



Spreading Branches

The Newsletter of Lansdale Presbyterian Church

450 Oak Park Road

www.lansdalepres.org

(215) 368-1119

"I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me bears much fruit..." John 15:5

March 2020

Vision Update (Reprinted from May 2016)

- by Pastor Tom Keane

As a "going" church that has been called to go into all the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ, what does it mean to live for Christ in our extended families, at our jobs, in our schools, and in our community?

Living Obediently

For one thing it means living in obedience to God's commands. How can we be Christ to others if we are not living as Jesus himself lived – in obedience to the Father's commands? The charge of hypocrisy is often leveled against the church, and in too many ways that charge has had weight. We must own up to our own hypocrisy and admit the hypocrisy of the church in the past, but we must also work hard so that our actions give no legitimate cause for the world to mock us and the God whom we serve. By their repeated disregard for God's law, Old Testament Israel brought dishonor to the name of God (Rom 2:23-24). In contrast to this Jesus says to *"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt 5:16). As others see the character of Jesus in us, they too will be drawn to God.

Living Lovingly

Another way to live for Christ in the world is to live lovingly. John tells us that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son (John 3:16). Our sins ruined our relationship with God and separated us from him. But out of great love for us he went to great lengths to bridge that separation, and to reconcile people to himself. He would offer his Son as a sacrifice for sinners. It is this same sort of sacrificial love for others, even for our enemies, that we are to have for all people. Our calling is to actively and patiently seek the good of all people. As we do good to all (Gal 6:10) we are not only living obediently to God, but also giving people a picture of God who desires all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4).

Living Humbly

Another crucial way to live for Christ as people who have been called to "go" into all the world is to live humbly. For three very important reasons, none of us ever has reason to be boastful or pridefully think that we are better than others. (1) One is that each of us is a creature, dependent on God for our lives and our abilities. To boast is to imply that we stand on our own and that we achieve things without the help of God. (2) The second reason why pride should be the furthest thing from our minds is that we are sinners saved by grace. If we have standing and favor with God, it is because God has given to us the gift of his Son and his Spirit to make this happen. (3) Third we should live humbly because this too reflects the character of God. We see this in Christ, who although he was equal with God did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (Phil 2:4-8). He was willing to lay aside his divine rights and become a servant to us to save us.

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As we humble ourselves and serve others, people will see the heart of our God and be drawn to him. Others should see in us a spirit of gratitude, and God-like hearts willing to put others before ourselves.

Living Boldly

Finally to live for Christ in the world is to live boldly. Though we want to always be kind and respectful of others, we also want to engage others with the confidence that we serve the king of kings – the ruler of all creation who is moving all things toward his great and glorious goal. This king has given us a right and a share in his eternal kingdom, something that nothing and no one can take from us. We are always free, then, to speak and to live according to the truth of our God no matter what the world says or threatens to do. Part of what it means to love the world is to confront the world about its rebellion against God and about its false ideas (2 Cor 10:4). Forgiveness and acceptance by God only come to those who turn from their sin and submit to the Lord and his Christ (Acts 17:30-31). If we fail to boldly bring this message to those around us, we fail to love them and do them a great disservice.

So go into the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go in obedience, go with love and humility, and go with boldness so that the world may know the great plan of God for all who follow his Son.

Food From the Heart Dinner *

Date: February 23, 2020

Number of Guests: 51

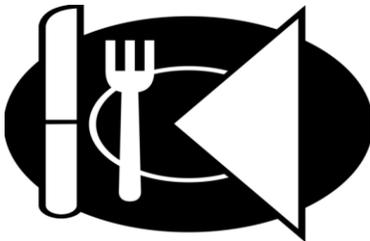
Menu: Tossed salad, roll/butter, Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, seasoned potatoes, macaroni and cheese, peas, and chocolate cake

Head Chef: Julie Zeller

Speaker: Will Liegel

Topic: Isaiah 40:31

*Food From the Heart dinners are the last Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, 2020
7:30 am at Henning's Market

Speaker: Elvis Longin

Building Security

In order to better secure our building, we will be locking the side doors during worship.

