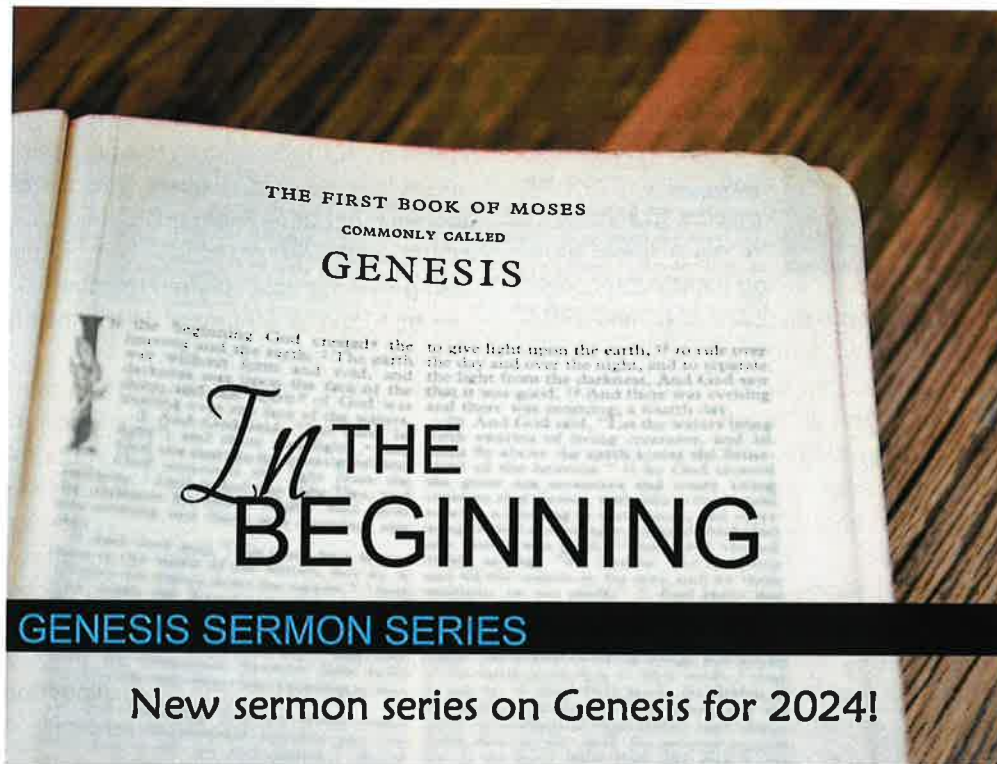


# The Grapevine

February 2024



Join us for worship every Sunday!

8:30am - Traditional Worship (childcare provided)

11:00am—Contemporary Worship (childcare provided)

9:45am—Sunday School & Adult Education

# Livestream Available

*Sunday mornings @ 8:30am*

*Lancaster Presbyterian Church Youtube channel*



## Tough Love?

"Sometimes you gotta give a little 'tough love,'" a phrase often given to parents when they are asked how to regain control over disobedient and belligerent children. The Bible passages most often quoted for support are Proverbs 13:24, "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but

he who loves him is diligent to discipline him," and 29:15, "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (ESV). However, I'm not going to discredit this notion of "tough love" in terms of scolding and removal of privileges (although corporal punishment is a topic for another day). Instead, I want us to look at the idea of that phrase, "tough love." Tough love is a redundant phrase.

Our concept of love has become soft. We think love means approving everything. When some of us hear someone say, "God is love," we are quick to say He is also Holy and Just and Righteous: fearful that our God might seem weak or passive. Instead, what if describing God as loving is how we can best describe God's strength and power?

