

NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES

**NOV
2026**

NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES // November 2026

Corey & Sarah Faus
Johnny Grisbacher
Steve & Heather Halstead
Corey & Lori Hamilton
Jadeyn Hamilton
Michael Hamilton
Emily Huber

John & Lauran Huber
Kris & Rochelle Huber
Hunter Leigey
Robert & Angela Licata
Grace Lingenfelter
Roy & Beth Lowe
Tyler & Lydia Martin

David Oberholtzer
Lydia Peters
Steven Ribaud
Heather Stauffer
David & Reagan Stirpe
Barry & Gini Timmins *
Amelia Wittmaier

** Denotes former members returning by way of membership reinstatement.*

COREY FAUS //



Sarah & Corey Faus

I grew up in a very idyllic setting in Lancaster County. Living out in the countryside, we were within two miles of our elementary school, our church, and our family's small grocery store/insurance agency. My three siblings and I got along well, with very loving parents who raised us to know about Jesus. At church, my great-grandfather and great-uncle were bi-vocational ministers of the church, and my grandparents were heavily involved in choir. Our family never missed a Sunday, and each week included Sunday school and church service. At age 13, I walked to the front of the sanctuary at the end of church service to confirm that I wanted to accept Jesus into my heart and be baptized.

Reflecting on that period of time, my faith was real and I had a solid knowledge of scripture, however I had a more legalistic perspective

and didn't find it easy to accept why others could do the evil things you would read about, or even why I could make mistakes myself. I found it easier to not spend time with people who acted in more obviously sinful ways. As I graduated high school, I was excited to attend Messiah for college. This was a truly great experience, and I made many quality friends there. My heart, though, had grown apathetic in my faith. This continued after graduating. I wasn't spending any personal time reading scripture and was more interested in what my weekend plans would be with friends than anything else.

I became part of a young adult bible study where my heart started opening to God's word in ways it never had before. The concept of faith being that Jesus has done all the work and I only need to trust in Him and His blood being enough to wash away all sin was connecting deeply with me and changed my life. It is a little over 10 years now since the day I invited my now wife, Sarah, to that bible study. We've been married for 8 years. Sarah has been such an encouragement in my faith to keep me accountable to growing in faith and in God's word. After completing Calvary Church's "marriage builders" adult fellowship class together, we decided to attend LEFC in 2020. Through LEFC's teaching in church services and the Roots class, we've been so appreciative of the ability to dive into God's word each week. I love Jesus and have made Him the King of my heart. Reading His word and being in relationship with fellow believers at LEFC keeps me connected to the truth and continues to renew my enthusiasm for the gospel. On Christ the solid rock, I stand.

SARAH FAUS //

I was raised in a Christian family household, where we would attend Sunday school and a church service every Sunday morning. I was involved in junior high and youth group where we went on mission trips that really opened my eyes and heart to what God is doing around the world and in our country.

Growing up, my grandma encouraged me and helped me memorize a portion of Psalm 23: *"The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul."* I accepted Jesus into my heart around the age of 9 at vacation bible school. My bible school teacher was talking about the death of Christ and what He has done for us on the cross. She made the invitation: if you want to repent from your sins and ask Jesus into your heart, talk with her after class that evening. I felt a tug on my heart to take that next step in faith. She prayed over me the sinner's prayer: confess my sins, believe in Jesus' death and resurrection, and ask for salvation. By praying those words, I put on my new self in Christ. Later on, after attending baptism class, I was baptized in front of the church, declaring my faith in Jesus.

By the time I went to college, where I was living on my own and making my own decisions, my faith was tested. My freshman year, I attended church from time to time, but by my sophomore year, I put Christ on the back burner and put other things above Him: athletics, school, and relationships. It was by the time I graduated from college and moved back home when I realized my relationship with Jesus was quiet and distant. The Holy Spirit convicted my heart that I was thinking that I can live this life on my own, putting myself before Him, and I was consumed about what was going on around me more than my relationship with Christ. I was a lost sheep and was in need of a Shepherd. I began attending church and a young adult Bible study, and I realized that my pride and selfishness had been prioritizing my own desires over God's. That was when my heart changed, putting on my new self in Christ as the forefront of my life; He restored my soul. My faith journey and spiritual maturity have grown significantly from when I was nine years old to a young adult. This growth will always continue as I deepen my understanding of God's truth and love with Christ as my Savior.

God has been gracious and faithful towards me, where in times of me being lost and selfish, He loved me and was fighting for me. He led me to my spouse, Corey, where he challenges me and keeps me accountable in my faith. Lastly, God has blessed us with two beautiful children in our family to help raise and grow in knowing about Jesus and to love Him. We feel like LEFC is our home church and has helped us grow in His word, teach the truth and feel a part of a community that cares for one another.

God's continuing to write my story every day. Through His mercy and love, He is constantly working on me and my heart, guiding me like a shepherd who watches over and cares for his flock.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."— John 10:11



Johnny Grisbacher

JOHNNY GRISBACHER //

I was raised in the great town of Lititz, PA, and was taught of Jesus from an early age. As I grew up and continued interacting with God's Word and His people, I grew in my understanding of my need for Jesus, His great work on the cross to save me, and my calling to live fully for God in light of that truth (Romans 12:1).

Because of Jesus, I have been saved from sin! I have the hope of eternal life with my God, and the privilege of living for my Savior in this life and the one to come.

Some especially impactful seasons came through college and summer camp. With DiscipleMakers at Lebanon Valley College, I witnessed students living on mission for Jesus on their own volition, and working at Black Rock Retreat, I further experienced the deep community that comes from actively living for Jesus together.

In recent years, God has been using some trials to grow me. In August of 2021, I received a concussion while bridge-jumping with friends. After not taking recovery as seriously as I should have, the effects of

the concussion grew. I started losing a lot of things that were important to me like success in college and my ability to be physically active. There have been months at a time where I am in a moderate level of near-constant pain.

Here are a few of the ways God has grown me in this time: All that I have are gifts from God, and He has full right to take them away. He remains my greatest treasure and worthy of praise (Job 1:21, Romans 8:18). When I feel like I've received little sentence-of-death trials, it pushes me to rely on our God who raises the dead. He has been faithful, and He will be faithful (2 Cor 1:8-10). One day we'll get new bodies! That's exciting. Having that hope, I can endure through these "light and momentary afflictions", rejoice in the steadfastness God is growing in me, and live to share the hope of Jesus with others (1 Cor 15:42, James 1:2-3, 2 Cor 4:17). Come Lord Jesus!



