be loved and saved by God.

After college, I had the opportunity to coach lacrosse in the Lancaster area, which became another avenue for ministry. Mentoring those young athletes allowed me to combine my love for sports with my desire to shape good people before good players.

Now, as a husband and father of three (Graham, Blaire, Walker), Lauren and I have been presented with a new responsibility and calling - to teach our children about the love of God. I am humbled frequently by trying to lead by example. Teaching our kids about God’s love is a daily reminder of His grace. Their constant “why?” questions have become powerful moments of reflection for me. They push me to revisit and re-affirm the truths I’ve believed since I was a child and to live them out in ways my children can see and understand.

Marriage and fatherhood have allowed me to grow deeper in my faith and come to a clearer personal understanding. I’ve learned to recognize when God is working on me, to match my actions to my beliefs, to let go of what’s outside my control, and to grow deep roots right where God has placed me. All of this has become foundational to my faith and how I share it with my family.

Lauren and I spent a very long time looking for a church that was a fit for us. We are so thankful that we have found LEFC, and the community that comes with it. We are excited to continue to teach and guide our kids here, as well as continue to challenge ourselves in our faith.

LAUREN DiPIANO

I grew up in Lancaster County in a Christian household surrounded by strong role models of faith. I remember singing at church as early as age 4. I attended Akron United Zion and later New Holland Nazarene. My grandfather, who pastored at Blue Ball Brethren Church, baptized me at age 7, and that was a meaningful step in my journey. I am so grateful for the encouragement and support as I was growing. I had the opportunity to go to church with my family, attend youth group, and serve on my worship team as a vocalist. It was through my adolescence and teen years that I began to learn what it meant to walk with God and to make my relationship with Him personal.

When it came time for college, I chose a Christian university where I could play volleyball and pursue a nursing degree. I was drawn to an environment shaped by Christian values. Those years were challenging—balancing academics, athletics, and social life—but they became foundational to my faith. The Holy Spirit worked in my heart during that season. I learned that my identity wasn’t in performance, grades, or achievements, but in Christ alone. His love and mercy never wavered. I met my husband, Nick, during college—another clear sign of God’s good plan and provision. I’m so grateful for his influence in my life, and the life we continue to build.

As I stepped into new roles—labor and delivery nurse, high school volleyball coach and now a wife and mother—God has continued to grow and shape me. Nursing has given me a unique perspective on both the brokenness of this world and the beauty of God’s miracles. I have walked with families through loss and mourning, and I have celebrated with them in moments of new life. Through it all, I’ve become bolder in speaking about God’s faithfulness—how He desires to walk with us through everything, and how His blessings are far greater than we can imagine.

I’ve also dedicated much of my life to investing in young female athletes. Coaching has brought both successes and failures, but in every trial, I was drawn closer to God. I’ve seen His mercy and love deepen my faith when my character was questioned, or when I had opportunities to walk alongside non-believers. Looking back, I can see how God has used volleyball—something I love and enjoy—as a gift to draw me nearer to Him and to strengthen my witness.

Marriage and parenthood, too, have given me a new understanding of God's love. Experiencing the depth of His care for me has opened my eyes to my own sin and made me even more grateful for Christ's sacrifice. I'm constantly trying to be a light to my family, and guide them to Christ, as I was so blessed to be. Passages like the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-11) encourage me to keep my focus not on earthly rewards but on eternal salvation, where Christ Himself is the ultimate judge. I know my salvation rests not on my own works but on Jesus Christ alone—His death and resurrection for me. I'm so grateful to have found a community at LEFC. I pray that, through membership, God continues to foster my desire to live faithfully and to help others see His love through my life.



Cheryl Forrey

CHERYL FORREY

I grew up in the church but did not live in a Christ-centered home.

However, while attending an Assembly of God church, I accepted the Lord as my Savior when I was 16. I was baptized when I was 17 years old. I followed the Lord for a number of years, but sin slipped in, and I allowed God to take a back seat in my life until a friend from a group I was in kept bugging me to join a Bible study she was in. This wonderful reconnection with God lasted about 10 years until I again let sin take over my life.

At this time, I left God to pursue my worldly desires and told God I was doing it my way now. I divorced my husband and father of my children and then proceeded to move in with the man who would become my second husband.

But God was pursuing me. My husband at the time started attending LCBC in a men's group and this began my journey back to God.