Please use the front doors after 10:30 am. Thank you.

Pastoral Transition Update

At a special congregational meeting on November 10, 2019, LPC members voted to extend calls to Chris Kennedy as Lead Pastor and Brian Hand as Church Life Pastor. Over the following months, Session has been working to ensure a smooth transition as these men assume their new roles and Pastor Keane retires. The transition plan includes clear communication with the congregation, transfer of knowledge from Pastor Keane to Pastors Kennedy and Hand, and pastoral care and support for all three pastors during the change. For those who may have missed the pastoral transition update at the February 2nd Congregational Meeting, this article recaps our progress.

On January 5, 2020, Pastor Kennedy announced to the Dun Laoghaire congregation that he had accepted a call at Lansdale Presbyterian Church in the US. The following week, Chris relayed to Session that the news of his departure was received with a “bit of shock and sadness”, but overall, he described the reaction as “healthy”. With this announcement, we are now free to speak publicly with others the news of Pastor Kennedy’s anticipated coming to our church. Please join the Kennedys in praying that they finish well during their remaining time in Ireland and pray for a capable and godly man to replace Pastor Kennedy.

The immigration process began after the Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery voted on November 12, 2019 to receive Pastor Kennedy. LPC engaged the services of an experienced and knowledgeable legal firm to write and submit the application, and the process is on schedule. The immigration attorney collected detailed information from both the Kennedys and LPC to complete the 36-page application, and the paperwork was submitted to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCI) on January 27, 2020. The following day, the USCI office confirmed receipt. The processing time is currently estimated at five to seven months, and if favorable, places granting of the visas sometime this summer. Pray that God gives expediency and favor to our request in the eyes of government officials.

A Relocation Committee was formed to facilitate the Kennedy’s international move and their adjustment to a new community. This committee aims to provide support in moving the family belongings, locating housing, and identifying the best fits in schools, doctors, transportation, and more. The team will also coordinate hospitality so that the Kennedy family feels welcomed in their new home. Assisting chairman Bethann Frattarelli are committee members Sherrie Bard, Beth Burkholder, Janice Carroll, Dottie Finn, Cathy Keane, Paul Koehrsen, Carol Nice, and Ela Saxena.

Finally, the Pastoral Development Planning Committee (PDPC) was formed to make recommendations to Session regarding the transition. One recommendation of this committee is to give development feedback to our pastors to help them grow in their new roles. A second recommendation is to put a structured process around ministry performance so that our pastors set yearly goals aligned with the Session’s strategic planning. Third, the PDPC will facilitate a knowledge transfer from Pastor Keane to Pastors Kennedy and Hand, knowledge that is vitally important for LPC’s future ministry. Lastly, the committee will recommend ways to “off-board” Pastor Keane and “on-board” Pastor Kennedy, so that both men receive the appropriate pastoral care and support. Working alongside chairman JJ Zeller are PDPC members Susan George, Tom Keane, Darla Mooney, and Theresa Zeller.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as together we aim to minister well through this time of transition. Information about the Kennedys and video updates are on the Meet the Kennedys website: <https://lpcpastoralsearch.com/>. Session extends a special thank-you to Pastor Keane for continuing to lead this congregation at this critical time. God’s hand has been ever-present in the life of our church, and we rejoice that He has provided such capable and gifted men as past, present, and future leaders. Our goal in all of this has been to bring glory to God and to further the work of his kingdom. Continue to pray for his provision, leading, and blessing as we move forward. By every indication, He is graciously and fully answering our prayers.



Coming this Summer!

Bible Adventure Camp, with the theme “Mystery Island”, will be held at LPC on August 3-7 from 9 am to 4 pm for children ages 4 to entering 6th Grade. We are excited to be offering this unique experience for our LPC kids and their friends and our neighbors! During this week kids will learn that God is GREAT! God is ALMIGHTY! God is RULER! God is EMMANUEL! and God is TRUSTWORTHY!

