

The Grapevine

September 2026



Looking Ahead to Autumn! Small Group Sign-Ups Are Happening Now!

Small groups are a wonderful way to grow in your faith, deepen your understanding of God's Word, and build meaningful relationships within the body of Christ. Whether you're new to our church or have been attending for years, we'd love for you to be part of a group this fall.

Sign up on one of these Sundays:

- **August 30**
- **September 6**
- **September 13**

We hope you'll prayerfully consider joining a small group this autumn!

Find Peace through Prayer

***And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7)***

(Taken by permission from "Anxiety – Knowing God's Peace" A 31-Day Devotional for Life by Paul Tautges)

God wants us to bring everything to him in prayer, because we need the humility and dependence that prayer effects in us (see Phil:5-6). As the result of our prayer, the peace of God protects our hearts and minds from fear, as we see in today's verse. God's peace commands our anxious thoughts to leave and prevents new ones from entering. This inner peace has three qualities.



First, *it is an indescribable calm*. This peace eludes adequate description – it “surpasses all understanding.” It is a peace that the world cannot understand or furnish. Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

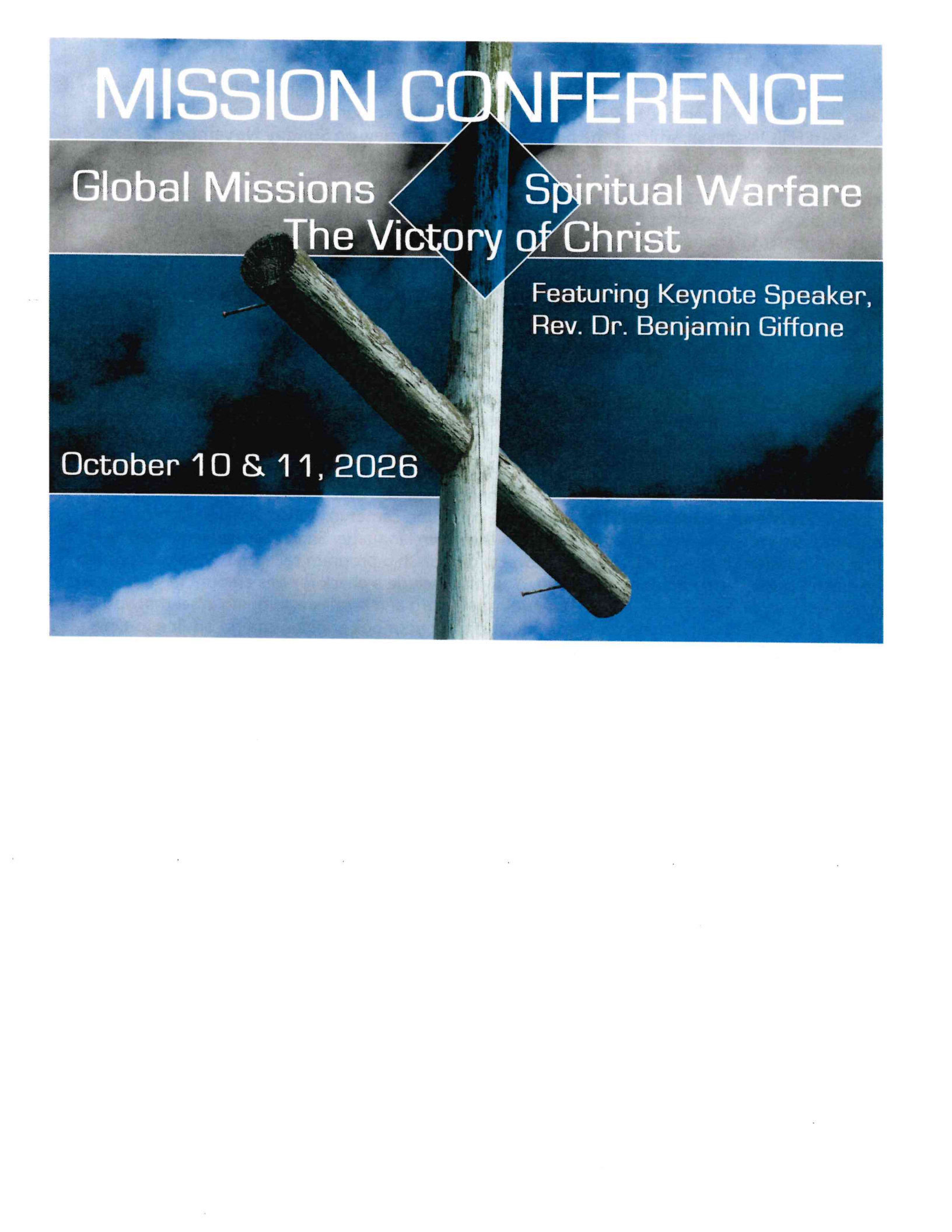
Second, *it protects emotional and mental stability*. The apostle assures us that this peace “will guard your hearts and your minds.” The word *guard* is a military word. It refers to a garrison of soldiers on duty. When we pray, God dispatches a defense force of armed warriors to surround our inner person and protect it from anxiety attacks that would disturb our peace. This reminds us of a wonderful promise: “you [i.e., the Lord] keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you” (Isa. 26:3). When our attention is fixed on the Lord, his peace watches over our hearts and minds.