Sadly, my second marriage did not work out, but my relationship with Christ continued and about 7 years ago I began attending LEFC, where I found fellowship with other believers and friends who have brought me great encouragement.



Rebekah Hannon

REBEKAH HANNON

I was raised in a Christian household where both of my parents shared the gospel with me from a very young age. My family attended a Southern Baptist church, and when I was nine, there was an evening service at church where members were invited to take communion. I had an understanding that it was only for those that had made the decision to become members of the church (those who had been saved by the blood of Jesus). That night, I sat in the back of my mom's car and asked her to pray with me as I asked Jesus into my heart. I went through a series of questioning and counsel from my pastor and chose to be baptized shortly after I made the decision to commit my life to Christ. I remember feeling excited and proud that I had decided to become a member of God's elect.

As I grew up, I had a very clear understanding of how people gained salvation through faith in Jesus's sacrifice, resurrection, and the promise that He would come back again someday to make all things new. My walk, however, lacked integrity and my time spent in prayer/reading the Bible was rare. I would often feel conviction when I was reminded of what Jesus did for me and how my life should reflect His character and Holy Spirit.

Later on in college, I made the decision to join a Baptist church on campus, something that I was encouraged in by my boyfriend at the time. We eventually married and moved to Pennsylvania. During that span of time, I was led by my desires, which started a slow decline into more isolation from the church, unhealthy habits with alcohol/drugs, and disregarding the desires God had for me prior to marriage. I ended up in a marriage that, while we both proclaimed to be Christ-followers, wasn't God-honoring. I was feeling convicted big time and would attempt to recenter myself in devotionals and prayer, but on my own, I wasn't successful in keeping the marriage stable.

When my husband left me, he confessed that he wasn't sure that the gospel was true. This left me desperate for answers and prayer, and it amplified my time in the word and in complete surrender to God's will. I was shaken because I thought, if my husband doesn't believe in Jesus, then have I made a mistake too? This began a journey into scripture that started with a prompting by the Holy Spirit to read Isaiah 54. Throughout my trial, I discovered a new confidence in the reliability of the scriptures, and I have gained a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

My heart breaks more now, and my greatest desire is for more people in my oikos to know Jesus, that they understand His death and resurrection are not fictional, and that they fall deeply in love with Him so that they might dwell with Him eternally, as He promised. My pain is a gift from Jesus to remind me of the brokenness He went through as well and the promise that He will make all things right and wipe away every tear. I talk so much more to Him and am reminded constantly to pray for the people in my life who have rejected the gospel. I have found courage to speak to others about my faith and how it is all about one who was fully man and fully God so that He could take my place and bear the consequences of my sin. I am so far away from my hometown, but I have seen the Holy Spirit move in my workplace and bring circumstances to me that show me why I have been placed in Lititz.



Kaitlyn Hawbaker

KAITLYN HAWBAKER

I grew up attending church with my parents nearly every Sunday for my whole life. I don't remember a time where I didn't know the actions that Jesus completed to create a way for people to be saved from their sins and reunited with God; allowing Himself to be beaten, crucified and buried on our behalf, yet defeating death by rising again. However, I know that I have not always understood the true depth and gravity of what He did and how it impacts every aspect of my life.

Until I was a teenager, the 'church things' that I was involved in didn't have much impact on how I lived the rest of my life. I was taught that we had to go to church because it was the right thing to do. I didn't understand that church had relatively little to do with my actions and everything to do with praising and worshipping the God who created me and knows more about me than I do.

While I was in eighth grade, I experienced a death close to me for the first time, my great-grandfather. He passed away on a Saturday night, and I didn't understand how it was possible that we weren't going to wake up Sunday morning and see him at church like we did every week. His death led to me beginning to understand that people find hope in death because of their relationship with Christ - it doesn't have to be a terrifying thing. Beginning to understand the hope of eternal life in Christ after the death of my sweet grandfather is when I started to see that there was nothing in my life independent from the work of God.

But like many teenagers, my interests still overtook my focus. During high school, I didn't prioritize pursuing the Lord and growing my knowledge of Him. I was more focused on the achievements I could

reach than pursuing the depth of knowledge that I was starting to desire about who God is and what His word says about Him.

After high school, I started attending a Christian university, where I was faced with the true implications of my split priorities: do I continue letting my enjoyment of things lead my decision-making, or do I allow my relationship with Christ to lead my decision-making? This is where I would say I truly submitted my life to Christ and understood what it means to declare Him as my Lord and Savior: That his life, death, and resurrection wasn't just for everyone, it was also specifically for me. He knows every action and decision I have made and loves me anyway. I give all praise to the Lord that He humbled my heart to submit to his will, even though it was outside of my own plan.

