

The Grapevine

September 2023



 Lancaster Presbyterian Church

**Worship With Us
Every Sunday**

**Sunday School
&
Adult Education
Every Sunday @
9:45am**

**Traditional Worship @ 8:30am
Contemporary Worship @ 11:00am**
Childcare provided at both services.

**LIVESTREAM available on our
LPC You Tube channel and Facebook page.**
www.L-P-C.org

Sunday, September 10th

We resume back to two worship services. Communion will take place during both services.
Adult Education & Sunday School will take place at 9:45am.

New Members Class

Sunday, Sept. 10th to Dec. 3rd @ 9:45am (Meeting weekly on Sunday mornings)

Taught by Pastor Will and meeting in the church library

Please sign up on the sheet on the Information Table or call the church office if you are interested in attending.



Sunday School (Nursery to 12th grade)

Beginning Sunday, September 10th @ 9:45am

*O LORD, our LORD, How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!*

Psalm 8:1

Bible Sunday - Sunday September 17th @ 11:00am

Students in the 2nd and 7th grade Sunday School classes will be receiving their Bibles during the 11:00am worship service.



How old is the earth? Do you know? Is this a question that you would feel confident answering before our congregation or our Presbytery? There are believers who love the Lord Jesus and hold fast to the authority of His word but do not share your views in this connection. Are you qualified to renounce their perspectives as heresy? You might be. There are, after all, limits of orthodoxy beyond which we proceed at our peril. But be careful, there are scholars on the list of

those with whom we might disagree who are of great renown and highest repute.

Charles Hodge, the principal of Old Princeton in the latter 1800s, held the Day Age Interpretation, together with B.B. Warfield, J. Gresham Machen (one of my heroes), E.J. Young, Francis Schaefer, and James Montgomery Boice. These names are huge. Meredith Kline (with whom Lisa and I were privileged to study), Mark Futato (of Reformed Theological Seminary), and Henri Blocher (the famous French Theologian) all subscribe(d) some form of the Literary Framework Interpretation. William G.T. Shedd held the Analogical Day Interpretation, a view that is embraced by such famous Reformed thinkers of our time as C. John Collins (of Covenant Theological Seminary) and W. Robert Godfrey (chairman of Ligonier Ministries). For my part, I would not feel adequate to debate any one of these men. But the thing is, every last one of the theological giants on this list subscribes or subscribed what Orthodox Christianity has always affirmed: God's creation of the heavens and the earth *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) and the special creation of Adam and Eve as actual human beings, the parents of all humanity. The disobedience of our first parents plunged us all into sin and misery, and the only hope of redemption for any of us is by the grace of God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the second Adam, who won through the right to represent us before His holy Father in all righteousness, so that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). We stand in the best company with all these men, and yet we would find significant divergence of perspective among them as to the age of the earth.

When asked about the age of the earth, R.C. Sproul, the famous Reformed theologian, founder and longtime chairman of Ligonier Ministries, renowned for his radio broadcast "Renewing Your Mind," said, "When people ask me how old the earth is I tell them 'I don't know,' because I don't. And I'll tell you why I don't. In the first place, the Bible does not give us a date of creation. Now it gives us hints and inclinations that would indicate in many cases a young earth. But at the same time you get all this expanding universe and all

The Age of the Earth

this astronomical dating, and triangulation and all that stuff coming from outside the church that makes me wonder... but having said that, that's a long way to say I don't know how old the earth is."

I have life-long friends who believe in The Calendar Day Interpretation of 6, 24 hour periods of creation. In seminary, I was taught the Framework Interpretation at the hands of a brilliant scholar who, I promise you, you would be wisely afraid to confront in an argument. Then there's the Day-Age Interpretation, The Analogical Days Interpretation, and others. I know adherents of every one of these perspectives, and it would never occur to me to anathematize any of them as a heretic. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Is it alright to think about these questions and to engage them in polite conversation? Of course! But, please, just remember, Beloved, that if Reformed Christians are still working out the cosmological questions, doesn't that call us to an extra measure of humility and grace to our fellow believers as we each sort out our perspectives? It would seem more commendable to affirm with R.C. Sproul, "I don't know," than to arrogantly affirm what may later prove to be in error. As Keith Mathison sagely affirms: "If the universe turns out to be 6000 years old, that fact will not ultimately conflict with what Scripture actually teaches. If the universe turns out to be billions of years old, that fact will not ultimately conflict with what Scripture actually teaches. We do not need to renounce Christianity in either case." We do not need to renounce each other either.