Steve & Heather Halstead

STEVE HALSTEAD //

I grew up in a Christian family. My parents took my sister and I to church every Sunday where my father was a deacon and trustee. I attended vacation bible school in the summer. I thought that church must be important because when we stopped at the store on the way home, the store owner would give my sister and me a free slushie if we had gone to church, but I didn't really understand the importance of a relationship with Jesus. As I got older, I went to Sunday school every week, but it was as much to hang out with my friends as to learn. I did accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior during this time. I do remember thinking that Christmas was a great thing, because our church had a program which was open to the public entitled "Joy of Sharing" which told the story of Jesus' birth through stations throughout the church in December. For my Eagle Scout project I set up and ran the petting zoo (manger scene) in the church's gym.

After graduating high school, I stopped going to church. At that time, church seemed to be for older people. I got a job that required working Sundays, so that made it even easier to skip church. I clearly was lost. Several years later, a friend invited me to go to church. I went to church with them and realized that I needed to go to church, because my relationship with God was lacking. I began regularly attending the church I grew up in. When I began dating my future wife, I encouraged her to attend, which she did. We got married there and all our children were baptized there as well.

Before retiring from my first career, I applied for a new job, which I didn't get. I was very disappointed. Later, I got a phone call from a coworker from a job twenty years earlier. He offered me a job in a school. I thought, 'why not?' so I took it. It has now become apparent that this was God's plan. 'Coincidentally,' my friend was also a part-time pastor.

Our church held a series of meetings to decide what direction the church should go moving forward. One of my concerns, and that of other members, was that we needed a stronger kid's ministry. COVID hit and that never came to be. Several years later, my wife and I didn't feel we were getting much from our church. We started looking for a new church home. Watching LEFC on television one week, we decided to try it. WOW, what a difference. It became obvious early on that the pastor (Tony) had a very strong faith and was passionate about teaching the word of God. Our kids were upset that we had changed churches, but once they began attending KidMin and Crossover, they totally changed their minds. It has been such a blessing to attend LEFC. My faith has clearly deepened, and I am now totally at peace knowing I have surrendered my life to God, and He is in total control - HALLELUJAH!

Looking back, God has always been in control, it just took me quite some time to realize.

HEATHER HALSTEAD //

I grew up in Lancaster City in a home with my older brother. My parents have been married for 48 years, and we did not attend church. My maternal grandfather and my paternal aunt were faithful in attending church. My aunt would often take my brother and I to Christmas Eve service. As a child, I never read the Bible or had a clear understanding other than the birth of Jesus from the Christmas Eve service.

As I became an adult and began working as a police officer in Lancaster City in the early 2000's, I began feeling called to find a church but didn't know the first thing about where to look. In the summer of 2004, my husband Steve and I began dating and he invited me to a service at his church. I feel this is the first time God began working in my life, when He found me a life partner who was a follower of Jesus. I continued attending church services, and Steve and I eventually became members. In 2007, we were married in the church and began raising our three children, Brianna (16), Addison (13), and Benjamin (11) in the church. We were regular attendees, but I felt like we were fighting to get the kids to want to go to church. During this time, I felt like I was just going through the motions to say I was going to church. But I didn't feel like I was getting fed God's word or following him, although I believed God had a purpose for me. I had a Bible, but I rarely opened it.

In 2020, I went through my first shoulder surgery which led to me being hospitalized several times within a few months. I remember Addison, who was 8 at the time, worried whether Mommy was going to be okay and reminding her that God has a plan for us and to believe in His plan. The issues with my shoulder brought additional unexpected hardships, including a bone infection and five additional surgeries. In March of 2023, my employment with Lancaster City was terminated. I began really questioning God's plans in my life and why He was putting me through all these trials. I questioned, "why me?" This was undoubtedly some of the worst times in my life. I struggled with why God was allowing this to happen and with my relationship with Him. I became very depressed and thought my career as a police officer was over, though I still felt a calling to help people and serve the community. In June of 2023, a friend had recommended that I put an application into a department near me. I thought there was no way the chief would hire me, as there were issues within the department and I had been terminated, but I PRAYED for God's guidance. In July of 2023, I was called and told the police chief wanted to interview me. During the interview, I don't remember a single question he asked, but I remember that he leaned back in his chair, crossed his arms, and said "God brought you here for a reason, we'll figure out the reason later." I was immediately in awe and knew this was part of God's plan. I left the interview and hurried home eager to tell my husband about the experience, as I felt God was there in that moment. In August of 2023, I began working for a chief and a lieutenant who each had a strong relationship with God and encouraged me to become stronger in my walk with him. They became great friends.

In July of 2024, I received news that God worked again and my termination from Lancaster City was changed to reinstatement. I had no desire to return to the city, as I loved working for my current chief, so I made the decision to retire with 23 years.

My favorite go-to Bible verses which help to get me through my struggles are:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" – Romans 8:31

During all of this, I struggled with our church as I felt I wasn't getting fed God's word. I saw what my new friends were getting and felt I wasn't getting the same thing. I mentioned changing churches to Steve and he seemed uninterested. I remember one Friday in October having a deep conversation with

the chief about our faith journeys and he mentioned LEFC and how he ended up there. That Sunday, I tuned in on LEFC's YouTube channel and Pastor Tony was preaching on how God protected Noah from the storm by telling him to build the ark. At the end of the sermon, I had tears in my eyes as I believed that's exactly what God did in my life when He removed me from Lancaster City and took me to work for the new chief. After this sermon, I began praying that God would speak to Steve and help him to see the need to change churches. We visited LEFC that January and never looked back. LEFC has helped our family become stronger followers.

Looking back, I am deeply thankful to see how God walked with me through every season — a journey that led my family to LEFC and blessed me with incredible friends and a growing relationship with Christ. *"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."* — Psalm 118:29. I have fully surrendered my life to Him, thankful for His faithfulness in my life. I have surrendered control, because His plans for me are better than I could ever imagine. The best part is knowing He isn't finished with me yet; He is still writing my story.



Corey & Lori Hamilton

COREY HAMILTON //

My testimony is as much about others as it is about myself. I was raised in a Catholic home, attending Mass every week until I became an adult. I always had an interest in God, but I felt as though something was missing. Like a splinter in my mind, something just didn't add up. While I didn't initially realize that Protestantism held the answers I was looking for, I knew that something in my spiritual upbringing felt incomplete.