I then transferred to a Bible college, where I became more intentional in growing my Biblical knowledge and more importantly my relationship with God. God blessed me with an incredible community who helped me to acknowledge the parts of me that needed to be grown and celebrate the gifts that God had already granted.

While I know that I am still far from perfect, I am forever grateful that God has allowed me to reflect on how He has worked in my life, even when I wasn't directly pursuing a relationship with Him. I pray confidently that He will continue to draw me closer to Him every day and that He would allow me to grow more focused on Him. I praise Him for His sovereignty over my life.

Colossians 3:2-3: "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on Earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."



Bob & Patti Kulp

BOB KULP

I was raised in a Christian family, the oldest of four children. From as early as I can remember, I attended Sunday school, church, youth activities and Bible school at a local Church of the Brethren, as well as annual revival meetings. I was in my late teens when I went to the house of our senior pastor and told him I wanted to accept Jesus as my Savior. I needed Jesus in my life. Shortly afterward, I was baptized and admitted to church membership.

At the age of 19, I left for IW service at Norristown State Hospital. My days were spent farming, supporting the hospital with food. Some of the more stable patients worked alongside of us. After serving for three years, I was discharged and went back home to Manheim. My early twenties were a time of rebellion, but Jesus never left me.

I met my wife, Patti, in 1974. We were married in 1977 at her church in Palmyra. Patti has been a great blessing in my life. During the early years of our marriage, I worked long hours at a full-time job while building our first house after work and on weekends. I also volunteered with the local fire department and was an EMT for the Manheim Ambulance. I was busy with life and too busy for church. Years passed while we attended church only intermittently. We both knew something was missing from our marriage and our lives. We needed to get back to Jesus.

In 2016, we started attending LEFC. I am growing as a Christian in a way I never experienced before. I enjoy reading the Bible and studying Scripture. I regret that I didn't open myself to more Christian life education in my early years. I am grateful for God's love and forgiveness.

PATTI KULP

I was raised in a large family, the fourth of five children. My mother was a Christian, and my father pretended to be one on Sundays. We were churched twice on Sundays and also on Wednesdays for choir practice and youth group. We appeared to be a perfect family; we were anything but. From an early age, I learned to live in fear of my father's explosive temper. But church was a safe place. I learned to know people who were caring, kind and loved God.

One of my favorite summer activities was church camp. In my late pre-teen years, I accepted Jesus as my Savior while on the top bunk of my camp cabin in Mt. Gretna. I loved spending a week with camp counselors who openly loved Jesus. During my teenage years, I attended a Bible study at my sister's home. It was the first time I was told I should study the Bible in order to grow as a Christian. At the end of our Bible study, I was baptized by immersion. I had been sprinkle-baptized at my church years earlier, but this is the baptism I remember most. It was a feeling of pure joy and acceptance.

I met my husband, Bob, the summer I graduated high school. He was kind, caring, and loved me for who I was. Three years later when I told my mother we were to be married, her first response was "Don't leave me home alone with your father." I was her buffer, her confidant, and her friend, but she had forgotten to be my mother and my protector. I prayed a lot during this time of my life. I prayed my father wouldn't be so angry. I prayed my parents would be happy. I prayed for the Holy Spirit to fill our home. But shortly after Bob and I married, my parents divorced. I was heartbroken.

Bob and I did not make Jesus a priority early in our marriage, but we both knew something was missing in our lives. In 2016, we started attending LEFC and renewed our relationship with Jesus. Then, in January of this year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After telling Bob and my two sisters, I filled out the LEFC prayer request. It wasn't long until I heard back from Pastor Gary Poorman asking how he can pray for me. He continued asking throughout my treatment and tests. I am someone who has been filled with fear and anxiety from an early age, and yet during my cancer journey over many months, I truly felt a profound inner peace. I know it was the power of prayer from friends, family and the church. I experienced the peace that surpasses all understanding.



Thiago & Ashley Naque

THIAGO NAQUE

I grew up in a Christian family in northeast Brazil. My father was a pastor, and now my parents serve as missionaries in Mozambique, Africa. I made a decision to follow Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 4, and although I was so young, I can clearly remember the day my dad sat me down in his office and presented the gospel to me.

