



Seek First Saturday

We expanded our prayer ministry to include a monthly *Seek First Saturday* prayer gathering in our Sanctuary to seek the Lord for our needs at home, in our church, and in our world. As we worship, we pray alone, in small groups, with church leaders, and with one another in a spirit of anticipation. **We'd love to have you join us at our next SFS gathering on Saturday, June 2 at 5:45 p.m.**

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, June 3
Communion Sunday

A New Way of Thinking
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Sunday, June 10
VBS Sunday

When Lions Roar
Daniel 6:16-28

9 a.m. Celebration in the Ark
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship
Service in the Ark

Sunday, June 17
Father's Day

Follow the Leader
1 Corinthians 3:1-23
1 Samuel 8:1-9

Sunday, June 24
Family Sunday

Super Christians
1 Corinthians 4:1-20
Revelation 3:14-22

Chronicle

Lebanon Presbyterian Church
June 2018



Put Me In, Coach!

A funny thing happened the other night as I was watching our LPC team playing a softball game against the Baptists.

In the second inning, one of our players pulled a muscle. With no one else on the bench, I had to play centerfield. Suddenly, I was no longer a spectator! I was swinging a bat and sprinting around the bases. Amazingly, I even managed to get a hit and score a run! It was like that song by John Fogerty, "Centerfield":

Oh, put me in coach, I'm ready to play today
Look at me, I can be centerfield.

In the church, sometimes, we are spectators. We watch from a safe distance while others go on mission trips, teach Sunday school, play guitar, serve the homeless and feed the hungry.

But Jesus wants us to get in the game! At some point, Jesus calls us to get involved and use our gifts to serve God and share the love of Christ with others.

Why are there so many spectators in the church? I think the main reason is fear. Deep down, we feel inadequate. Deep down, we think our gifts are not needed. How do we overcome our fear? I think three things help us do that:

God isn't interested in our ability, but our availability. When God called Moses to go back to Egypt and confront Pharaoh, Moses felt completely inadequate. Nevertheless, God used Moses in a powerful way to lead his people out of Egypt.



Jesus provides on-the-job training. Many years ago I joined a church in East Texas and they asked me to teach senior high Sunday School. I had no training or experience leading a Bible study **and I didn't know what I was doing.** However, God used that experience to grow me in some amazing ways.

Humility is not an excuse. **It's good to be humble, but humility shouldn't prevent us**

from serving and using our spiritual gifts. As my father used to say, "If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing poorly!" Even if I burn the soup, at least I'm doing something to feed the hungry. If I hit a wrong note, at least I'm singing praises to God.

It is always thrilling to see Christians get in the game. I know a woman in our church who went on a mission trip to Czechoslovakia to teach English. Ever since that trip, she has been a passionate leader and missionary.

Recently, I spoke with a young woman who has been attending LPC for several years. "My husband and I used to sit out there on Sunday morning and we felt so ungifted," she told me. "But last year, I volunteered for Vacation Bible School and now I'm getting ready to teach summer Sunday school!"

What about you? Are you ready to get in the game?

Your servant in Christ,
Peter

Like us on facebook!
www.lebanonpresbyterian.org

We are on the web!
The Rev. Peter Larson
Senior Pastor

Worship Services & Sunday School
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
10 a.m. Christian Education
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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Lebanon Presbyterian Church

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What's Happening in Worship by Rick McNeely

Summer Music Season

Summer is almost upon us and that means the choir is taking a well-deserved break and we are about to begin our summer music season. First, thank you so very much to everyone in the Sanctuary Choir for their hard work and dedication this past season. It is always such a blessing to be part of what you are doing as you lead the fellowship in worship. I am grateful and humbled by your ministry. And thank you in advance to everyone who will be sharing their gifts with us during the summer. It is going to be great fun and great worship I'm sure! You can look forward to everything from classical to southern gospel, from solos to family ensembles, Bach to bluegrass! I can't wait!