Third, *it belongs to believers only*. This peace guards the hearts and minds of those who are “in Christ Jesus.” To be “in Christ” means to be united to him by faith (Gal. 2:20, also see John 15:5). Only when we are connected to Jesus can his peace reign in our hearts. This indescribable calm cannot be experienced by the unsaved person, because it comes from the Holy Spirit (see Gal. 5:22).

If you are not at peace *with* God, you will never be able to experience the peace *of* God. Being at peace with God means that your sins have justly been dealt with on the cross of Calvary (see 1 Peter 3:18). It means that you trust in Jesus Christ as your crucified and risen Lord and Savior who has made peace with God for you (see Col. 1:20). He is the only Mediator between God and sinners (see 1 Tim. 2:5). When you come to God through faith in his Son and receive his atoning work on your behalf, then this rock-solid promise belongs to you: “Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1). Are you at peace with God? If not, you cannot even begin to overcome anxiety. Spiritual peace is found only “in Christ Jesus.” If you are not a Christian, turn to Jesus in faith today.

If you already know Jesus Christ, then rest in the peace that God has provided. Those who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb find security in his promise: “In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

MISSION CONFERENCE

A wooden cross is the central visual element, constructed from two weathered logs. It stands against a background of a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is positioned slightly to the left of the center, with its vertical beam extending from the top to the bottom of the frame. The horizontal beam is made of two separate logs, one on each side of the vertical beam, meeting at the center. The wood of the cross shows signs of age and weathering, with a light tan color and visible grain.

Global Missions

Spiritual Warfare

The Victory of Christ

Featuring Keynote Speaker,
Rev. Dr. Benjamin Giffone

October 10 & 11, 2026

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 16-23. 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 22**.

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 and pump, A sturdy bowl or cup and a spoon or spork, A plain colored T-shirt, socks, stuffed animals

For older children: Gardening/work gloves, Sewing Kit, Flashlight-Solar or LED--send extra batteries with the ends taped over

A few items that should NOT be included: Soap, 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 in North Carolina. 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 is 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 the church office at 716-684-2277. 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 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!!

CHURCH NEWS

You are welcome to join in the One Year Chronological Bible Sunday School Class as we transition to the New Testament in September!

If you listen to Alistair Begg you'll often hear him say how Christ is found throughout the Bible:

"In the Old Testament He is **predicted**, in the Gospels He is **revealed**, in Acts He is **preached**, in the Epistles He is **explained**, and in Revelation He is **expected**".

When Sunday School resumes on September 13th, the One Year Bible class will be completing our journey through the Old Testament, and moving into the New Testament with the readings beginning September 24.

You are welcome to join in as Christ is revealed in our New Testament readings in September. We will be meeting in the first floor Room listed as 114/115 starting Sunday, September 13th at 10:45am.

Adult Education Class - "A Survey of Church History"

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a new video series this Fall called "**A Survey of Church History**", with Robert Godfrey of Ligonier Ministries. Each class centers around the ~ 20-minute feature video by Dr. Godfrey with class discussions around some specific events of historical significance in the Church from 100-600 AD.

The past centuries of church history give us a litany of God's deliverances. God has done it before, many times and in many ways, and He will do it again. And in that, we find courage for today and for tomorrow.