My heart is for Jesus. My heart is for the word of God. My heart is for the truth. My heart is for orthodox Christian teaching. My heart is also for the unity of the body, the church, specifically Lancaster Presbyterian Church, where the order of the day is still: *In Essentials Unity, In Non-essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity*.

I love you all!

Pastor Kelly

¹Keith Mathison, "The Age of the Universe and Genesis 1," *Ligonier Ministries*, July 22, 2012, accessed August 17, 2023, <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/age-universe-and-genesis-1-reformed-approach-science-and-scripture>

ANNOUNCEMENT

With the foregoing understanding in view, I invite you to a presentation by my friend and fellow elder, Frank Gerber, on Creation: Are the Bible and Science in Conflict?

Our goals will be:

To Examine the Genesis Narrative in the Original Hebrew and

To Ask, What Has God Revealed in Creation that Science Has Discovered?

There will be donuts and coffee.

Please come and exercise polite inquiry.

That's Saturday October 7, 2023 from 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Church Picnic - Saturday, September 9th

Como Lake Park - Gazebo Shelter

12pm until dusk (rain or shine)

Church will provide: meat, paper products and table settings, lemonade and bottled water

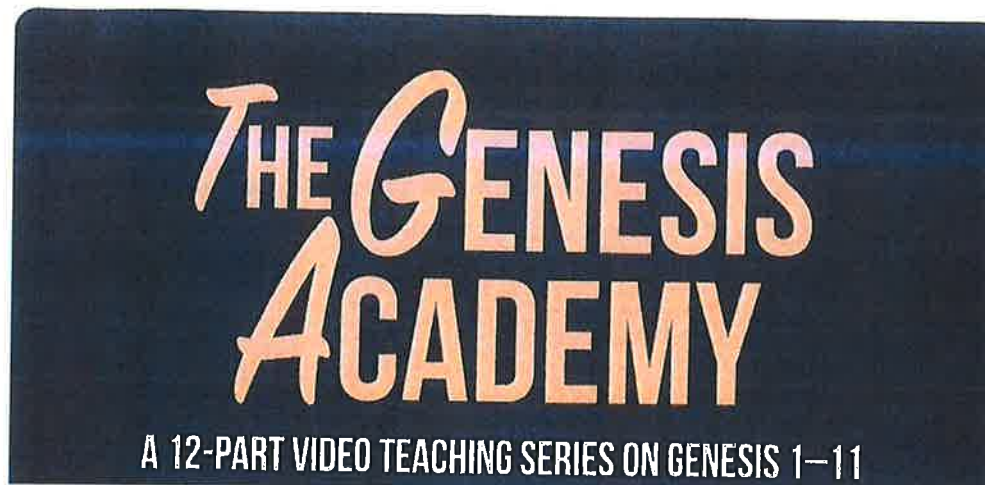
Each family please bring a dish to pass! Please sign up on the sheet on the Information Table, or call the church office if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly for the meat for the picnic.

Plan for lawn games, fellowship & a fun time together! Feel free to bring a chair if you would like to sit somewhere other than at the tables in the gazebo.

Prayer Gathering - Monday, September 11th

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

Have you visited the archives room yet? Take a few minutes to stop in sometime. Photographs from past Algonquin canoe trips will be on display in September. Come and see who you recognize and enjoy memories.



The Genesis Academy - meeting weekly on Sunday evenings

September 10th to December 10th

5:30m—7:30pm

Worship, teaching, fellowship

Taught by Glenn Tanner

TRUTH FOR LIFE DAILY: Alistair Begg Devotional

WE NEED YOU

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

If you disappeared one day from your local church, who would notice? If you were absent for an extended period of time, what would your church miss?

God has given every believer at least one gift to use for the good of His body. And while none of us should be irreplaceable in the sense that the church couldn't go on without us, we should be missed if we were absent, because God has gifted us in a specific way at a precise point in time to be uniquely useful in a particular group of people.

But how often do we sit on the sidelines, waiting for others to minister to us when the thrust of Scripture is that God ministers through us? Yes, every single one of us must be ready to receive ministry from others as they use the gifts God has given them for our good. But our default setting should be to give, not only or primarily to receive. The church really doesn't have much space for spectators. Even the youngest among us, be it in faith or in age, has something to contribute.

When we exercise our gifts, we manifest the Spirit's work and power for the common good. Most immediately, that includes the edification of our brothers and sisters in our local assembly, but it also includes witnessing to our friends and neighbors beyond the church walls. While they might be confused and bemused by the very idea of "spiritual gifts," they will understand a compassionate heart. They will respond to hospitality. They will be open to a word of concern or encouragement.