Thankfully, the Lord sought me out and placed people in my life to guide me toward Him. A family that moved in up the street became instrumental in leading me to Jesus. Despite my teenage rebellion, they welcomed me into their home, prayed for me, and invited me to their youth group. It was there, around age 14, that I gave my heart to the Lord.

Their son, Shawn, became my best friend—even though, prior to my conversion, he admitted that not many people liked me. Before knowing Christ, I tried to emulate relatives who were arrogant and focused on partying, drinking, and chasing girls. After accepting Jesus, I became a completely different person. Shawn and I remain close friends to this day and catch up regularly. The faithfulness of Shawn and his family in praying for and welcoming me was pivotal in bringing me to Christ.

Ironically, it was after being saved at an Assemblies of God church and reading the Bible for myself that I truly began to understand Catholic theology and the Mass. Although my family worried I was joining a cult, I actually grew to understand the Catholic Church and its practices far better than relatives who had attended all their lives. Recognizing where those teachings diverged from Scripture, I continued attending Mass with my family for a time while actively participating in the Assemblies of God church.

My life was completely transformed by my conversion, and ever since, I have sought to share the Gospel and serve as Christ's representative in the world.

LORI HAMILTON //

As a young child, an adult neighbor invited me to attend church with her each week. My parents believed in God but did not attend church, and this neighbor invited my brother and me to attend her church, Chiques Church of the Brethren. As I attended, I learned about God, Jesus, and the Bible. I learned about sin, separation from God, and the sacrifice that Jesus made to save us from that sin so we

could be with Him in heaven. I also attended a Christian summer camp each year where the gospel was presented. My mom's employers at Kreider Farms offered this opportunity to employees' children. I recall responding to the altar call several summers in a row during my elementary school years, just to "make sure" that God had heard my confession and acceptance of Him! As I think back on my childhood years, I am so grateful to that neighbor and to the Kreiders, both of whom made a purposeful effort to invite me to learn about Him. It was these opportunities that helped lay the foundation for my faith and taught me the importance of sharing the Gospel with others.

As a teen, I started to choose friends who were also Christians, and we attended church together as well as Youth for Christ events. My faith grew in those years, but it wasn't until young adulthood that it became fully my own. After high school, I attended Messiah College, which provided a supportive Christian environment for me to grow in my faith. I was able to learn in an environment surrounded by other believers of all ages, viewing each subject through the lens of faith. It was a wonderful experience of practical learning and spiritual growth. I learned about the importance of Christian community and a Biblical worldview. It was during that time that God spoke to me about His call on my life in ministry to vulnerable children, specifically in the area of foster care and adoption.

Throughout my adult years, I've been learning about what it means to be faithful to His call. I've also learned that His call and timing are not always what I, with my limited human understanding, expect. When God first gave me a passion for foster care and adoption, I believed that He meant for it to be used in my vocation. After a powerful encounter of God leading me away from a foster care job that I loved, as well as a difficult struggle with infertility, He made it clear to me and my husband that His call, and my passion, was more personal. After several years of misunderstanding and struggling with the Lord, He brought us our two wonderful children through adoption! Now that our children are older, God has also given me the ability to minister to other parents who are fostering and adopting.

As I look back, I can see how positive experiences, difficulties, and brokenness have all led me to where I am today in my faith and in my everyday life. I have been frustrated with God at times, not fully understanding His will. I've also experienced the surprising joy of looking back and realizing that what He has planned for my life is way more beautiful and rewarding than I could have ever planned. I am so grateful for His grace, forgiveness, patience and guidance! I have desperately needed them all! I am so thankful that He gives each of us unique gifts and passions! I look forward to continuing to learn more about Him and seeing what He has planned for me in the future!



Jadeyn Hamilton

JADEYN HAMILTON //

I accepted Jesus when I was in elementary school, and I am no longer the same person that I once was. I was able to attend a Christian school, and the teachers there were able to help strengthen my knowledge of His plan for me. I also learned how to let go of things holding me back from trusting Him completely. He has strengthened my compassion for the less fortunate, and I want to use that gift to help those He is calling me to help. I want to grow closer to Jesus and I want to always learn from Him.

My favorite verses are Revelation 21:1-4:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They

will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

I find these verses encouraging because they remind me that the life that we live in now is not the life that we will live in forever. We will be with Jesus and be reunited with loved ones who we've lost.



Michael Hamilton

MICHAEL HAMILTON //

I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 4 years old. Jesus is important to me because I know that He knows me better than anyone else ever will and that is comforting to me. I know that He will always forgive my sin and that I can rely on Him to help me through anything I come across. I feel thankful for His grace.

When I was in middle school, I thought that I might want to become a pastor. After that, I realized that I really enjoy being with elderly people. My dad works in a retirement community, and I feel that God may be leading me to become a chaplain at a retirement community. I am a senior in high school and am looking forward to seeing where God leads me.

A Bible verse that is meaningful to me is John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."



Emily Huber

EMILY HUBER //

I grew up in a Christian home, where I met Jesus at the age of around 4 years old. From there, my knowledge and love of Christ grew. Throughout my elementary school days, I participated in church events and had a strong Christian community to lean on. When I was in 5th grade, I was baptized at Sunday in the Park and got to share my faith publicly in front of everyone.

When I got to high school, it became apparent that I was different than some of my other friends I met at school. As a Christian, I followed rules and did things that not a lot of fellow classmates did as well, but I always had Christian friends in youth group and wise leaders to come back to. And although I had all this knowledge of God by going to these events and I loved God, I do not feel like I was close and personal with God until college. I had the

opportunity to go to Lancaster Bible College, where I got to learn healthy spiritual habits that have helped me maintain my relationship with God through tough times, and to build relationships with other believers that challenged me to grow closer to God.

Then, I transferred to Millersville and I began to isolate due to a lack of Christian friends and the support system that I had taken for granted at LEFC in years prior. Soon enough, I was missing one of the most important things that helped me get through rough times in the past: community.

When I graduated college, I felt the most isolated I think I ever felt before, and it took me a while to start getting involved in church again after being so far removed and feeling as if I wasn't wanted there anymore. Slowly, I started playing on the worship team more often and started helping make Sunday

morning coffee once a month. Now, I am getting more involved in the church community and have never felt closer to God because of the strength and love this body of believers gives me, whether that's helping with coffee or playing on worship team, or seeing people I've met through Bible studies or Sunday morning fellowship classes. And now I'm ready and wanting to take another step to commit to showing up and being a part of the church officially by becoming a member and being able to pour into others' lives like they've been doing for me my whole life.



