



NEWS LETTER

Lebanon Christian Church Family,

We are living in an exciting season in the life of Lebanon Christian Church. It is also an important and critical season. I've shared many times before that God has positioned us (His disciples) at LCC to effectively and faithfully share His love, His truth, His grace, and the fullness of His Kingdom with our community and our world. We have been given a sacred trust.

Lebanon Christian Church has a rich history (nearly 35 years) of impacting lives around the world, and we know that as our world continues to reflect the struggles of sin, we will need to be just as steadfast, if not more, than ever before. As we endeavor to be the most authentic expression of Christ's body in our American context, we know that we must continually address issues that arise or change with time. In a series of newsletters, we are striving to both inform you and help you understand some of the critical matters that we have been addressing, all of which affect our congregation.

In this first newsletter, you will receive a brief update on our Associate Pastor search and some challenging words about our financial contributions. You will also learn of some important changes that have either been implemented or will soon be implemented with database and website changes. Look forward to a second newsletter in a couple weeks with additional important information.

It is my hope and the hope of the entire eldership, that you find great encouragement in the work that is being done by so many to ensure that the ministry of Lebanon Christian Church continues to make a significant impact on this world for many years to come.

With great love,

DATABASE

Since November 2015 we have been excited to partner with Elexio for our database and website solutions. It has helped our church take a huge step forward in technology and provide a better guest experience through touchscreen check-in stations as well as the ability to offer online giving and online event registrations and payments. During the summer of 2017, we learned that our current platform would no longer be supported because such huge strides had been made in technology at Elexio that they are now able to offer us a much better product, Elexio Community.

As we launch Elexio Community, you will receive some email communications with more details on the topics of online giving, child check-in, and general login for features like an online directory. If you haven't given an email address to the church or your email address has changed and you want to make sure we have your correct email on file, please get that information to the office. A connection card is a great place to update this information, or you can email: office@lebanonchristian.org.

What you need to know right now:

- The process for child check-in will not change. Adults will go to the kiosk, type in their own name, and be presented with options to check-in themselves and all other family members. Two labels will print for each child.
- Your login username and password will remain the same as we transition.
- If you have done any online giving in the past, stay tuned for an email for details on how this will seamlessly transfer for you.

STEWARDSHIP

Have you thought about the story behind a story?

Have you considered that the story behind a story can be every bit as important and essential as the story itself?

For example, each of us is living a story, but those stories have been shaped by many other stories. Your story is shaped by the story of your parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and more.

There is always a story behind the story.

About 10 years ago, a young man made an incredible impact on his middle school classmates. Zach Hunter heard about the oppression and injustice facing many

modern-day slaves and he wanted to do something about it. Zach started saving loose change to donate to help the International Justice Mission bring freedom to those in slavery. The dream and vision grew into an organization called "Loose Change to Loosen Chains." Several youth groups, families, and teenagers began saving loose change and more slaves were freed. A young teenage student was living a story that was quite literally changing the world. This story is inspiring. This story was worthy of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations that it received. What happens if we think about the story behind the story? Did you know that there were youth leaders in a church that over the course of years had poured into and invested in Zach? Did you know that this Holy Spirit inspired passion in many ways was awakened by God through the work of a specific group of disciples in a specific place? That's part of the story behind the story!

**LOOSE CHANGE TO
LOOSEN CHAINS**
students freeing modern day slaves



[RH]

How about another story? A young woman travels with her father to Cambodia. While there she is impacted by the number of young children who have been tricked, coerced, or forced into sex slavery. The woman and her father start an organization to bring healing to the lives that are affected. Even more, they start working in prevention and advocacy. This is a very short version of the story behind Rapha House.

Rapha has a compelling story. It's a story of healing. In fact, "Rapha" is how you pronounce the Old Testament Hebrew word for "healing." But what about the story behind the story? Certainly, in this case, there are intentional Christ-honoring parents, but there is another story. There is a story of a woman doing a God-inspired and empowered work who was encouraged and equipped through a specific group of disciples in a specific place.



ra·pha

[raw' faw] *verb*

to heal, make healthful; to be healed. *Hebrew*

When was the last time you pondered the truth that many of the most impactful works in our world are started, sustained, or staffed by men and women who are followers of Jesus? There are so many inspiring stories. Even within our own community we have inspiring stories. Just consider Shalom House, the Boone County Mentoring Partnership, or the local Life Centers' location. What is the story behind these stories? Each of these stories features specific groups of disciples (we call them churches), that God has used to encourage, equip, and challenge those serving so sacrificially. When you really think about it, the multitude of expressions of Christ's body in our communities has helped inspire some of the most incredible stories.

What does this have to do with you? What does this have to do with Lebanon Christian Church? Will you be inspired to generously give to the story behind the story? There are so many worthy places to give the resources you possess. And while no one should ever convince you not to give to so many noble causes, perhaps we need to be reminded to invest in one of God's most noble causes. The local church is still one of the primary ways that God impacts this world.

God's people, gathering together to learn from His truth and live out this truth, have always been a primary influence for Him in this world. God uses the faithful and generous resources of His people to fund His work. To some, being faithfully obedient by giving generously to the church doesn't seem as attractive as donating to another organization or cause.

But, many of those organizations could not continue without the encouraging and equipping that takes place in the local church.

During the first quarter of this year, the giving to the general fund at Lebanon Christian Church is down just over 13%. This translates to approximately a \$27,000 shortfall. Twenty-seven thousand dollars is a considerable sum. If this trend continues, it will dramatically affect currently planned efforts, projects, and initiatives. God has supplied more than enough resources to His disciples at Lebanon Christian Church. If we all choose to faithfully invest in the story of Lebanon Christian Church, which is also part of the story behind the story in the lives of each of you reading this, the tremendous generosity could be used for even more Kingdom work. To generously invest in the story of this church and invest in so many other worthy stories takes diligence, sacrifice, and if we are honest, discipline. It means choosing to say "no" to some good

things, so we can invest in the very best things. Will you prayerfully consider investing in LCC's incredible story? If you do, you will be helping write stories of transformation that you cannot even begin to imagine. If you are already giving generously to Lebanon Christian Church, will you pray for God to continue to raise up the next generation of generous disciples to join you in giving freely and abundantly?

May the church come together to give generously and write stories of incredible transformation!

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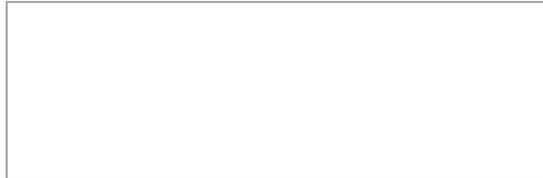
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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

In October of 2017, the elders of Lebanon Christian Church began a search for an Associate Minister. The new Associate Minister will assume leadership of three areas:

- Spiritual Formation—Groups, Bible Studies, Classes;
- Leadership Development—Developing a system to equip leaders throughout Lebanon Christian Church that not only helps advance the mission and vision of our church, but also enables greater impact in homes, work, and the community; and
- Global Engagement—Working to help us develop strategic ways to partner with other organizations in our community and around the world to make an impact for the Kingdom of God.

Over the last few months we have interviewed multiple gifted and highly capable candidates. As of this writing, we have identified our future Associate Minister. Out of respect for him and the congregation he currently serves, we will be waiting until the end of April to introduce this individual to you. There is much excitement as we anticipate what will happen in the coming months and years through this new position.

As the new Associate Minister transitions into his role, Kurt Alexander will begin assuming the duties of his new role as our Care and Connections Minister. Please be praying for all involved as these transitions take place.



To Be
Announced