We see God disciplines the ones He loves. This is most abundantly clear in Hebrews 12, where the term discipline is mentioned a whopping nine times in seven verses. Look specifically at verses 6-7: "'For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.' It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" (ESV). Love is connected with discipline, and God specifically disciplines the one He loves. Just as a father disciplines his son, God is treating us as his children by disciplining us. You don't go down the street, find a random kid, and start berating her, do you? And while kids may not see this right away, one of the reasons why a mom will yell at her kid after he/she does something stupid and dangerous isn't because she just likes to yell, but because she is terrified at the notion that he/she could be seriously hurt if performed again. Discipline is what keeps us from doing dangerous things, and is a sign the person cares. I love how scholar Richard Phillips says to a man, "It is for love that God hates your sin!" (*Genesis, Vol. 1*, 224). What is more loving if you started to spiral down a dark path of drugs and promiscuity and poor decisions: a parent who says, "I'm going to support you whatever you decide to do, I don't want to restrict what you want to do,"

or a parent who says, "what you're doing is wrong and I'm going to restrict your access to these things which are harming you, and I want you to clearly understand the dangers so you don't make these harmful decisions again"? Think about how this applies to approaching our world as a whole.

This is not to say that you can just start berating people and say it's all in the name of discipline and instruction. While Ephesians 6:1 tells children to obey their parents, three verses later we read, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (ESV). Notice the contrast between discipline and provoking your children to anger? Discipline should not be torture or inhumane. Discipline means discipling, not torturing. Torture is not love.

Case in point: the Hebrew word that translates to discipline can also mean instruction and correction. Instruction and correction keeps us from making poor mistakes and hurting ourselves physically or spiritually. This reminds us of 2 Timothy 3:16 regarding the purpose of Scripture: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

Denial of God's discipline means a denial of God's love, because God's love involves discipline. In Zephaniah 3:1-2, we hear the wail

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled,  
the oppressing city!

<sup>2</sup> She listens to no voice;  
she accepts no correction.

She does not trust in the Lord;  
she does not draw near to her God.

A failure to accept God's correction is a failure to trust in Him. It's a failure to want to be close with Him.

Read Deuteronomy 11:1-12, Psalm 94, and Revelation 3:14-22 and don't just read the verses that say "discipline," but notice the context: the verses before and after. See how discipline is closely associated to God showing love, protection, and care to His people.

Finally, know God's love through discipline is not a punishment for sin. Jesus Christ bore our punishment for our sins. God does not display His love for us exclusively through discipline, but also through blessings, spiritual gifts, and awareness of His presence. The love of Christ does more than fill us with knowledge and understanding, but also a reciprocating love which enjoys to glorify God and enjoy Him.

It's a joy to know God loves us and desires for us to do better. It's a joy to know we love because He first loved us, and while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Find joy in knowing that this same Jesus who loved us enough to die for us, also loves us enough to correct our behavior, refine our actions and understanding, and instruct us in how to teach others. That's not tough love, that's just love.

**Annual Congregational & Corporate Meeting**  
**Official Call to a Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 11, 2024 @ 12:30pm**

The members of Lancaster Presbyterian Church are hereby called to the Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting of Lancaster Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Society of Cayuga Creek which will be held Sunday, February 11, 2024 in the sanctuary at 12:30PM following the 11 o'clock service for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report of 2023 and any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

The Elders wish to provide thoughtful and complete answers to any questions, therefore, the Elders request that all questions be submitted by February 7.

Questions may be submitted to the Church office email [office@l-p-c.org] or feel free to place them into the Office mail box outside of room 17.

**Women's Evening Bible Study - The Gospel of Mark (Part 3)**  
**Thursdays in February - February 8th & 22nd at 7:00pm**

**Prayer Gathering - Monday, February 12th**

**Come and pray silently or aloud, but join with fellow believers in praise, thanksgiving, confession and petition. 1:00pm in the Church Library**

**Sunday School Mitten Tree Collection Update**

Thank you very much to all the L.P.C. members and the Forever Fitness exercise class members that meet at the Potter's House for your contributions to our mitten tree collection. 427 items were collected. They will be donated to City Mission, City Mission's women's and children's ministry at Cornerstone Manor and Harvest House Children's Ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday School Winter Food Collection for City Mission in February**

Throughout February we will be collecting canned goods for City Mission. Please place your donations in the containers at the entrances to the church. *Commercially prepared food only.*

**LPC Short-Term Mission Trip to Albertville, Alabama**

**July 13 - 20, 2024**

**Grace Fellowship Church in Albertville, Alabama**

LPC is planning a Mission Trip to Grace Fellowship Church in Albertville, Alabama to help reach out to a multi-ethnic community through a Vacation Bible School put together by Grace Fellowship.