John & Lauran Huber

JOHN HUBER //

I was blessed to be raised in a Christian family that was heavily involved in the church my whole life growing up. I accepted Jesus as my savior when I was 5 years old. I was baptized in 6th grade and was fully committed to my walk with Christ at a fairly young age. I was fortunate enough to go to Lititz Christian from 7th-12th grade and grew in my knowledge of the Bible and understanding of God's word.

Several times in my life when I felt the pull to go towards worldly living, I was pulled back to what God's plan was for my spiritual growth. I went on mission trips to Haiti that I was invited to go on from a mentor of mine. My eyes were opened to a different way of living and to how God is working all around the world. This was one of the ways God used someone in my life to draw me closer to him.

I struggled a bit in high school at following God above my own desires. I struggled with following worldly desires and wanting to fit in with the world. Once again, God placed another mentor in my life to guide me back to His plan for my life. Ever since, I have been faithfully walking with the Lord and follow His teachings. Despite falling short many times, I continually strive to honor Jesus' sacrifice for me and show love to others.

In the past 10 years or so, I have learned so much from leaning on scripture and prayer. Some things that I have grown substantially in are:

- How to better love and lead my wife.
- How to better love and lead my children.
- Praying for people by name.
- Having conversations with my kids that relate to the Bible and Christ.
- How the entire Bible points directly towards Christ.
- Trusting in God's timeline.
- Finding calmness in the storms of life.

Through every obstacle in my life, I have seen God's hand in it all. Whether it was the people He placed in my life at just the right moment or his impeccable timing, He's had a hand in it all. I am so grateful for His never-ending love and grace that He has given me and am excited as I continue to grow in Him.

LAURAN HUBER //

I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home. Because of my parents' decision to follow Christ as adults, my brother and I became the first generation in my family to be raised learning about who Jesus is, reading the Bible, and going to church. My mom was a Sunday school teacher, my dad was an elder. I don't think I have any memories of ever not going to church growing up. My dad would pray with me every night and I remember one night around 5 years old, I asked Jesus into my heart.

In 5th grade, my friend's mom passed away from cancer. It was a very hard time, and I remember thinking, I am very glad my mom is healthy.

In 2005, the summer before I entered middle school, my parents made the decision to switch schools from public to private Christian school. This was a hard transition for me, but it was all part of God's plan for me. I was then baptized at 11 years old. I also met my husband in middle school.

Months after starting at a new school my mom was diagnosed with colon cancer. This time in my life has been a huge part of my testimony and my walk with Christ.

I remember feeling scared, sad, and asking God "why?" while also remembering just the previous year, my friend lost her mom to cancer. During my mom's cancer journey, our family turned to Hebrews 11:1: *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see."*

My mom went through multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and then onto a different treatment plan under different doctors. She had one final surgery in 2007. She was cancer-free from 2007-2014. We praised our Healer for her health.

I started dating my husband in 2010. In 2014 we were engaged, and my mom's cancer also returned. We were married in 2015, my mom passed away in 2016, and I also graduated from college at the end of that year. This was the hardest time in my life – going through so many new life stages, and also losing my best friend, my confidante, and my hero. However, knowing my mom knew Jesus as her Lord and Savior, she was so ready to "go home," as she said in her last days on earth. Without having a relationship with Jesus, I would not been able to move on and grieve. I celebrate that she is in glory with a new cancer-free body, but I still grieve the things she is not here for, like meeting her grandchildren now 10 years later.

God has blessed me with a wonderful husband that supports me and loves me so well, four beautiful children, and a great community of believers He has placed in my life. I am so thankful for being able to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. I have been able to lean into Him in all areas of my life, and He has shown me it is all a part of His plan for me.



Kris & Rochelle Huber

KRIS HUBER //

I grew up in a church-going Christian household, and from a young age, I knew I wanted to become a Christian. As I got older, I realized I'm a sinner in need of a Savior, and I got baptized at 16. I love the peace and joy it brings to be a follower of Christ!

Some friends recommended LEFC to us about 5 years ago, and we have been coming here ever since. I appreciate Hebrews 12:1-2:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

ROCHELLE HUBER //

I am blessed to have grown up in a Christian household where we went to church almost every Sunday. I remember praying the "sinner's prayer" at around 13. I had been baptized at age 16. I grew up and got married in a conservative Mennonite church.

Shortly after my husband and I got married in 2019, the church asked us if we wanted to serve at their mission in Ghana, Africa for 3 months. We felt that was where God was leading us at the time, so we packed up and followed that calling. We made some great friends in Africa who really showed us what a fully reliant relationship on the Lord looked like.

After coming home, we felt convicted to leave that church. We visited around for a bit, and then some friends of ours invited us to LEFC. After attending for 1 or 2 services we fell in love with the people and their passion for serving the Lord. Our desires are to keep growing in relationship with the Lord and through that, to shine His light for everyone to see.

My favorite verse is Romans 15:13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

I am thankful for the peace, joy, and hope we have through Jesus Christ.



Hunter Leigey

HUNTER LEIGEY //

I was raised in Lititz and am the youngest of 3 brothers. Although I vaguely remember hearing some Bible stories as a kid, my family was not Christian. Growing up, I never had a close relationship with the Lord. Although looking back, I can see Him moving in my life even when I didn't know Him. As a child, I was often bullied; this led to me being very shy and not having many friends. As I grew older, I developed depression and anxiety. In high school, I had few friends and felt like I lacked purpose in life. This led me to try to fill that void with work, relationships, and various other things.

Last year, I started having conversations with someone I worked with regarding their faith. Their belief that God truly cared about them and wanted to have a relationship with them became the first seed that brought me here. I became interested in understanding more; before then, I had believed that God existed but never tried to build a relationship with Him. After several conversations about who God was, I decided to go to church. The first time I walked into LEFC, I was nervous and not sure what to expect, but God had started to work in my heart to bring me back. After attending for several weeks, I began meeting others who were excited to invite me in and share their love of the Lord with me.

If you had asked me a year ago what my plan was, I would have told you I was going to become an engineer and build something that would change the world. I was determined to build a legacy for my name, something that I could be proud to leave behind. My biggest fear in the world was to die and have no one remember who I was. How foolish I was to think that such a thing would be attainable on this earth, but I now know that even after I leave this earth, Jesus Christ will never forget my name. For I will forever be with Him in His kingdom, and anything I do on this Earth is through Him and His grace.