In the morning there will be Lighthouse Bible lessons, Tropical Treats, Ride the Tide Games and Deep-Sea Science and Crafts. The afternoon will offer lunch, fun electives, and a closing program of music and drama to tie the day together. Here is what answers.com says about their “Mystery Island” Bible Camp.

“We want kids from around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember-Bible Camp is worth it!”

Please pray and consider how you would like to help. If you are unable to be at Bible Adventure Camp please consider preparing materials and crafts, shopping, cooking, decorating and praying!

Needed are:

- Prayer Coordinator
- Snack Coordinator
- Music Coordinator
- Game Coordinator
- Drama Director
- Decorating Coordinator
- Nursery Coordinator
- Photographer
- Lighthouse Keepers (teachers)
- Group Guides
- A/V Coordinator
- Elective Leaders (Choose your specialty!)
- Assistants

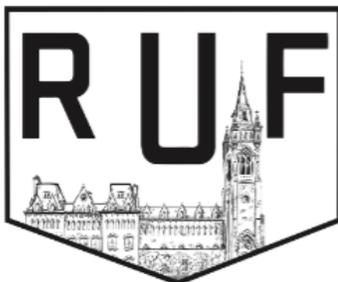


Online registration is now open!

Go to myvbs.org/lansdalepres or go to our website: www.lansdalepres.org/ to register your child(ren).

You can sign up online at myvbs.org/lansdalepres or contact Shelley Berg: saberg25@gmail.com or #(215) 317-4484.

Love God · Love People · Love Lehigh



Schedule for Missions Sunday

with Michael & Natasha Goodlin

Sunday, March 15, 2020

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for 7th grade–adult
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Michael Goodlin preaching from Psalm 90
- 5–7:30 p.m. Dinner and Program for the entire family Programs for adults and children (age 4–5th grade). Nursery for age 4 and under.

Job Opportunity!

Looking for a Church Treasurer: We are currently looking for someone with the gifts and training needed to be our church treasurer. Bob Wunderlich who has served so faithfully in this role for many years would like to take a break. The person we are looking for should have knowledge of accounting and payroll practices (preferably someone with an accounting degree). They should be comfortable working on a computer, know how to use Microsoft Excel, have some understanding of tax law, and be willing to be trained in the use of our church accounting software. The job of treasurer is an hourly paid position that requires about one to two hours a week. If you have questions, or if this is something that you might like to do, please contact Lori Davis at the church office.

Volunteer needed!

Are you comfortable working on a computer? Do you enjoy working behind the scenes? The church office is looking for a volunteer to occasionally input data into our new ministry scheduling software, and then monitor its ongoing operation. The software does the scheduling, so the amount of time required is minimal. There may be the possibility of doing this work from home. If this is something that you might like to do, please contact Sue Hathaway at the church office.

Did you Know?

Sermon recordings are available on our web site: www.lansdalepres.org

You can listen each Sunday to *Engaging the Gospel*, a previously recorded LPC sermon, at 8:30 am on 1440 AM or 98.5 FM

Seniors Living in Christ (SLIC)

Seniors Living in Christ 2020 Kick-off Event: *"Everybody's Birthday Party!"*

This will be the first event for the 2020 season. Anyone 60 or over is invited to come out on March 18th at the church for lunch and games. Look for the sign-up sheet in the lobby to contribute to the lunch. Birthday cake provided! Please bring a \$5.00 gift for the auction.

Sight and Sound Trip: October 21st.

Anyone is invited to join the seniors to see the 11:00 am performance of "Esther". Tickets are \$60 and you must sign up on the sheet in the lobby and pay for your tickets by April 15th. Lunch will follow at Shady Maple and you will pay for your meal at the restaurant.

SLIC generally meets the third Wednesday of every month, except for January and February. This year there is another exciting calendar of events planned. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Fox or Phyllis Miller.

Science and Faith Conference

"Design and Designer"

April 3-4

Covenant Fellowship Church, Glen Mills
Sponsored by Westminster Seminary
and Discovery Institute

Some youth electives are available.