I was always involved in my parents' ministries, helping with small church plants in Brazil and, for a short time, in South Africa. While I was always active in the ministry, it often felt like I was just participating because I was part of the pastor's family—not because it was something I had chosen myself. I wasn't really sure where my faith was going or what it meant to have a personal relationship with Christ.

After graduating high school, I was excited to go to college and start my own life, making my own decisions. I wanted to experience different things and learn from personal experiences. My father asked if I wanted to do a gap year at Word of Life in Hungary. At first, I was more excited about the idea of going straight to college, but the opportunity to spend a year in Europe sounded like fun, so I accepted.

God used that year to reshape my life. Being in a Christian “bubble” helped me grow in my faith and begin my personal walk with Christ. I stayed in Europe for another year after finishing Word of Life, where I played semi-professional soccer. I was the only Christian on the team, and that experience showed me how serious I was about my faith. I shared the gospel with my teammates and made an effort to live a life that pleases God.

In 2015, I moved to the United States to attend and play soccer for Lancaster Bible College, where I met my wife, Ashley. We met during my junior year, and after she graduated in 2020, we got married. God has abundantly blessed our family. In February 2025, we joyfully welcomed our daughter, Nelly.

I also started a business with one of my best friends, and the Lord has been opening doors that allow Ashley to stay home with Nelly. We are part of an amazing life group where we do life together and learn from one another.

We are truly grateful for everything the Lord has done in our lives and for the community He has brought us to.

ASHLEY NAQUE

During my childhood, Christian practices were not a part of my family’s daily life. When I was 8 years old, my mom bought our first home, got married, and we began going to church. It was there that I learned what sin is and that Jesus died on the cross so that we could be reconciled with God. I decided to put my trust in Jesus and be baptized. I loved going to church and was very involved in youth group. When I was 13 years old, I was sexually abused and began to struggle with depression. At the same time, my family was struggling financially and stopped going to church. I became very angry with the Lord. I did not understand why He would let this happen.

When I was 15 years old, the abuse started again. I began to rebel and started using drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism to escape from the pain. At 17, we got evicted from our home, and I was on my own, battling addiction. By the time I was 18, I had lost everything and burned every bridge. I reluctantly agreed to enter treatment at a long-term residential faith-based rehabilitation program. During my time at this program, the Lord turned my heart back towards Him, freed me from addiction, and completely transformed my life. He showed me that nothing I had done could ruin His plans for my life and that He had been with me the entire time.

The Lord provided the scholarships and finances needed for me to be able to go to Lancaster Bible College. I met my husband there and we got married the year I graduated. Shortly after we got married, I began to struggle mentally and emotionally. I sought professional help and began processing trauma I had been suppressing for a decade. My faith was really tested during this season. One night as I was driving home crying out to the Lord and questioning my faith, I looked up and the license plate on the car in front of me read “Ro 5:8” which is *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* I thought “that’s it, that’s all I need to know and hold on to.” Over the past several years, the Lord has done so much healing in my heart and mind.

Thiago and I have been married for five years, and we welcomed our first daughter, Nelly, into our family in February. We are having the time of our lives getting to know and love her. We have really enjoyed our time at LEFC. I have found community with a group of ladies I met at WBF and Thiago and I joined a life group last year. We also have a solid group of friends in the area. We are so thankful for the Lord’s blessings in our life. We are looking forward to continuing to grow in our walk with the Lord and serving others.



Casie & Marcos Reynolds

MARCOS REYNOLDS

My name is Marcos Reynolds. I am 34 years old and have lived in Pennsylvania all my life.

I found God and His Son Jesus at an early age thanks to my grandmother taking me to church and doing what she could to help guide me and my siblings in life.

I attended for a while until something happened which led me to turn my back on the church for many years, which in part is what started my fall from God. From that point moving forward in life, I realized that I had placed God in the backseat of my life, in a sense saying, God, I'll take the wheel from here - you just sit back and enjoy the ride. I admit that was one of the biggest mistakes I made, not realizing it at that time. I went through life making countless mistakes to the point I found myself in places I didn't belong and didn't want to be in.

While in these spaces, I had a sense that God was trying to sit me down to be still long enough for me to hear what He had to say. I will say He sat me down a few times because even after the first time, I still wanted to be the one in control and show Him I could do this on my own. I am grateful He never gave up on me and kept me close to His side. With each attempt and each failure I encountered, I had no one but myself to blame and at one point I started to blame God for it all, not realizing He was trying to save me from myself. He sent messengers in various ways, trying to get me back onto the path He set out for me, and I rejected them over and over again.