Celebration of Sacred Music

Finally, I wanted to share some thoughts about the Celebration of Sacred Music that was offered last month. It has made me think again on why we do what we do in regards to music at LPC. While worship is the main goal, I was reminded of what we are really doing in an email I received from Wayne Anderson just after the concert. Wayne and his wife, Kathy are wonderful people who happen to be professional musicians and I wanted to share some of his words with you:

Hello Rick,
I just wanted to drop you a note and let you know how much Kathy and I enjoyed the performance last night. It is inspiring to play music with people who don't necessarily do it for a living. They just love music. And then the performance is in front of an audience who is partly there to hear beautiful music and partly there to support the ones who are performing. And of course, the motivation everyone shares is to worship God.

Kathy and I talked about the performance as we drove home and then quite a while after we got home, and Kathy commented about how neat it was to see people come out on a Sunday evening to hear classical music. The old-fashioned, community event, aspect of it really spoke to her and made her feel at home.

I pray that the music we offer in worship translates the love for what we do and for each other, the love for our God, the building of community, and a sense of home. No matter what our vocation, may we use our gifts, through our work, to build community, express love for each other and for a job well done. May we use our vocations to draw people together and help them feel at home. So go do what you do in the name of Christ and to the glory of God and rejoice!

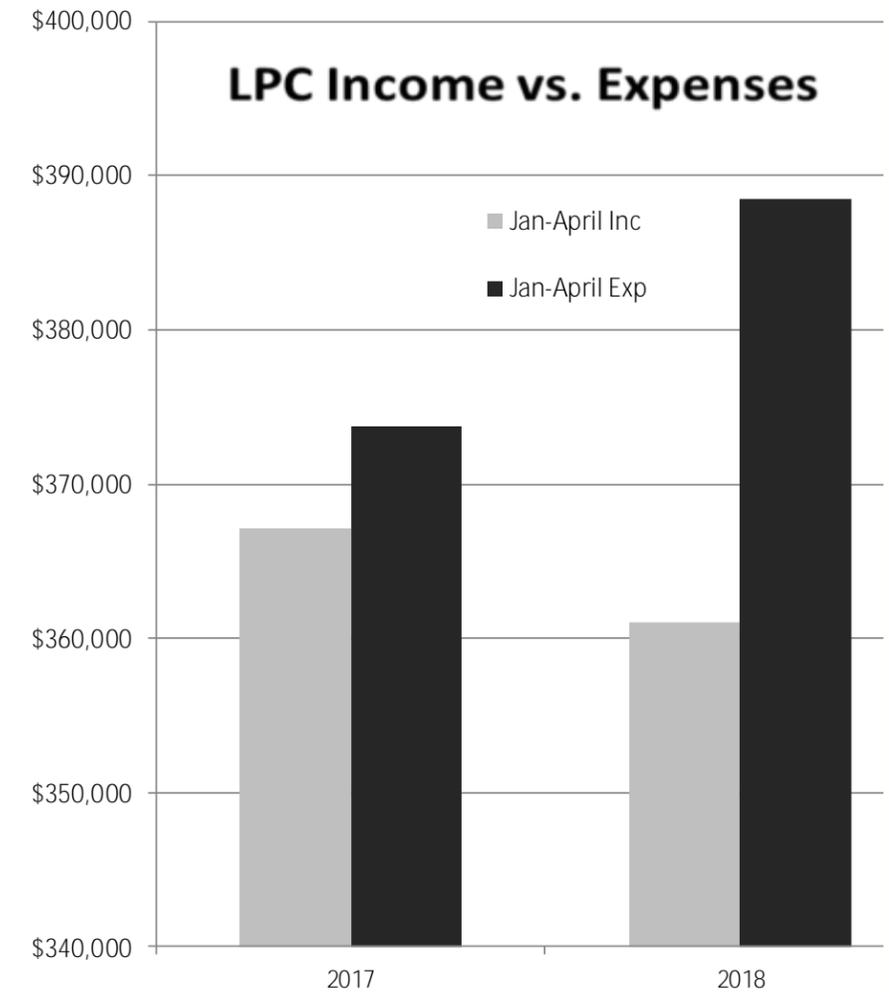


iPray

Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when you're in trouble, but a steering wheel that directs the right path in life.
Anonymous