In church history, we see men and women facing challenges not unlike the challenges before us today. We look back and learn from the mistakes and missteps of the past. The study of church history, however, is meant to provide more than just inspiration. ***Serious reflection on the past protects us from error, reminds us of God's faithfulness, and motivates us to persevere.***

The class will meet in Waith Hall right after church beginning on September 13th. Come join us and learn about such figures such as Polycarp, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, and the Emperor Constantine. Who were these men and what was the significance of their lives on the Church? Come join us and we will find out.

Sunday School (nursery to 8th grade) Meeting weekly on Sunday mornings @ 10:45AM

Beginning Sunday, September 13th

Sunday School is a place for children to make friends and grow in character, a free safe place for the children of our community—focusing on character education through the teachings of Jesus, with an emphasis on love and forgiveness.

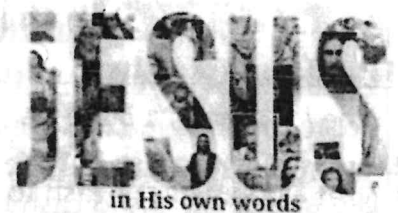
LPC Ladies Ministry Fall Kick off - Bible and Brunch Saturday, September 26th 10:00am to Noon

Topic: Jesus in His Own Words and Exposing the Counterfeits
John 11:25 - *I am the Resurrection and the Life*

Cost: a donation of \$15, if able

What to Bring: a friend!

RSVP: Contact Marie in the church office (Phone): 716-684-2277; (Email): office@L-P-C.org



LPC YOUTH

Wednesday Family Night & Awana Clubs @ LPC begins Wednesday, September 9th



Awana Clubs at LPC for:

- **Cubbies** (ages 3 – PreK): 6pm to 7pm in the LPC building
- **Sparks** (K–2nd): 6pm to 7:30pm at the Potters House
- **T&T** (3rd–6th): 6pm to 7:30pm at the Potters House

Our family pizza dinner (5:30PM – 6:00PM) with pizza from Picasso's will continue on Wednesdays before our Awana Clubs! We ask families to contribute \$1/slice, if possible. We strongly encourage parents to join their children for dinner, as it's a meaningful opportunity to grow in community together!

After dinner, the kiddos will go to Awana, and we welcome parents and guardians to join us for an **adult small group**. Wednesday night **adult small group** will be held during Awana (6 - 7:30 pm) with a focus on supporting parents and families. We will use the small group material biweekly, with topics of special interest and extra time for fellowship on alternate weeks. **Nursery care** (age 0 -2 years) is available for participants, so invite your **friends and young families**. We are making plans to subdivide/rotate the group as we grow.

***Awana** is a fun, Bible memory program for kids that helps them grow in their faith through Scripture memory, engaging lessons, and exciting games. **AWANA** stands for **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed** (2 Timothy 2:15). At LPC, we believe that the Word of God is precious and powerful and that the memorization and meditation of it transforms hearts and lives. This powerful ministry teaches young minds and equips parents in leading their children in the way of the Lord!*

This is going to be a BLAST! We hope you join us!

Please sign up to join us by using the link found on our website under Youth Ministry. Signing up ahead of time helps us to plan for accurate materials!

SAVE THE DATE!!! TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Junior & Senior High Youth Group (7th –12th grade) Fall 2026 upcoming events!

Join the GroupMe to stay in the loop!



Saturday, September 12th - Youth Group BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Come for dinner, a Bible lesson, games & Small Groups! 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Sunday, September 20th - Apple Picking at Smith's Orchard! Meet at LPC at 12pm; pick up from LPC at 4:00pm. Bring cash to purchase slushies/donuts at the Orchard. *Register ahead via the GroupMe.*

Saturday, September 26th - Youth Group

Come for dinner, a Bible lesson, games & Small Groups! 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Contact Raffi Wright, LPC Youth & Music Director with questions (raffi@L-P-C.org).

Soar Like an Eagle

By Brigitte Robinson-Selkregg

The older I get the more I appreciate nature. Nature includes birds, and I am an avid caretaker of the birds in my backyard. Nature is fierce, wild, and untamed but it is also mysterious, awe-inspiring and beautiful. God gives this promise to man in Genesis 1:26 with a blessing "Let man have dominion over the fish in the sea, and over the birds in the air and over all the earth." It is stamped with His words "It is good." Do you consider yourself a steward of nature, and what does that mean? Respect, protection, and thanksgiving are some thoughts that come to my mind.