You have something to contribute, uniquely. Yet our ability to participate in God's work should never puff us up, for it is a gift given by the Spirit of God, and it is the Gift-Giver who deserves the praise as we use it to serve His people and His world.

So, assured that to each is given a gift, by God's Spirit, for the common good, be encouraged to pour yourself out rather than holding yourself back. Your church needs what you, through God's Spirit, have to offer. As an old children's song puts it, "There's a work for Jesus none but you can do."^[1] What is He asking of you?

1. Elsie Duncan Yale, ["There's a Work for Jesus"](#) (1912).

Questions for Thought

How is God calling me **to think** differently?

How is God reordering my **heart's affections** — what I love?

What is God calling me **to do** as I go about my day today?

Men's Bible Study

A new men's bible study has begun and is led by Ken O'Connor and will continue every month on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10:00am.

We will be using the teaching series by R.C. Sproul titled "Dust to Glory". This is a unique study that explores the major themes, events, and people that are brought to life in the Bible. Our Lord declared that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). The Bible is that Word by which we are to live.

September Gatherings: Monday, September 11th @ 10:00am; Monday, September 25th @ 10:00am

Adult Education Class - Fall of 2023

beginning Sunday, September 10th @ 9:45am

The Sunday School class this Fall kicks off on September 10th in Waith Hall covering the subjects; The Providence of God and Surprised by Suffering. The first Sunday of each month the Evangelism Committee will lead the class focused on sharing our faith supplemented with videos by Greg Koukl.

The Providence of God and Surprised by Suffering series will be led by Ken O'Connor and will include video lectures by Dr. R.C. Sproul. This study will look at how God providentially controls all things that come to pass fulfilling his purpose for creation in light of the ongoing events, pain, and suffering all around us. We will look at the history and definition of providence, how God exercises His providence in our lives, the "Why" of providence and lastly at the value and comfort that providence brings to our lives.

The second portion of this study will look at the topic of "Suffering". Attempting to answer the question of "Why". Why does God permit diseases and pain in our lives? Why does God permit these to happen?

Lastly, we will look at death and heaven through the eyes of providence and suffering. Examining the journey that we all must take approaching the veil and the beatific vision.

Everything in creation is under the providing care of God. Not only does God supply all things, He arranges them according to His plan for His glory.

LPC Youth Groups - See the enclosed *FAMILY NIGHT* flyer!

Junior & Senior High Youth Group (7th - 12th graders)

Meeting on Saturday evenings beginning Saturday, September 16th!

5:30pm—8:00pm

Gatherings will include cooking & eating dinner together, followed by Bible discussion and games!

Save these dates for Junior & Senior High Youth Group!

September 16, September 30, October 14, October 28, November 18, December 2

Women's Evening Bible Study

Resumes Thursday, September 28th at 7:00pm

Continuing the Gospel of Mark - Part 3

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

It is time to begin thinking about packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The collection dates this year are November 13-20. If you bring your boxes to our church, we will be taking them to Eastern Hills Wesleyan, which is the next stop on their journey, on **Sunday November 19**. Summer is a great time to start purchasing your school supplies because they are all on sale. It is also a great time to start thinking about what you would like to put in your boxes.

Here are some suggestions for things to include in your boxes:

School supplies

- Crayons, colored pencils, markers (Preferably Crayola brand items)
- pencil sharpeners, erasers, rulers, glue sticks
- pens and pencils with no business/church advertising logos
- small pads of papers/notebooks
- small calculators
- drawstring backpacks

Other suggested items:

- Flip Flops
- Personal Hygiene items-Toothbrush, Plastic dish and bar of soap, washcloth
- Jump ropes--the longer the better
- Deflated soccer ball, pump, and extra needles
- A sturdy bowl or cup and a spoon or spork
- A plain colored T-shirt
- socks
- stuffed animals or dolls

For older children:

- Gardening/work gloves
- Sewing Kit
- Flashlight-Solar or LED--send extra batteries with the ends taped over
- Tools

A few items that should **NOT** be included:

- Toothpaste
- Candy and gum (both are no longer allowed and will be removed)
- Anything that requires an explanation--don't send games or crafts with English directions
- Anything that is not brand new
- War Toys
- Anything liquid, including **bottles of glue**
- anything glass that could break

If you decide to wrap your box after it has been packed, the top and bottom must be wrapped individually. Every shoe box is looked through at the collection center.. The shoe box recipients receive a gospel booklet presented in their own language. Shoe box recipients also receive an invitation to attend a 12 lesson follow-up discipleship program called the Greatest Journey. The cost of **processing each box is \$10.00**. You may include a check for this amount in your shoebox or you may donate this on-line at Samaritanspurse.org and receive a shipping label that you can tape on your box. If you donate on-line, it will also track your box and you can go on-line to Operation Christmas Child, Pack a shoebox, and Label Options. You should be able to see what country your box or boxes went to.