Over the past year, I have seen how God has changed my life. He has given me peace, community, and faith that there is something far better than this world in store for me. He has shown me that even though I have sinned against Him and although I am undeserving of his grace and forgiveness, He still loves me and wishes to have a relationship with me. Praise God for finding me and changing my life.



Angela & Robert Licata

ROBERT LICATA //

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY and was raised as a Roman Catholic. I knew of Christ but did not know Christ. I went through all of the traditional Catholic practices and stopped church attendance at about 13 years old. I eventually got involved deeply in things of the world, and developed behaviors that were harmful to others and harmful to myself. I joined a traveling rock band and made a living doing all the rock band member things you often hear about. I eventually got married, moved to Pennsylvania, and became a teacher. However, my sinful nature was very active, and I believe the evil one had full control!

Finally, at the age of 47, my wife left me and I had to raise my daughter on my own. My teaching job was becoming undependable, and the only family I knew were all in New York City. I could not find one worldly pleasure that would fill this void. I began to do the only religious thing I knew how to do: pray to my crucifix. I believe God answers prayers. One night, I got on my knees and told the Lord that I could no longer go on this way. I could feel the Lord listening. Within a few days, I met my now wife, a true blessing from God. I initially tried to drag her into my world, but God would not have it. I believe it was at this time that God began to change my heart.

Eventually, my new wife's brother-in-law, knowing I was a musician, asked me if I could help out as a worship leader at his small church. I began learning and singing worship songs. In most cases, I had no idea what I was actually singing about, but I believe that God, through the anointed words in these songs, was telling me to study and learn more about Him.

I sometimes look back and think about what I was. When I do, I see someone I am ashamed of and no longer know. I repent often. I believe this is the born-again Jesus is talking about. Today, I sing about the Lord and to the Lord almost every day. It is a big part of my life and my relationship with Christ. The most difficult thing now is me getting out of the way when Christ is leading!

My standard of living is now set to Godly. Of course I will never reach it, but this unattainable standard and the promises of God are a wonderful new norm.

ANGELA LICATA //

I grew up the youngest of 6 children in a single parent home. My dad left when I was 3 years old. My mother raised us in the church. At the age of 10, I asked Jesus into my heart and got baptized. Having gone through abuse from the age of 3 to 14, I became very withdrawn, angry and questioning God and my belief in Him. At the age of 17, I tried to take my life, but God spared me. At that time, a girl close to my friends that I was with said she prayed to Mary that I would be forgiven. It was at that moment the spirit of God brought to my mind 1 John 1:9: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* I knew in my heart it was not Mary that would forgive me, but God alone through my confession and repentance. I cried out to God in that moment for His forgiveness and cleansing.

I began to study God's Word daily, growing in my faith in Jesus. I felt the call of God to missions. The book of 1 Peter came to mean so much to me. 1 Peter 2:13-25 is a passage that became a foundation for that calling to mission. If God loved me enough to send His Son to die for me and to provide me with eternal life in heaven and an abundant life now on earth, how can I be motivated to do any less than obey Him? I did two short term summer mission trips and then spent 3 years with Youth With a Mission in Salem, OR. During this time, I continued to grow deeper in my faith.

After leaving YWAM, I was in a relationship with a man I should not have been. When that relationship ended, because of the way it ended, I felt and believed in my heart that God would not forgive me. It was at this time that I became like Paul says in Romans 7:15: *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."* This was the struggle for the next 10 years of my life. I am so grateful to God for not giving up on me and for continuing to draw me back to Him. I know that God's grace is sufficient to cover all my sins – past, present, and future.

Today, Psalm 139 has become a precious word to me. I have known both mountaintop experiences and been in the depths of despair to the point of wanting to die. From the heights to the plateaus, to the desert, and to the depths He has been with me. All the days He ordained for me were written in His book before one came to be. I praise Him because His works are wonderful, I know this full well. My continued prayer is *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* May God be glorified in and through my life.



Grace Lingenfelter

GRACE LINGENFELTER //

I was born in Southern California, and I grew up there until we moved to Pennsylvania, just as I was about to start high school.

When I was in first grade, my Grandpa Lloyd died, and I was very sad. The very next year, Dan Barbour, a pastor from High Desert Church (HDC) who worked with my dad, died. Because of all this, my parents talked with us about Heaven and my brother Jacob accepted Jesus into his heart. At the time, I was really confused and extremely frightened. I thought Jacob was going to go into Heaven right after he prayed. I started yelling, "No Jacob. Don't do it, I don't want you to leave." Mom reassured me, but I still wasn't ready to accept just yet. I continued learning at HDC and through my "God Time" booklets that HDC gave me for homework.

When I was going into 4th grade during Summer Blast, which is a summer church day camp, like Sports World, I prayed to receive Christ into my heart when my Children's Pastor, David Robles, had explained the gospel and was praying. My group leader, April McCue, heard me praying and she was very excited for me. Afterwards I ran over and told everyone what I had done, and they all were very excited for me. When I was in 6th grade, I asked my dad to baptize me. He was on staff at HDC, and it was a special moment for him to be able to baptize me and my brother.

Since 4th grade I have been singing and dancing as I praise Jesus. The youth worship team was called "Shout It Out" because we wanted to shout to others about Jesus in saying we loved Him. We led worship for our church children's ministry and in the church worship services in preparation for Christmas and Easter. It was meaningful and a lot of fun as well.

In 8th grade I went to summer camp with HDC. We were studying Gideon and how he learned to trust God. Later that year I read "Case for Christ" and 1 John. It showed me that I am God's daughter and that He loved me more than I ever knew.

In March of that year, I found out we were moving to PA. I was very angry and crying. I was worried that I would not be able to see my friends again. In April, I went on a youth group retreat called Passages, where I learned how to say, "If I can't do it, I have to try and not quit." I realized that I needed to have faith and trust that God's plans happen for a reason. God was calling us to Lititz. I left the house I grew up in three days later and we started a new journey of life.

After moving to Lititz, PA, I became involved at LEFC and with Crossover Student Ministries. I attended See You at the Pole, Bible studies and prayer meetings at Warwick High School. I also did a lot of service projects through Crossover. I have enjoyed serving with LEFC Kidmin and as a camp counselor for Sports World summer day camp. I have made a lot of new friends, and disciplined friends from school. God has given me new memories with family and my best friends here in PA. I have kept in touch with my closest friends in CA, too.