Please pray for the following needs of our church in the coming month:

- ✚ For our Vacation Bible School June 4-8 that Jesus would shine his light and life into many young hearts. Also, that God would bless the volunteer leaders.
- ✚ For our junior high students and leaders going to Camp Stronghold - Oregon, IL June 2-8.
- ✚ For our high school students and adult leaders on their Mission Trip to Mexico June 16-24.
- ✚ For the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as they meet June 19-22 in Memphis, TN
- ✚ For Steve Newby, Karen Kilpatrick and others who are seeking ways to grow the prayer ministry of our church.
- ✚ For the spiritual renewal of our church, community and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus Christ.



Session Report

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our May 21 regular meeting:

- ✚ Approved the following men and women for membership in LPC: Rick and Mary Jo Oliver; Adam and Jess Campbell; Ron and Barbara Warnke; Justin and Molly Lucas; Dan and Louise Wolfer; Jerry and Linda Hentschel; Fran and John Morris; Margaret Anne Raymond; and Andrew Klenk.
- ✚ Approved the baptisms of the following children and adults: Griffin Goodwin (son of Sarah and James Goodwin); Justin Lucas, Molly Lucas, Zinnia Lucas, Tilia Lucas and Gowan Lucas; and Andrew Klenk.
- ✚ Approved a recommendation to improve our Session meeting format and agenda presented by Lee Bollow, David Hanley, Joe McKenzie, Mike Schneider and Pastor Larson.

✚ Approved a recommendation from the Personnel Team to provide question and comment cards during worship so people can communicate better with Session.

✚ Received a report from Pastor Larson following up on the Fireside Chat with the congregation held on May 6. Several ideas from the meeting have already been implemented.

The Session of LPC took the following actions at our May 6 called meeting:

✚ Approved Jeff and Michelle Shimkus to become members of LPC.

Pastoral Care and Deacon Ministries at LPC by Rev. Randy Fannin

Can You Hear Me Now?

Earlier this year, Vice President Mike Pence was publically ridiculed for a second-hand report saying that Jesus speaks to him. Wisely, he replied by saying, "When I heard that ABC had a program that likened my Christianity to mental illness, I just couldn't be silent . . . My Christian faith is probably the most important thing in my life," he added. "I do try and start every day reading the Bible. My wife and I try and have a prayer together before I leave the house every morning. I think I'm a very typical American."

I do believe the Lord speaks into people's lives and I am convinced He has spoken into my life on many occasions and in various ways. Like the Pence family, I start nearly every day listening for the voice of God in His Word. Additionally, I've appreciated other inspirational writers whose perspectives have provided clarity for me whether I was looking for it or not. Here's an example: a couple of weeks ago I took a few days off to rest before my monthly military obligation. At a time when I was feeling a bit overwhelmed with my responsibilities, Jon Bloom's article in "Desiring God" (which comes to my email each morning) challenged me to ask myself, "Why do you spend your time doing what you do? Why do you say 'yes' to doing some things and 'no' to doing others?" Quoting St. Paul, Bloom writes, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:15-17. Reflecting on what this might mean for him, he recalled the following challenge issued by a colleague: "Who are you willing to disappoint?" What? That sure sounds negative! "Not really," he says. "In reality it's quite the opposite. It asks us 'what we are really pursuing in our time commitments.' Who are we really seeking to please?"