Looking back now, I wish I had listened sooner to Him and given Him back the position he should have been in all along in my life. But I am still thankful for the fact He never left me and was always in some way trying to guide me to where I should have been all along.

CASIE REYNOLDS

I was born in Ohio and moved to Pennsylvania when I was 1 and a half years old due to my parent's divorce. We moved in with my grandparents until my mom remarried when I was 7. I attended church with my family growing up and my parents set a Godly example for me to follow.

During my early childhood years, I learned about Jesus at Sunday school; I accepted Jesus as my savior and was baptized. I attended summer camps as I got older and frequently made renewed commitments to Jesus throughout my adolescent years but never truly turned from my habits or made a change to my life. After high school, I went into the Army National Guard and continued to make poor choices, choosing worldly things and the easy way over Gods way and living the life that I knew I should be living.

Over the next 15-18 years, I continued to make poor choices, creating more complications in my life due to not choosing to follow God and choosing my way over His way. During this time, I was blessed with my daughter.

In 2021, I met Marcos, and we decided to start coming to LEFC together. During this time, we were married and now have two children together. Since coming to LEFC, I have been challenged through the teachings on Sunday mornings and through ABF to become a disciple of Jesus rather than just claiming the name of Christian.



Lauren & Adam Timmins

ADAM TIMMINS

God, in His gracious providence, placed me in a family that raised me to know and love Him. With that said, I do not have any memory of a time when I, at least in word, did not claim Christ as my savior. My family showed me the value of regularly participating in corporate worship and reading God's word. As I learned more about God's standard for my life, there was a significant gap between my understanding of His expectations and my humility. I was simultaneously aware of how far short I fell, but felt that if I worked hard enough, struggled long enough, felt bad enough about my sins, then I would be able to earn God's approval and favor.

There were several moments throughout my earlier years, particularly in high school, where I learned the greater depths of the Gospel, the mysteries of which I continue to search the depths of. One such pivotal moment was the first time I publicly confessed my sin. My expectation was that I would be rejected by those who called themselves my friends. This was the lie that my shame had been telling me for years. "If you want them to love you, then you can't let them see who you really are. You have to be perfect, to fix yourself, before they can see all of you, otherwise, you will be rejected." The first time I confessed my sin, contrary to my expectations, I was surrounded by forgiveness and love. The acceptance that I thought I needed to earn was offered before I had come close to conquering my sin. This is the gospel I had missed: that the grace of Jesus is free, and His love cannot be earned.

As I grew to adulthood, it became evident to me that the Lord had given me particular giftings and interests in learning and teaching Scripture. I attended a gap year program that further clarified this into a desire to teach and disciple others, and I pursued a degree in Pastoral Ministry from Lancaster Bible College. During those years, I received training in understanding Scripture, and in teaching it to others, continuing to appreciate the depths of the wisdom of God in the ways He condescends to us, revealing His character and nature to us through His Word, and particularly through Christ. During this season, I also pursued and married my wife, Lauren, with whom I have two beautiful children, Meredith and Alayna.

Looking back, I can confidently say that there has not been a day of my life that merits Christ's saving work. I do not deserve the forgiveness that He has offered me. But the undeserved nature of redemption only grows my gratitude for His life and suffering. He has forgiven me of more sins than I could ever realize, and not only that, but has adopted me into the family of God, that I might join in the inheritance of the saints, and provides me with a purpose and mission of making disciples of Jesus. He calls me to model and grow in Christ's character, and to speak the truth in love to others. Practically, that looks like leading my family in humility, seeking to demonstrate God's love to my wife and children, and using my career as a teacher in a Christian school to preach the gospel to myself, my colleagues, and my students every day. To God be the glory.

LAUREN TIMMINS

By God's grace, I don't remember my life before Christ. I came to know the Lord when I was 4 years old. I grew up in a faithful Christian home. My parents served in leadership at the church we grew up in, and I was fortunate to watch them pursue Christ through reading of the Word and missions work. My entire life was (and still is) surrounded by church. My grandparents and closest community were all intricately built around the church and the gospel.