One of my favorite memory verses is Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you have received an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."



Beth & Roy Lowe

ROY LOWE //

I grew up in Liberty, a small town in southern Tioga County. As a small boy, I attended a Lutheran church with my mom and siblings. I even completed the catechism classes and become a member in my teenage years. I accepted Jesus as my savior somewhere between 11 and 12 years old. Knowing the lessons about God and Jesus did not stop my sinfulness. Throughout my life, there were many twists and turns when I put my own selfish desires ahead of what God wanted.

Before my teenage years, I attended Sunday school provided by a local non-denominational church. On one summer afternoon, one of the staff asked me if I accepted Jesus as my savior and provided reasons why I should. It was earlier that summer that I remember standing in front of my house feeling a sense of having no life

purpose. I accepted Jesus as my savior around 11 or 12 years old. I never had that feeling of purposelessness again. However, as I went into my teenage years, I wanted things that my parents couldn't provide so I put work in front of church and, quite frankly, God.

I did find my way back to the Christian community when I started driving at 16 years old. Another pastor had come to town and started a teen outreach my friends and I often attended. I went to church off and on and still experienced the wonderful gifts that knowing Jesus provided, even though I often stumbled and fell on my face. Examples of God's love were experienced when I needed help in the military to meet objectives, comforted in combat, provided for financially, kept healthy, and even led to finding my wife. I learned many lessons on the way to where I am now.

As an adult, later in years, I strive to become more obedient to God's teachings and sharing with others what God has done for me. My wife is a great help mate and encourages me to turn back toward Jesus when it appears that I am drifting. The results of our obedience to the Lord are found in all that we have and I thank God daily for all that he does for me and gives to me. Life continues to get better and better the more I put God first in my life, even when I stumble.

BETH LOWE //

My kids were young; I was 33 years old. I always believed in God, but I struggled saying the name of Jesus in church. I just omitted his name, thinking this was close enough. I had been a medical case manager at the time and could not do it anymore because I was worried that I would bring back fleas, lice, roaches, and mice to my little babies from the homes I visited. I prayed and wrote up a program for a daycare center with my same clientele at the hospital. It was an answer to prayer; I would no longer have to risk walking into crack houses, receive the same pay, and staff the place with my friends and

their playground donations. My friends and family were the staff and were paid with a hospital gym pass and a cafeteria pass. I even had AARP staff who adopted all our kids as if they were grandparents. It was a dream come true.

My best friend had just been “born again.” (The irony was that she was the most likely to find fun trouble when we were 5 years old, which made this even more incredible.) My best friend’s husband thought she was “crackers,” as if she were crazy. He and I would argue with her for months on the phone every single day. In addition, two of my scientific friends who housed the daycare center were atheists. Two of the AARP grandmothers were religious (but not practicing) and participated in all these talks.

Then, my best friend challenged me to read “The Case for Christ” by Lee Stroebel and to read the Bible to see if Jesus was indeed the Lord. Daily, all these friends helped me research for and against. I finally closed the Bible after a few months and said, “Well, Jesus is indeed the Lord ... if the Bible is true.” Then, I shut the book. The elderly women said that I should not have said that.

So, at the end of my shift, I walked with my little ones to the elevator, as usual. I had a 5, 3, and 1 year old. As the elevator opened, I saw two people who did not look like anyone I have ever seen. One was an albino dressed in all white, one was in all black with all gold teeth. They blocked the elevator and said, “are you going up or down?” I said, “up, please.” They said, “no – are you going up or down?” I said, “pretty sure, up – definitely!”

When the kids and I got off the elevator parking deck, I grabbed all the kids and ran to the elevator. No one got off the elevator. I asked my very articulate little one and she agreed that no one was there getting off the elevator.

Since then, God has given me many signs and saved my life repeatedly (actually, when I was little as well). I feel blessed to have had a tremendous amount of “God moments.” I would love to tell you more of my testimonials. Thanks for the opportunity.



Lydia & Tyler Martin

TYLER MARTIN //

Growing up with parents who loved the Lord, I was taught the gospel from an early age: that our sin separates us from God, but Jesus lived a sinless life and died in our place and rose from the dead so we could be restored to a right relationship with Him now and for eternity. For a long time, I believed this because it’s what my parents had taught me.

That shifted in high school. Encouraged by youth leaders to ask hard questions, I began wrestling with the bigger picture of life. Reading Ecclesiastes, I realized that everything the world chases — money, pleasure, influence, success — means nothing in light of death and eternity. As I tested the claims of the Bible against these heavy questions, Scripture held up every time. God gave me true, eternal meaning, and the faith of my parents became my own personal conviction.

As I moved into college and my career, I stayed heavily involved in church, serving in various ministries. But over time, a quiet assumption took root in my heart. While I knew salvation was a gift of grace, I subtly believed that God was more pleased with me when I was doing more for Him. I fell into a subtle trap of relying on my performance to maintain His approval.

God, in His kindness, didn’t leave me there. Through key relationships and books like “The Ragamuffin Gospel,” He reshaped my understanding of His grace. He showed me that good works are the response to His love, not the condition for it.

Today, as a husband and father, I seek to let that truth anchor my life. I used to feel like someone who was freely invited into God's family but then had to work to earn my keep. Now, I know I am a child deeply and unconditionally loved by God. I can't do anything to earn this love which He has already freely given. Serving Him is no longer a burden to gain His favor, but a joyful response to the grace that set me free.

LYDIA MARTIN //

Growing up, my family would have said that we were a "Christian family," but as I have looked back over my childhood, I have come to the conclusion that this was less true than I realized. I was not explicitly taught the Gospel, I remember being very confused about certain theological topics, we were not part of a church for any consistent season, and I did not have any friends who prioritized their faith. I grew up in New Jersey and had a great childhood riding my bike to the beach and spending lots of time at the local community theatre. As a type-A firstborn, I was always considered a "good kid" and I liked being praised by adults for this. When I was in middle school, one of my younger brothers was diagnosed with cancer and our family was turned upside down. He battled for the next 8 years and is alive and well today, but even this did not drive my family to a true pursuit of the Lord. It left me with more questions about death and eternity than anything else.

As I entered high school, I quickly learned that I could maintain the "good kid" act while also doing what I wanted with friends who were not the best influence. I began drinking and partying and liked attention from boys. This double life continued when I left for college. My plan was to party and have fun and get some good grades on the side. Freshman year, I did just that. I had dabbled in attending the Christian Fellowship meetings on campus (because that is what good kids do), but stayed at an arm's length as my real priorities were which parties to attend on the weekends.