Registration deadline is March 31
wtsscienceandfaith.com



Women's Mentoring Ministry



LPC's mentoring ministry is women walking side-by-side, life-to-life, **encouraging** women to think biblically as they **grow** in their understanding of who God designed women to be, and **equipping** them to live covenantally as they **go** into the world serving their families, work place, and communities.

In concert with its purpose, LPC's mentoring ministry is called "Life to Life". Life to Life will follow a small group model with two to five women per mentor. The groups will meet monthly in the mentor's home and are designed to teach and model biblical principles of womanhood and to cultivate covenant relationships among women in the group. Life to Life begins in March 2020 with three pilot mentoring groups.

This ministry is open to women, age 18 and older, who are members or regular attenders at LPC. If you desire deeper friendships with godly women, want to know what God says about womanhood, or desire someone to encourage and equip you to live for God's glory, prayerfully consider participating in this exciting new ministry! Learn more and register online at www.lansdalepres.org. **The deadline to register is Sunday, March 1st.**

EASTERN PA WOMEN'S PRESBYTERY ONE DAY CONFERENCE

"Walk in Wisdom"

Saturday | April 18 | 8AM - 4PM

Providence Presbyterian Church
2200 Krammes Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Speaker
Shannon Fodale
Additional Breakout Sessions

*Chick-fil-A Lunch Included

\$35 to
register

REGISTER @ Providence-PCA.org/walk-in-wisdom

Spring Women's Event

This April, the women of our 13 PCA churches in Eastern PA are joining for a One-Day Conference.

We'd love for you to join us on April 18th, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at Providence Presbyterian Church in Quakertown.

There will be speakers and break-out sessions on the topic of *Walking in Wisdom*. The cost is \$35.00/person, and a Chick-fil-A lunch is included.

Register at:
<https://providence-pca.org/walk-in-wisdom>.

Grab a friend (or two...or a car full!) and join us for a special day together!

Sacrificial Offering Thanks

Last year's sacrificial offering (December 2019) went toward the disaster relief efforts of our denomination. In recent years our church has given toward needs resulting from storm damage (wind and flooding) and by wildfires.

We recently received the following thank you from the Mission to North America (MNA) Disaster Response Director, Arklie Hooten, and Staff:

"We are truly grateful for your generous support. MNA Disaster Response is only able to serve because of the gracious prayers and abundant gifts of God's people. Thank you for the privilege of your partnership in the ongoing work of loving our neighbors. We are able to serve with hope and care because of your thoughtful gift."

More information about MNA's disaster response efforts can be found on their website <https://pcamna.org/disaster-response/>.



5-Day Devotional booklet

From the PCA:

"The God Who Gives"

This book is designed to equip and inspire church members with a deeper understanding of the love of God from various parts of scripture.

Copies of these booklets are available on the literature shelf in the church lobby.

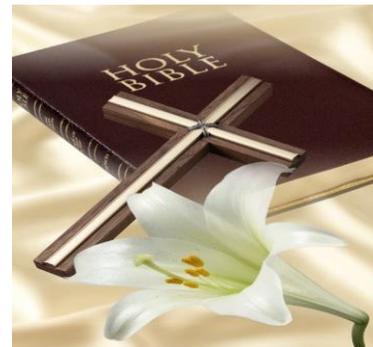
Special Easter Mini-Course

Adult Sunday School Class

April 5, 19, 26

9:15 am

**Easter in the Old Testament:
Anticipations of the Death and
Resurrection of Christ in the Old
Testament Scriptures**



On the day of his resurrection Jesus gave new insight to his disciples into the Old Testament Scriptures. He revealed to them how the Old Testament authors, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote in advance about his suffering, death, and his resurrection on the third day. The good news about Jesus was fulfilled in these climatic events, but the story was an old one, written by God before the foundation of the world, and foreshadowed in the Scriptures even before Jesus was born. Join us for this three-week Easter season mini course that will look at how the Old Testament anticipates these key events in salvation history.