There will be a table set up by the lounge area under the sanctuary where there will be plenty of empty boxes. Help yourself!! Plastic shoe boxes work great as well!! You can also purchase boxes from Samaritan's purse directly if you like. They have 2 kinds--plastic or cardboard. **The website is: Samaritanspurse.org**. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Pat Gerber at 668-2670. Have fun beginning to think about packing your shoe boxes and be in prayer that just the right boy or girl will receive your box or boxes!! I would also ask that if you packed 1 box last year you might consider doing 2 or more boxes this year. Every box counts and there are lots of children around the world who may only receive this simple shoe box as a gift at Christmas!!



Prayer Page

Pray for the pastors: Lord God Almighty, would You help our pastors to humble themselves before You and under Your mighty hand, so that You will lift them up (Jas. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6)? Guide them in what is right and teach them Your way (Psa. 25:9). May our congregation see that they are wise and understanding as shown by their good lives, and by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (Jas. 3:13). Father, You have said that the ones You esteem are those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at Your Word (Isa. 66:2). May our pastors be such a person!

www.harvestprayer.com/resources/church-prayer/prayer-and-care-for-pastors/

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:

Lord, we pray for a steadfast focus at LPC upon the essential Gospel as it is found within your Scriptures. We ask for strength and courage to speak the Gospel, to tell [speak] the Gospel to new friends, to old friends and to family.

Lord, we ask for protection from conflict over the nonessentials. We ask for unity and understanding regarding the essentials of Scriptures. We ask for universal tolerance in areas regarding the nonessentials.

Lord, we ask for help in drawing people to the Scriptures and in sharing the essential Gospel.

Deacons: We ask God to help us with our battles of fear and worry. Most of all, we pray for courage and boldness. Create in us a clean heart, God help us to have faith and boldness when we pray, knowing that you can intervene in any situation. We pray that our wants and needs will align up with your will and desires. Bold prayers honor God and God honors bold prayer. Amen.

Prayer for our country: Father in heaven, Jesus, Holy Spirit, You are the great comforter, a very present help in trouble. We ask you to work through the tragedies that come in this broken world, to draw many to Yourself. Please help the people of Lahaina, Hawaii to look to You for comfort and sustenance. Thank You for the many who have gone to help in Your name. As many mourn not only the loss of material possessions, but also the loss of life, remind them that here we do not have a lasting city but we are seeking the city which is to come. Take away their tears and give them the hope that only You can give.

Prayer for our World: Lord, You know how our brothers and sisters in China are suffering for Your name. Please give them Your strength and courage to withstand the evils brought upon them. Please give Pastor Li physical and spiritual health as he endures prison for resisting the removal of the cross from atop his church building. When Christians are arrested, interrogated and imprisoned give them Your words to speak to guards and other prisoners. Remind them that it is not they who speak but Your Spirit speaking through them.

Praying for our family

Maureen O'Connor
Judy Cavanaugh
Beth Kroecker
Carolina Jackson
Ron Stasiowski
Judy Martin
Don Flaig

Home Members

Don Metzger
Judy Kish
Millie Epolito
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.

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FAMILY NIGHT




at Lancaster Presbyterian Church

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:30pm-7pm


starting September 13th, 2023

Join us for any or all of the activities!




5:30pm - 6:15pm

Pizza and Fellowship

- All are welcome!
 - Location: Waith Hall
 - \$1 per slice
- 

6:00pm-6:30 pm

Cherub Choir

- Age group: Pre-K 4 – 2nd Grade
 - Location: room 114
 - Singing for fun and to rehearse a song to sing in church or out in the community 1x per month
- 


6:15pm-7:00pm

Adult Study Group

- Location: Pastor's Study
 - Dropping your kid(s) off for Cherub Choir & Mini Youth Group? Join Pastor Kelly for a time of discussion on applying the Gospel to parenting
 - All adults welcome!
 - Childcare available in the nursery
- 

6:30pm-7:00pm

Mini Youth Group

- Age group: Pre-K 4 – 2nd grade
 - Location: room 114
 - Activities, games, coloring, and stories
- 

Also on Wednesday nights,

Kids Youth Group

- 6:30pm-8:00 pm
 - Age group: 3rd-6th Grades
 - Location: Potter's House
 - Games in the gym, Bible study, crafts & activities, plus a snack!
- 