When I returned for sophomore year, the Lord had planted some seeds the previous year, and a timely coffee date with one of the staff workers finally opened my eyes to the depravity I was living in. I remember she explained that life in step with Jesus is like getting your slate wiped clean. My heart longed for that – was a fresh start really being offered to me? I finally saw how empty my life of striving for approval from both the "good" and the "bad" influences really was. The Lord has given me a gift of rash decision-making (not always a gift ... but in this instance it was!) and I gave my life to Jesus that night. I will never forget physically feeling the difference the next day – like something physiologically changed in me when I received the Holy Spirit. God was so quick to surround me with new friends who were all passionately seeking Jesus – sweet sisters I am still close with to this day. My priorities on campus did a 180 and I was spending hours studying and learning all I could about this glorious God who had pulled me from death into new life with Christ.

That broken and depleted girl that I was at the start of my sophomore year, just before I gave it all to Jesus, is honestly a distant memory now. I still desire to please others and find my heart chasing after the temporary things of this world often, but the Lord has been so kind to continue transforming me and deepening my faith. He has used the wonderful things in this life to show me more of Himself – landing my dream career, getting married, bringing home my baby girls. And He has also used the really hard things. In all of it, I get to see how consistent this God is that we serve. He never changes, even when life swirls around us.

I remember, early in my walk with Jesus, it hit me that it was a big deal to be starting a new legacy of faith for my family – that my children would get to have the "my family always taught me about Jesus" start to their testimonies that mine did not have. I prayed that God would use me to impact generations after me for eternity. I met my husband while working at Sight and Sound after college. He comes from a strong legacy of faith like the one I had prayed over my future family, and I am so thankful we share that vision. Being a mom to our two girls has caused me to confront my own sinfulness often and reminds me of the price Jesus paid to bring me into God's presence. But it has been the greatest joy of my life to

plant seeds of faith in their lives. As my own story has shown me, it is only God who can water and grow those seeds into genuine faith.



David Oberholtzer

DAVID OBERHOLTZER //

Since I've been a Christian all my life, I'll focus my writing on before and after my attendance at LEFC.

I grew up in my previous church, and it is a place I easily consider a second home. It was there I was baptized in my teens and where I was given the foundation of my faith (the nursery rhyme about the wise man and the foolish man comes to mind) and if given the opportunity I would have stayed there my whole life. But God had other plans for me.

Back in 2023, my parents and I began searching for a new church. I followed my parents to LEFC, and of the other local churches we had attended, this is the one that had impressed me the most with the teaching on Sundays. At the end of that year one of Tony's sermons regarding King David struck me, and though I can't recall

the exact contents, the effect it had on me was profound. After the service, I went to the encounter room to confess what I'd been struggling with for years at that point, and through the help of those there that day, I was put in touch with Gary Poorman. The next year would be a year of spiritual growth for me with his help and encouragement.

Part of my struggle was wrapped up in an incorrect understanding of salvation that I had by way of leaning on my own understanding. I had believed that salvation was through asking forgiveness through prayer and ceasing to sin after that, however that was an unbearable burden I had tied around my own neck. The weak human that I am, I found myself unable to stop myself and the guilt and shame of repeatedly being forgiven by God only to throw it back in His face and repeat my mistakes threatened to crush me. In His mercy, God showed me the error in this thinking and used LEFC's sermons, the help of Gary, the lessons in Synago, and so many more things I can't even remember (let alone write) to show me the Truth: **I am powerless to fix myself, if I could then Christ died for nothing.**

With this revelation came the peace of Christ which transcends all understanding. Through it, I began the journey of not only healing but of learning to forgive myself of my past sins; of learning that though I am not worthy of forgiveness, Christ imparted that worthiness to me by his blood on the cross. Because of this transformation in my life, and because I wish for this work of Christ to continue in me, I've joined two ministries at LEFC, the parking team, and the security team. To serve my brothers and sisters is a blessing I would be incomplete without.

This last part I struggle to write without simply quoting the Nicene and Apostle's creeds, but I'll do my best to write my own words: I believe in God the Father who created all things, heaven and earth, visible and invisible, known and unknown. I believe in God the Son whom the Father sent to earth in the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that He was fully God and fully human, that even though we are unworthy He died for our sins on the cross, that He was buried and on the third day rose by His own power from the dead, that He ascended into heaven and will return to resurrect the dead and judge all peoples and all nations. I believe in God the Holy Spirit who was sent to earth at Pentecost to dwell within us, to strengthen us until the Day of Christ. I believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins upon the confession that Christ is Lord, and I believe in the true presence of Christ at communion, not in body, but in mystery.

To quote my namesake in 2 Samuel, may God deal with me harshly if I have lied here, and with His help and strength I will continue to say all this until the day I die. All this I confess.



Lydia Peters

LYDIA PETERS //

I came to know Jesus as my Savior when I was five years old. While I don't remember much about that day, I do remember recognizing that I was a sinner in need of a Savior and asking Jesus to come into my heart. I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home by parents who love the Lord and to attend a pre-school Sunday school class where I learned about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. When I was twelve years old, I made the decision to rededicate my life to Christ and was baptized a few years later.

Since coming to know the Lord, He has continued to grow and sanctify me. I was blessed to attend Bible college, where my faith and convictions deepened further and I grew in my love for studying God and His Word. As I grow in my love and knowledge of God, He continues to reveal areas of my life that need to be

pruned or cultivated. He is teaching me to seek Him above all other things and to find my joy, peace, and satisfaction in Him. I've learned through trial and error that truly only the Lord can meet my needs. Psalm 23 is a passage of Scripture that I've come back to again and again recently. There is so much comfort in God's leading, provision, and discipline. How thankful I am to be safe in the care of my Shepherd!



Steven Ribaudo

STEVEN RIBAUDO //

My family has attended church my whole life. We began attending LEFC in the late 90's, and I was probably 5 or 6 at the time. I was connected in weeknight events and with our family small group, all of which played a role in my understanding of my need for a savior. After one event at LEFC, I was moved and prayed with my parents and accepted Jesus into my heart.