Teacher: Dr. Vern Poythress

Location: Gym

Daylight Saving Time begins!

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 8th, at 2:00am.





LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Missions Conference with Michael & Natasha Goodlin

WHAT IS THE END GOAL OF WISDOM?

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Secular universities are significant mission fields! Too many students live in spiritual darkness and turn to destructive behaviors to cope with the pressures of college life and their separation from God. No one in our presbytery knows this need deeper than **Rev. Michael Goodlin**, RUF campus minister at Lehigh University. "College ministry occurs during a formative time in life," says Michael. "Most people completely reshape or solidify their beliefs during college. It is one of the last windows for significant change."

When Michael's predecessor accepted a call at a PCA church in Oklahoma, the presbytery did not have to look far for his replacement. Michael and his wife **Natasha** were living in east Lancaster, PA, where Michael was already serving as a pastoral intern at RUF Millersville University. "God has led us very particularly to Lehigh University," says Michael, "And we feel blessed to be a part of His work on this campus."

A 2008 graduate of Nyack College, Michael worked for a few years in sales and management before beginning studies at Westminster Theological Seminary. After receiving an M.A.R. in Biblical Studies (2015), he was ordained by the Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery in 2018. Michael met his wife Natasha at Nyack College, and they married in 2012. During college, Natasha studied abroad in Costa Rica and student taught in Beijing. She worked as an ESL teacher for 6 years before staying home to care for their family.

The Goodlins have 3 children. Son Jonas, 4, is a ball of Lego-building energy. Daughter Harper, nearly 3, loves twirling like a princess, and the youngest, Miles, almost 1, is just learning to get

his feet under him! With three pre-schoolers at home, sporadic fights and deep friendships abound in the Goodlin household. When time permits, Michael and Natasha enjoy music, good food, reading, and an all-too-infrequent date night.



LPC welcomes **Michael & Natasha Goodlin** as our guests at the 2020 Missions Conference. Here are some ways you can pray for Michael, his family, and the RUF ministry at Lehigh.

- Pray for Michael that the joy of serving God is his strength (Neh. 8:10) and that this strength is not eroded by daily resistance to the gospel (2 Cor. 4:1). Pray for motivation and encouragement as he labors faithfully in a demanding call.
- Pray that God would draw both Christians and non-Christians to RUF Bible studies and that these studies would yield lasting and eternal fruit (Jn. 15:16).
- Pray that RUF students would desire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:10) and mature in their faith (Col. 1:28-29). Pray that they would have discerning minds to prioritize the precious time in every week (Phil. 1:9-10).
- Pray that God grants wisdom and patience to Michael and Natasha as they raise their children in the nurture and admonishment of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Report on the 2020 Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, February 2, we met for our Annual Corporation and Congregational meetings. Many thanks to Rich Frattarelli, Tom Greene and their crew for hosting the lunch, and for those who provided soups and desserts for our meal prior to the meeting.