At other times, I've heard the encouraging Word through a song, a prayer, or an insight from a friend. Let us remember, whatever the second-hand source, God's Word is "living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

"Lord, can you hear me now? I always want to say 'yes,' but what will others think if I say 'no?' What will they think if I say 'yes,' but mean 'no.' What will they think if I say 'yes,' mean 'no,' and then resent the good they think I've done. What will they think if I say 'yes,' mean 'no,' and pretend I didn't respond in the first place. Or how about if I just be honest, and like You, let my 'yes' be 'yes,' my 'no' be 'no,' and my 'wait' be 'perhaps later.' I think I hear you now!"

Wednesday Nights Together

We still have an opening for a new volunteer Meal Coordinator for our Fall 2018 Wednesday Nights Together program. Please consider this most appreciated opportunity of service and give Randy a call at 513-932-2751 or randy@lebanonpresbyterian.org to chat about it!

Caring Cards

The church office has had several requests for Jean Sidebottom's new address at the home of her daughter, Kathi Howard. If you would like to send cards to Jean, she is residing at:

Jean Sidebottom
C/O Kathi Howard
1895 HWY 1274
Frenchburg, KY 40322

92nd Birthday Celebration

Judge William Hendrickson will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on June 16 from 3-7 p.m. Please join us at 80 Shield Dr. Eaton, OH near Lake Lakengren. Burgers, dessert and beverages provided. Just bring a side dish to share. Your presence will be the best present. Call 513-539-7313 for more details.



This month we honor the following men and women for their loving service to Jesus Christ and the church.

Phil Craig, Dave Lupberger, Sam Sachs and Roger Sims from Buildings & Grounds for their great efforts in spreading mulch along with some other outside Spring cleaning.

Micah, Kai, and Rory Earley for sharing their music at the Mother's Day Tea.

Emilie, Benjamin, and Meredith Looper for sharing their original artwork at the Mother's Day Tea.

Liezel and Ewan van der Merwe for setting and clearing the tables for the Mother's Day Tea.

To all the children who helped serve at the Mother's Day Tea.



LPC's Young Adult Group

by Rebecca Waits and Skyler Gerald

Are you a young adult (18-30)? Do you know a young adult who is looking for community and Christian fellowship over the summer? We would like to invite you to join LPC's new Young Adult Ministry this summer! We have a lot of fun ideas for this summer including a weekly bible study as well as fellowship and service events. Please join us for a weekly bible study every Tuesday at 5 p.m. Come dig into the Word, eat snacks, and have fun with other young adults. If you have any questions or would like to be on the contact list for this ministry, please email Rebecca Waits or Skyler Gerald at youngadults@lebanonpresbyterian.org.

June 2018 Young Adult Group Schedule

June 4-8: **Help with LPC's VBS** (9 -11:30 a.m.) Link to register: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/3b0389>

June 5: Bible Study @ 5 p.m.

June 11: **LPC's Feeding Ministry** (4-7 p.m.)

June 12: Bible Study @ 5 p.m.

June 16-23: WEEK OFF

June 26: Bible Study @ 5 p.m.

June 29: Visit Contemporary Arts Center - TBD

Thank You

Dear Lebanon Presbyterian Church,
We wanted to thank you for the beautiful love offering of \$2,000 that you collected on Palm Sunday for our building campaign. The response from God's people has been nothing short of miraculous. We stand in awe of how He is working through His people. The outpouring of love and generosity from your congregation lifts our faith as we continue forward in the plan we believe God has set before us to build a place of worship. So far, we have received \$106,000 in gifts and pledges toward our goal of \$300,000. We love you and hope to meet you all again someday!

The Rev. Hector Reynoso and the elders of Genesis Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends at LPC,

Thank you for your recent donation of four pallets of gently-used clothing and other products on May 7 following your rummage sale. Working closely with U.S. hospitals, corporations, businesses and individuals, Matthew 25: Ministries has shipped over 202 million pounds of donated humanitarian supplies to the impoverished countries of Central and South America, the Caribbean, the Balkans, Africa, and to needy people here in the United States. These donated supplies are bringing hope and relieving the suffering of those caught in the grip of poverty, disease and natural disasters.