Through elementary and high school, I continued to remain involved via youth group and Bible quizzing. I was baptized in high school here at LEFC. Church was always present in my life. It was known and comfortable. After high school I began to focus on college and a career. Those consumed my time and attention. Even then, I feel that God led me to a school which was close to home and I'm grateful He did, as I would struggle with anxiety for the next

14 years. God used that time to break the delusion that I was in control of my life. I still struggle and need reminded of that regularly, but coming back to that truth has become more natural. I continue finding comfort in worship music or biblical truths. Philippians 4:6-7 has been the verse I look to regularly:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I am a slow learner, and by God's grace, I will continue to work through those issues and anxious tendencies.

After college, I decided to leave LEFC and attend another local church. I did not attend with intention and basically consumed church for almost a decade or more. Throughout that time, I was convicted by friends and family to get involved where I was or come back to LEFC. Again, I'm a slow learner; but

eventually, I took that wisdom to heart. Starting in January of 2026, I began to attend and get involved with Mosaic ABF and serving on the security team. I am working to be intentional and not always seek comfort or control. I am thankful for the biblical literacy of the congregation, and I have a lot of catching up to do. I am so grateful for the new community and old friends that have continued to faithfully attend. I look forward to being part of God's work at LEFC.



Heather Stauffer

HEATHER STAUFFER //

I am blessed to be part of a close, loving family and to have heard the gospel consistently. One of my earliest memories is realizing that I needed Jesus to redeem me, then confessing my sins and accepting His incredible gift of salvation.

I never walked away from the faith, but I've had to re-evaluate a lot from my teen years, when the homeschooling program we were in emphasized the importance of the Bible but skewed it with a pretty authoritarian "do these things and God will give you the good life" approach. I know a lot of people who earnestly followed the formulas and were devastated when the results were very much not as promised. The fallout touched pretty lightly on me, but some of the lasting lessons I took away from it were the importance of accountability, humility, wisdom, studying Scripture deeply, paying

attention to fruit and not putting faith in people that only God deserves.

As an adult, I've seen God open doors to a series of jobs in journalism and similar fields and provide a lot of caring people to encourage me as I keep learning how to follow Him faithfully. It is easy for me to see the brokenness of the world and the inadequacy of humanity, so one of my favorite verses is James 1:17, which emphasizes the constant holiness of God. In the KJV I memorized as a quizzer, it goes:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."



Reagan & David Stirpe

DAVID STIRPE //

I grew up in a Christian home and was regularly around church, but as I entered adulthood, I never truly made my relationship with Christ a priority. I thought I made good decisions, went to a Christian college, and lived a good life, so I was all good.

My life was centered around achievement. I wanted to be the best, to lead, and to earn the respect of people I looked up to. Looking back, pride was my biggest issue. I wanted the benefits of having an all-powerful God on my side without actually surrendering my life to Him.

In August of 2025, I genuinely placed my faith in Jesus Christ. God used Stand Firm and Act Like Men and 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 to show me how much I had based my life on the world's standards rather than His Word. Members of LEFC also brought me into

Christian community and showed me what it looked like to live a Christ-centered life.

Through that season, I came to understand something that changed everything: **A real man died on a real cross for the real me.** Not some future, improved version of me. Jesus lived the perfect life I could

never live, died the death I deserved, and rose again. My goodness, effort, and accolades could never save me. Jesus paid the debt I could never repay, and my salvation rests entirely in Him.

Since then, my priorities have changed. I strive to begin my days in Scripture and prayer and look to God's Word as my ultimate source of truth. Christ has changed how I love my wife, calling me to love her sacrificially as Christ loved the church. He has also given me a desire to reach other men who, like me, have pursued the world's definition of masculinity instead of God's.

God is still working on my pride, selfishness, and ability to love others. A prayer I continually return to is, "God, help me see people the way You see them, treat them the way You would treat them, and love them the way You would love them."

The reality is that I am really bad at that, which continually reminds me of my dependence on His grace. **I am not saved because I have become a better man. My hope rests entirely in what Jesus accomplished on the cross.**

My life is no longer about my accolades, the approval of others, or accomplishing my own plans. **My life belongs to Jesus Christ, and I want everything I do to point back to Him.**

REAGAN STIRPE //

I was born and raised in a Christian home. I grew up attending Manheim BIC church, participated in youth group, and was surrounded by people who loved the Lord. From a young age, I always knew who God was and knew about His love for me, but I didn't have a personal relationship with Him. I was living a life trying to be a "good person" and please people rather than God. When I was 14 years old, I remember sitting in church and feeling convicted. I remember the song "This I Believe (The Creed)" was playing and it brought me to tears. I made the decision to accept Christ into my heart, knowing that apart from Him I am nothing.

As I grew, I continued to surround myself with Christian friends and sought out environments that encouraged my faith. I attended Messiah College, where I was able to grow in my relationship with the Lord and continue learning what it meant to follow Him.

In the fall of 2019, I made the difficult decision not to finish college, and I began believing the lies that I had failed and that I wasn't where I was supposed to be. I was consumed by fear, comparison, and uncertainty about what my future would look like. Anxious thoughts began to take over, and I found myself spiraling into a very dark place with an unhealthy state of mind. Yet, even in one of the darkest seasons of my life, the Lord met me there.

He reminded me that my worth and my relationship with Him are not defined by what the world considers success. I am saved by grace through faith, and there is nothing I can do to earn God's love or make myself worthy of it.

My husband has also been such an encouragement in my walk with the Lord. He has continually pointed me back to Christ and reminds me of God's goodness, especially as we have walked through the difficult journey of infertility together. There have been moments of disappointment, unanswered questions, and times when I've wondered what God is doing. But even in the waiting, the Lord has remained faithful.

The Holy Spirit has been working in me as I continue to grow in my faith. God has used each season to refine my heart and draw me into a deeper dependence on Him. The joy of the Lord will always be my strength.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3:5-6



Amelia Wittmaier

AMELIA WITTMAYER //

I grew up in a Christian household, and I accepted Christ when I was 4 years old. I cannot remember a time when I didn't know Jesus.

Going through elementary school, religion didn't play much of a role in my life. I assumed everyone I went to school with also made the same choice to follow Jesus. Then when I got to middle school, I started seeing for the first time how being a Christian impacted my life. I realized not everyone I was around also decided to follow Christ, and I had to choose to either act like everyone else or be different because I follow Christ. I got baptized when I was 14 at the end of my freshmen year of high school.

After high school I went to college, and I learned the importance of trusting in God's timing and not my own, as He revealed much greater plans over these past years than I could've imagined. Since

graduating from college, I have felt as though God is continuing to teach me to trust in Him and His timing as I navigate this new stage of my life.