Meeting Highlights

- **Corporation Officers Elected**
 - Rob Hand (president), Brian Hand (secretary), and Bob Wunderlich (treasurer) were unanimously elected to serve.
- **Resolution**
 - A resolution was entered into the minutes thanking God for the years of service given to our church by longtime member Fred Pletscher. Fred served as a Ruling Elder for 35 years. In his capacity as an elder he also served as Clerk of Session, and as a trustee of our church. He was known for his love for God's word and for faithfully visiting the sick and the homebound. Fred went to be with his Lord on February 18, 2019.
- **Online Giving**
 - Pastor Hand gave a presentation on the new online giving capability that we now offer. Contributions can be made to the church electronically by using the app that is available on our church web page. Simply click on the "Give Online" button, and you will be taken through the steps to establish an account with *Subsplash*, which is the name of the company we are using for this service. Please direct any questions about this to the church office. We are happy to help!
- **Pastoral Transition**
 - Ruling Elder JJ Zeller gave an update on the status of the pastoral transition process. A recent video from Chris and Sallie Kennedy was also shown at the meeting. For further details about this topic, and about how to access the video online, see the "Pastoral Transition Update" article in this newsletter.
- **Year-end Finance Report and 2020 Budget**
 - Treasurer Bob Wunderlich reviewed with us the 2019 year-end financial statement and the 2020 budget.
 - 2019 Highlights
 - General Fund giving exceeded budget for the full year.
 - Overall spending was below budget.
 - We easily absorbed the increased operating costs that have resulted from our recent building expansion.
 - End result - a significant General Fund surplus of \$78,978 for the year.
 - This surplus helps solidify LPC's financial condition going forward.
 - We continued to grow our Dedicated Capital account for future needs.
 - 2020 Budget Highlights
 - The budget conservatively estimates projected giving for 2020
 - It is a balanced budget
 - It increases the missions support keeping it proportionate with estimated General Fund giving
 - It supports the new Pastor Salary and Benefits packages, that have been increased to bring them in line with the current market
 - It provides other employees with a 3.0% salary increase
 - It increases the amount to be transferred into our Capital Fund (\$30,670) as we prepare for some significant projects:
 - Parking Lot Repairs and Sealing
 - Sewer Line Upgrade
 - Some new expenses were added including website redesign, and pastoral & staff development

MARCH



- 1 8:00 am Band Rehearsal (weekly)
- 9:15 am Sunday School (weekly)
- 10:30 am Worship Service (weekly)
 - Deacons' Report and Offering
- 5:30 pm Youth Group (weekly)
- 5:30 pm Small Groups (weekly)
- 2 7:00 pm Mission Committee meeting
- 4 6:00 am Men's Ministry (weekly)
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (weekly)
- 7:00 pm MOPS Bible study at Greene's
- 5 9:00 am Ladies Bible study (weekly)
- 6:30 pm Session meeting
- 7:00 pm Ladies Bible study (weekly)
- 6 10:30 am Friday Small Group (weekly)
- 7 7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Henning's Market
- 8 *Daylight Saving Time*
- 10:30 am Worship Service
 - Rev. Brian Hand preaching
- 2:00 pm Meadowood Ministry
- 9 7:00 pm MOPS
- 7:00 pm Deacons' Executive Team meeting
- 11-13 Pastor Keane and Pastor Hand at Presbytery
- 14-15 Mission Conference Weekend
- 15 9:15 am Combined Sunday School
 - Rev. Michael Goodlin
- 10:30 am Worship Service
 - Rev. Michael Goodlin preaching
- 5-7:30 pm Dinner and Presentation
 - Children's Ministry (after dinner)
- 16 7:00 pm Deacons' Mercy Ministry meeting
- 18 11:00 am Seniors Living in Christ (SLIC)
 - "Everybody's Birthday Party"
- 20 6:30 pm MOPS Night to Remember at Mary Hand's
- 23 7:00 pm Men's Ministry (4th Monday)
- 24 6:00 pm Licensure/Ordination Team (Presbytery)
- 29 1:00 pm Food From the Heart Dinner

- 1 Jean Pennington
- Melany Ramsey (MTW)
- 3 Charlie Miller
- Micah Mooney
- 4 Sherrie Bard
- Daniel Negley
- 5 Dennis Nice
- 9 Joy H
- Charles Tchimou
- 11 Laura Posada
- John Prall
- 12 Matthew McBride
- 15 Elvis Longin
- 17 Tricia Whitehouse
- 20 Kim Eom
- 23 Diane Catherwood
- Bob Wunderlich
- 24 Daniel Eom
- Amanda Frattarelli
- Cris Merkel
- 27 Gabriela Schwartz
- 28 Al Zeller
- 29 Alda Parris
- Vern Poythress
- Ela Saxena
- 30 Jenna Hand
- J.J. Zeller

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear on our list or if there has been an error, please contact the church office.
Thank you.



Josh & Soo Han
3/6

Dan & Katie
Negley
3/21

Shawn & Beth
Burkholder
3/22