With God's blessings,

Wendell E. Mettey
Matthew 25: Ministries, Cincinnati

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all the people who came out to enjoy food, visit with each other, and donate money, food, or goods and services to Bethel AME at our spaghetti dinner on May 17. It was a lot of hard work, but the evening was a giant success and completely worth all the effort.

Days like today really put the harshness and negativity in the world to the wayside. When an entire community comes together to support one of its own, the overwhelming support and people volunteering to help is enough to bring you to your knees with thankfulness.

I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did, and also left with a big smile on your face knowing you made a difference in people's lives today. God bless and thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Brooke Handley
Evangelism Chair, Bethany UCC

Children's Ministry News

by Ann van der Merwe

Creating Opportunity

Since becoming Director of Children's Ministry here at LPC, I have learned that ministering to children means creating opportunities for God to work in their lives and in the lives of their families. We provide the opportunity; God provides the experience of his love and grace. Allow me to share just a few examples...



On Tuesday mornings, I welcome very young children to experience God through music and movement. I watch as they listen and sing along, and as they do, I see truths about God sink into their souls. They share those truths with their parents and grandparents who come with them, and whole families are blessed by the experience. We are creating an opportunity for them to grow closer to each other and to Jesus.



At our recent Mother's Day Tea, I watched as children served sandwiches, tea, and cookies to their moms – and lots of other moms, too! We created an opportunity for them to learn that serving others can be joyful and that family togetherness – including church family togetherness – is a beautiful thing. We also created an opportunity for them to feel valued and included.



Very soon, we will welcome dozens of children to our annual VBS. We create this opportunity each year to reach out and share the Good News, and amazing things always happen. Last summer, a brother and sister came and now their whole family has come to know Jesus and joined the church. Many other kids from our community are returning to VBS this year. God may well have something similar in store for some of them.

Creating opportunity is the essence of Children's Ministry. The more opportunities we can offer, the more families we can serve – and the more effectively we can serve them.



Ladies in the Thursday Women's Bible Study THANK GOD for blessed lessons this past Fall, Winter and Spring! Each lady grew closer to God and to each other by studying, *Hosea - Unfailing Love Changes Everything*, *The Gospel of Mark - The Jesus We're Aching For and Missing Pieces - Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense*. Class time included DVD teaching by Jennifer Rothschild or Lisa Harper, singing, discussion of homework and prayer. The classes were meaningful experiences to learn, be encouraged, share, give love and practice the Presence of God in daily life.

High School and College Graduate Thank You's

Madalynn Calvert - I would like to thank my mom and grandma for always being there for me whenever I needed something. They would always pick me up when I fell down and I am eternally grateful for having them in my life. I would like to thank the members of this congregation for helping me as if I was their own child.

Keegan Kempf - I would like to thank LPC for all the memories and times you have spent praying and caring for me. I feel as if I was raised in part by many of the church members. I would like to thank all of my Sunday School leaders, VBS leaders and the many members of the church staff, Elders and Deacons. I would like to specifically thank Andrew Johnson, Pastor Larson, Randy Fannin, Chuck Duerré, Nona McCauley, the Ryan's and various other students for the many visits and conversation we have had throughout my stays in the hospital. I would like to thank my parents and siblings for their time and patience with me growing up and for their endless support during my challenges with Crohn's.

Alex Kinkelaar - I feel fortunate that when my family moved during the summer of 2015, that we found the wonderful community that is LPC.

Spencer Kinkelaar - Though I have only attended LPC for three years, I am very thankful for all of the connections I have made and hope to continue developing relationships during breaks and visits. I have enjoyed my time at LPC and consider it integral in developing my interest in Christian and comparative theology and philosophy.

Zach Kinkelaar - My Engineering Teacher Mr. Shields for showing me the possibilities of engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Carly Pritchard - I've been constantly supported and encouraged by leaders in our church throughout my time in college. Thanks to the deacons and youth ministry team, I've enjoyed encouragement during finals weeks and Starbucks gift cards, which were so appreciated! Special thanks to Andrew, who has made several efforts to reach out to college-aged students even after we left Lebanon. He goes above and beyond to continue to minister to us!