We will be flying from Buffalo to Birmingham, Alabama. More details to come!

*\*This is a wonderful opportunity for our high school & young adults.\**

If you have any other questions or would like to express interest please see Pastor Will or email him at [will@l-p-c.org](mailto:will@l-p-c.org).

## **SOUP for PATH (People Against Trafficking Humans)**

PATH has asked us to provide the clients' meals on the following TUESDAYS in February:

Tuesdays - February 6, February 20, February 27

We will provide a meal of soup, bread and cookies for the ladies and children receiving services at PATH in Buffalo. Contributions should be dropped off in the church kitchen by 10 a.m. on TUESDAY morning. Needs each week include:

- large pot of soup (feeds 20-24)
- large pot of vegetarian soup (feeds 10-12)
- bread or rolls for 30 people
- cookies for 30 people

Pots are available in the church kitchen. Take one home on Sunday and bring it back to the church refrigerator with soup before Monday at 10 a.m.

A sign up sheet is in the foyer or can be accessed through the church Facebook group.

Do you ever wonder if your contributions to missions are really helpful? We know they are at PATH! PATH volunteers work hard to find provision for their people and you help meet that need. Thank you!

*PATH is in need of diapers (sizes 4,5,6) and wipes! We can send them each week with the soup. Please leave any donations in the kitchen.*

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **Evangelism Training Workshop Saturday, March 9, 2024**

Join us for the second annual Evangelism Training Workshop, Saturday, March 9, 2024.

We will begin at 8:30am with coffee/tea and doughnuts and ending at noon.

Two speakers, Pastor Will McCabe and Pastor Doug Sukhia will share with us how to approach evangelism with the "right attitude" and what it means to be "successful" in evangelism. You will also hear what other churches are doing to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities. More information will be coming in February.

Rev. 22:20, Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Please plan to attend and share in the opportunity to grow in your faith to share Jesus with others!



## **LPC Wednesday Family Night**

***Please see the time adjustments below  
beginning Wednesday, February 28th!***

### **Pizza Dinner at 5:30pm**

Come for a pizza dinner with the whole family! Just \$1 per slice of pizza.

**Mini Youth Group (PreK 4 year olds - 2nd grade)** A special youth group for our little ones that include activities, games, coloring, stories and singing!

**\*\*Time Change! 6:00pm to 7:00pm, meeting in room 114\*\***

### **Kids Youth Group (grades 3-6)**

Kids Youth Group takes place every Wednesday at the Potters House during our Family Night programming!

**\*\*Time Change! Drop off at 6:00pm, pick up at 7:30pm.\*\***

### **Wednesday Night Adult Group 6:15 -7:00pm**

Discussion time with the pastor and his wife on topics ranging from the Bible to parenting to why we believe. Open to all. Come with your questions and to make new friends.

**No Family Night Wednesday, February 21st.**

## **Winter Sewing Club @ LPC!**

**Saturdays in February - February 10, February 17, February 24**

**9:30am to 11:30am in Waith Fellowship Hall**

Some of you have been asking so here it is! A sewing class for students 7th grade and up during the long winter.

We are planning a small quilted bag project which will give you a chance to pick colors and fun stitches and complete a useful zippered bag.

Some of you have attended previous projects, but even if you have never used a sewing machine before, we would like to help you get started!

Church ladies who enjoy sharing their love of sewing with the next generation bring their machines to Lancaster Presbyterian Church and help the students along.

Let us know if you would like to come, so we can plan appropriately for supplies.

LENT 2024

THE LANCASTER/DEPEW MINISTERIUM

## Lenten Series— “Guided to the Cross”

**Feb 21– Faith United  
Methodist Church**  
5505 Broadway, Lancaster

**Feb 28– Blessed Mother  
Teresa of Calcutta**  
496 Terrace Blvd. Depew

**March 6– Lancaster  
Presbyterian Church**  
5461 Broadway, Lancaster

**March 13– St. Mary of the  
Assumption**  
1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster

**March 20– Holy Mother of the  
Rosary Polish National  
Catholic Cathedral**  
6298 Broadway, Lancaster



Join us for this ecumenical tradition!