I would say my faith started to become my own when I was in middle school, when my family went through some really difficult times. It was the first time in my life I wondered if God was truly faithful and trustworthy. I struggled secretly with anxiety and panic attacks. It was in those secret scary places that I would open the Bible and read Psalms over and over until I was okay again. Psalm 27, 62, 63 and more became lifelines to me. I would repeat these truths about God when I would start to feel the lies and panic set in. It was in college where I truly heard the gospel, not as just something that gives me eternal life, but that because of Christ's death and resurrection, He has freed me from sin's grip, and I am free; that by His Spirit, I no longer have to prove myself, or be perfect, or strive to find my significance in the world, but that Christ is enough; that He covers all my sin and failure and says He is enough for me. His grace is sufficient, and I have nothing to prove because He proved it all on the cross.

Fast forward to life now and I can confidently say that the gospel is what my whole life is for; His glory is for my good. I've gotten married, had two beautiful daughters, found incredible friends, a mentor, and a great church; all of this echoing the childhood I grew up in. But I still struggle believing truth over lies and am still a sinner in desperate need of Jesus in every moment. I would say God has taught me three major themes about who He is, and who I am in light of that. God is faithful and trustworthy; He always proves true. Second, God is my stronghold and my salvation, why should I fear? And if He is faithful and true and is my stronghold and my savior, then because these things are true, I can see God's goodness, grace, and freedom He has given me through His Son. This is my testimony, and when I grow weary or anxious or fearful, I look to His Word and find comfort and peace as I continue to grow more and more into the image of His Son.



Don & Eunice Warfel

DON WARFEL

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” - Mark 16:15.

“After this, I saw a large crowd with more people than could be counted. They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands” - Revelation 7:9.

My parents were very involved in the local church and devoted to teaching us nine kids to follow the example of Jesus. We went to Sunday school and church every Sunday, had family devotions each day, and went to Summer Bible School each summer.

I accepted Christ as my savior at revival meetings in a neighboring church when I was 12 years old. I went to Lancaster Mennonite High School and met Euni, and we were married several years later.

From our honeymoon, we moved to Washington DC, where we lived in a Voluntary Service Center for two years. In the library of this VS center I read the book *Jungle Pilot*, the life story of Nate Saint. He was one of the five missionaries martyred by the Auca people of Ecuador in 1956. The Lord used this book to change my life's direction and after the two years in DC, I went to Spartan School of Aeronautics and got my federal aircraft mechanic's license. After graduation, we moved back to Lancaster County, PA, where I worked at Lancaster Airport. Soon after this, JAARS (Wycliffe Bible Translators) had a dedication of an aircraft at the Lancaster Airport. I spoke to the JAARS representatives about what the qualifications were for serving with them and was assured that my licenses and experience were just what they were looking for.

We joined Wycliffe and served in Brazil, Ecuador, Kenya, and Australia. My job was to assist getting translators and supplies to them in very remote places. In Australia, I taught at the Bible College of Victoria. We started a training program for missionary mechanics and pilots and had students from many countries around Southeast Asia as well as Europe. It was an exciting time teaching students interested in serving our Lord.

It has been our privilege to be involved in getting God's Word to people in the language they understand best.

Through all of this, God has been faithful in supplying our needs, encouraging us as we continue to look to HIM for everything. HE has been my constant companion, helper and encourager.

EUNICE WARFEL

I grew up in a Christian home. I learned by watching my parents that reading the Bible and praying everyday was important. Both my mother and father lived out their Christian faith in front of me. I thank the Lord that he used both of my parents to help me learn the importance of accepting Christ into my life and taught me the foundational beliefs of being a Christian; things like honesty, trust, truth, Bible reading and prayer.

Accepting Jesus as my personal Savior weighed heavily on my heart. One evening at a revival meeting, in the summer of 1957, I made the decision to make Jesus my Savior. I made this decision mainly because I didn't want to go to hell. So, when an invitation was given at the end of the service, I got up out of my seat and walked forward. There was a lady there that helped me to pray the sinner's prayer (that we are all sinners saved by grace). I knew I needed Christ in my life and that without Him I was lost. It was the beginning of my walk with Jesus. Praise God, He took me right where I was. Little by little, I grew in my relationship with Christ.

My husband Don and I got married when we were both 20 years old. I think I could write a book on the next few years and really the rest of my life! Immediately after our honeymoon, we moved to Washington DC. While living there, Don read the book *Jungle Pilot*, which is about the five missionary pilots that were killed by the Auca Indians in Ecuador. He told me after reading the book that he felt called to missionary aviation. This frightened me. I was speechless! I read the book, and it changed our lives forever. My husband wanted to use his gifts in fixing things. So, after studying and getting his certifications at Spartan School of Aeronautics, we began our work with Wycliffe Bible Translators and JAARS.