Bradlee Taulbee - I'd like to first thank my parents for giving me the opportunity to come to Jesus and live the life that I have. I would like to give thanks for my youth group and all friends for giving me guidance when times are hard and dark. I'd also like to give thanks to LPC and all staff members for giving me a solid foundation for my faith. I have grown up at LPC and I will forever remember this church.

Samuel Abbott - I want to thank Andrew Johnson for all the influence he has had over my time in junior high and high school. Whether it be in my social life, music, faith, etc. He has always been there and helped me grow into the person I am today.

Lauren Galyen - Special thanks to Lynn Steinkirchner and the Brandt's for all your love and support!

Chloe Larson - I would like to thank all of the adults who did not give up on me, even though they knew all that was going on in my life. All of the leaders in Encounter, especially Yvonne Kempf and Andrew Johnson, have consistently showered me with love and have always made me feel at home in our youth ministry. I would also like to thank the church for supporting and providing me with a warm and welcoming atmosphere every time I walked through the doors of the church. Growing up at LPC has been a blessing and the church has become like a second home to me. Knowing that people there know my name, as well as what's going on in my life, is one of the greatest gifts anyone could have.

Laura McCauley - Thank you so much for the incredible support of family and friends on the path to my career!

Chris Skipworth - I would like to thank Pastor Peter for showing me that we all have a purpose in life. And that we are all united through Jesus Christ.

Lauren Patterson - I want to thank Andrew for never giving up on me. When I couldn't make it to Encounter, he still encouraged me to come and included me in everything. I'd also like to thank Abby Greene and Keegan Kempf. Abby was the first person to make me feel welcome at Encounter and was my best friend in New Mexico. Keegan is the most supportive friend ever, and if it weren't for him I probably wouldn't be going the Nursing track. After feeling so helpless when he was sick, I decided I wanted to do something about it, and help people. I feel so loved at LPC, it's truly a home away from home.

James O'Donnell - My parents for always supporting me, and Andrew Johnson for always being there.

Christian Ryan - First off I would like to thank my church family for always supporting me and helping me from when I was young to where I am now. I also would like to thank my parents for believing in me no matter what, and sculpting me to be the person I am today. I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without their unconditional support and love. A special thanks to Andrew Johnson, who has counseled me and guided me throughout junior and high school career. He has impacted my faith and my personal life for the best, and I appreciate his never ending support for me no matter what choices I have made, whether past or present.

Adam Korhonen - Andrew Johnson

Michelle DeBord - I would like to thank my friends and family and the community at LPC for shaping me into who I am today.

Justin Davidson - I would like to thank my Grandfather, John McMinn, my Father, Samuel Davidson and my Mother, Julie Anstaett for raising me. I would also like to thank anyone who has taken the time to help guide me, especially Mr. Taulbee for being a good role model, Peter Larson for helping me in my faith life, and Jill Tepe for always having a smiling face in the mornings before school. I would finally like to thank LPC as a whole for giving me a place to worship on Sundays with my family and friends.

Samantha Showalter - I would like to thank LPC for the encouraging cards I received for the four years I was away at college.

Vanessa Lay - Thank you mom, dad, and brother Alex. also to the whole church for always supporting and giving me a church to love coming back too.

Trevor Kempf - I want to really thank you Andrew Johnson of LPC always supporting me and for bringing me a lot closer to God when I was younger and it helped create the person I am today. I also of course want to thank my mom for getting me where I am today and couldn't have ever made it where I am without her hard work and dedication to helping me.

Megan Fennessey - Thank you to my wonderful parents for the endless love and support!

Hannah Huffman - I am very thankful for the notes and gift cards LPC has sent me throughout college, this meant so much! I am very thankful for the support of my family, and for my faith to get me through the ups and downs of college life.

Graduate Sunday