An offering will be taken, all proceeds will be given to Tri-Community and Trinity food pantries. Make checks payable to “Faith United Methodist Church” with “ministerium” in memo line.

**ALL SERVICES AT NOON**



# Prayer Page

**Pray for the pastors:** Lord, let our pastors have a discerning mind to prioritize the precious minutes in the day. Let our pastors discern what is most important and be guarded against tyranny of the urgent (2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 John 4:1)

*The Pray! Prayer Journal, Nov Press 2003, p.155*

## **Praying for LPC ministries:**

**Session:** The KAP prayer is to be a prayer asking the Lord's blessing upon and His help with the work of Session. Session this month wishes to offer the following KAP prayer request:

Please pray for Sharon Miller, Dave Young and our two Pastors as work continues in determining the best way forward regarding LPC's Youth Ministry.

**Deacons:** Heavenly Father, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit, we praise You that no matter what is happening in the world around us, we can know that nothing is outside of Your sovereign control. Give us courage and strength to trust you in the darkest times. Let us be Your faithful servants even though the forces of darkness often seem to be winning. Thank You for Your word which has sustained Your faithful people for thousands of years and continues to comfort and encourage Christians around the world today. In Jesus's name, Amen.

**Prayer for our country:** Father in heaven, we ask Your protection on those in the United States military. Guard them from ungodly influences that come from those who give unbiblical mandates. Guard them from physical dangers and guide them to trust and obey You. Please work in their lives to bring them to a spiritual and emotional maturity as they faithfully serve their country. Give them an assurance of who You are and of their need for You. Comfort and encourage their families when they are far from home. Encourage faithful chaplains to speak the Truth into the hearts of service men and women. Thank you for those who have defended our nation from the beginning of its formation until this day.

**Prayer for our World (Saudi Arabia):** Lord, You know the dangers Your people face in Saudi Arabia. Not only is there no political nor social freedom for citizens, but believers are in grave danger if they are discovered. Prison, and even death, are the consequences if they are caught speaking about Christ to a Muslim. But Father, You do have faithful Christians hidden away in Saudi Arabia. Encourage them Lord, and give them some light and hope in their faith so that they can continue to trust You. Violence against converts from Islam is very high and yet You are building Your Church. Keep them strong even unto death.

## **Praying for our family**

Violet Chaves  
James McElhinny  
Barb Benzinger  
Rob Herget  
Maureen O'Connor  
Christian Carlsen  
Carolina Jackson  
Sandy Wiefert  
Sharon Krause  
Rudy Bucci  
Judy Cavanaugh  
Beth Kroecker  
Ron Stasiowski  
Judy Martin  
Don Flaig  
Bob Foley

## **Home Members**

Don Metzger  
Judy Kish  
Joyce Klaasesz  
Norma English  
Lois Marks

## **LPC's Military Personnel:**

Thomas Carlsen II  
Laurel Foss  
Dan Pulley  
David Boncore

## **LPC Prayer Ministry:**

If you have a prayer request or would like to be part of the prayer email list please contact the church office by email (office@l-p-c.org) or call Marie in the church office at 684-2277.



## Lancaster Presbyterian Church

5461 Broadway St. Lancaster, NY 14086  
Phone: 716.684.2277 Fax: 716.684.2446

Rev. Dr. Kelly Negus, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Will McCabe, Associate Pastor

### **Purpose:**

For God's glory  
we are committed  
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ  
in all we say and all we do  
to make and equip disciples  
in our families, our community, and the world.

### **Core Values:**

We believe in the authority of Scripture  
and we affirm  
the historic teachings  
of Reformed Christianity.

Non-Profit

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www.L-P-C.org  
office@L-P-C.org

**Address Service Requested**

## **Junior & Senior High Youth Group at Lancaster Presbyterian Church**

***\*2024 gatherings will be on the following  
Saturdays from 5:30pm to 8:00pm\****

**January 13, January 27, February 10, February 24, March 9,  
March 23, April 13, April 27 (May dates TBD)**

**Gatherings include: cooking & eating dinner together  
followed by Bible discussion & games!**