All kinds of fears ruled my life as a young child until adulthood. I was terrified by all kinds of bugs and especially spiders! I knew that in our three months of survival camp in southern Mexico (required by Wycliffe), I would encounter all kinds of snakes, bugs and spiders! I pretty much threw myself on the Lord. I knew that I couldn't do this on my own! So, at the age of 26 years old, I told the Lord that if He was asking me to be a missionary, it would have to be on His strength and not my own. I asked Him to help me to overcome my fears and help me to trust Him with my future.

I'm so happy that the Lord healed me of the things I feared! I began trusting the Lord with all my heart, soul and mind. This changed my life forever. I don't have the space or time to tell you the many, many stories of God's wonderful grace; I experienced a lot of traumatic things, but God walked me through each experience and helped me in our many moves. While studying at the Oklahoma University in Norman we were accepted as Wycliffe missionaries on July 1, 1973. Our first assignment was in Brazil, and then Ecuador, Nairobi, Australia and many years in the States working at the headquarters. I'm so grateful to have a Christian husband and I'm still rejoicing that God healed me from my bondage of fear and could use a broken person like me, with all my weaknesses. I learned that He takes the little I have to offer and blesses it! He makes much from little!



Jay & Dianne Wassall

DIANNE WASSALL

I grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. I was raised in the Catholic Church. While I knew Christ, I did not feel I knew the Bible. In the Catholic Church at that time, they preached the Bible but did not overtly encourage that you should know the Bible. I knew that Christ was my savior and path to Heaven, but because of not reading the Bible, I did not fully know Him.

I met my husband, Jay, in 1987 and we were married in a Catholic Church. We have two sons, Matt and Andrew. Matt, 34, lives in Colorado and is single. Andrew, age 31, lives in Robesonia with his wife Anna and my granddaughter Eloise Claire who is 21 months.

We moved to West Chester, PA a year after our son Matt was born. Two years later, we welcomed Andrew. Jay and I could not find a church that we both liked. Our sons were in the care of a wonderful faithful woman, Colleen. She and her husband went to a Presbyterian Church. She brought the boys to their Vacation Bible School. After attending the Church, we had found a church where we could continue to learn.

In 1998, we moved to Lancaster County for my job at St. Joseph Hospital. I worked with Sister Madonna who was the Mission Integration Leader. As I spent time with her living her faith, I felt God was nudging me to make my faith stronger. We had found a small Presbyterian Church and had begun attending there. However, we wanted more. We started at LCBC around 2003.

At LCBC, we joined a multigenerational small group. We began to center our paths on Christ and biblical learning. Neither of us had a strong knowledge of the Bible and through our studies in our small group, we had a better understanding of the Bible. I remember that I asked so many questions about how to interpret the Bible or not understanding what I read. They put up with me and provided a lot of knowledge, and I recommitted my life to Christ during this time, around 2007.

Our small group fell apart at the same time that we moved to Colorado in 2014. I knew I wanted a Bible Church in Colorado. We attended a Bible Church for a few years. We had an expository pastor which strengthened our journey in learning from the Bible.

We moved to Idaho in late 2017. We found Eagle Christian Church that was very similar to LEFC. Again, this church helped me grow closer to Christ exponentially. We had joined a small group, but COVID hit. It was difficult to continue.

In April of 2020, my husband Jay was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. His prognosis gave him another 24-28 months to live. While he was able to get into remission, he was still taking powerful pills and infusions. ECC was helping me to stay strong. I relied on prayer and knew that God was with us on this journey.

We decided to move back closer to our one son and extended family. We moved to Home Towne Square in Ephrata in July 2022. While we were building and selecting the house, I went to LEFC and really felt that it was where we belonged. Unfortunately, Jay was not able to attend very much, since he was immunocompromised. He attended a few times and watched the service online.

Jay passed away in February 2024. Gary Poorman, one of the care pastors from LEFC, came several times when he was in the hospital. When Gary prayed with him, Jay was grateful and more at peace. I was so thankful for my faith and the support from LEFC at that difficult time. My family was blessed to have Jay for four years, not two. I know it was God's hand to allow us to have more time.

I am so thankful the Lord guided me to LEFC. He knew the support and comfort I would need. My favorite passage during this time has been Deuteronomy 31:8, *“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*