I am incredibly grateful that I have a backyard that is welcoming to birds. It brings a smile to my face when I see a migrant Baltimore Oriole or Rose Breasted Grosbeak at my feeders. Caring for the birds is not a task. It's a role that puts joy into my tank at the start of a day. I fill the feeders with Black Oil Sunflower Seeds daily and refresh the water in the Bird Bath. The bird feeders are placed near trees so the birds have some protection from predators. My interest in caring for the birds soared higher than the birds themselves when we installed 2 nestboxes in the yard for Cavity Dwelling Birds such as Bluebirds and Chickadees. My yard backs up to a forested piece of land which is a quiet home to Pine, Oak and Apple Trees which overlooks the creek. Wild Raspberry Bushes are bountiful and intermingle in between various trees providing food, shade and protection for the birds. All said, we have countless species of birds.

I welcomed a female Black Capped Chickadee to the Selkregg Community Bird Habitat this Spring. A Blink camera attached to the inside roof of the

nestbox gave proof to the new tenant. The nest building was fastidious, and in a short time completed. The nest was made of green moss and topped with the mother's soft feathers. Mamma Chickadee laid one egg every day for nine days. Yes, nine eggs, resulting in nine featherless, scrawny little hatchlings. Mamma Chickadee was an amazing mother. It was spectacular to witness this sweet little creature's instinct to hover, protect and nurture her babies. Babies must eat, and so, mother chickadee ventured out of the nest to



search for insects, and soon returned to a cluster of wide mouthed gaping nestlings. The nestlings began to develop quickly. I worried about the vulnerability of the nestlings whenever the mother went on a hunt for food. And then, calamity forced its way into that sweet little nursery. Yes, nature can be wild, fierce and is untamed. While sitting in the car waiting for my granddaughter one afternoon, I pulled out my phone to do a quick check up on the birds. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I blinked and looked again. I must be seeing things. "Sadie, quick, get in the car, I need to get home." I was horrified. A sparrow got into the nest box and was attacking the family of birds. I reached the point of rage when I witnessed the sparrow fly off with one of the babies. The mother would not abandon the nest. She sat on the nest covering the nestlings with her body as the male Chickadee fought to protect the family. The Mamma Bear in me was hot with rage. I sprint through the yard holding fast to hope and wishful thinking. I nervously opened the nest box. My heart skipped more than one beat as my eyes wept softly for the male and female Chickadees. They were dead. I removed the beautiful bed of moss/feather nest and laid it on the ground to search for nestling survivors. As I reached into the nest I could feel warmth of the baby chickadees. The nestlings were knotted together like a tight ball of yarn making it difficult to get a count.



I cupped them in my hand to keep them warm not knowing if they were dead or alive. It was obvious that some had been pecked by the sparrow. I felt sad for the injustice of it all. My sorrow quickly turned to fight. Fight to save the tiny lives in my hand. I made a phone call to the local nature preserve who then connected me with Messenger Woods, a wildlife nature preservation. I was given fast and clear instructions on how to safely transport the hatchlings to a wildlife rehabilitator close to my home. My husband and I carefully placed the hatchlings in a sock (the neck of the sock cut down), and the sock was placed in a box poked with air holes and lined with a cloth, and carefully taped shut resting on a heating pad until we reached the destination of the wildlife rehabilitator, Jenny.



The recovery process would begin with a gentle bath for the nestlings followed by a feeding of insects every 20-30 minutes with tweezers. In weeks to come, the nestlings grew strong and healthy and they were placed in a caged environment that included plants and insects so the birds could learn to search out their food and live independently in a natural environment. Two of the nestlings were unable to recover from the sparrow attack. If you remember, the brood of nestlings began with nine, and a total of four survived. The day arrived to let the nestlings fly free and live independently. Jenny graciously elected to return the fledglings to my backyard for their release. I could not help but tear up when I opened the cage door to see four healthy little fledglings take flight. My heart burst with joy. I felt like a proud mother who just birthed a baby!

This temporary habitat that we call home is clothed in the beauty and glory of the Creator, Our Father God. I marvel that He included me in this world and that I am privileged with its care. I can provide protection and more as a caretaker for my birds. Even so, they still meet harm. I cannot control their fate. We celebrate the joy of every new life, and we weep in sorrow for loss. Jesus bore the pain and suffering of our sins and took on a horrific death that we may have new life with Him. We are not merely ashes that turn to dust like the baby birds. Isaiah 40:31 "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Let go of your fear and anxiety and soar to the heavens like an eagle. The nest is just one last step to reach eternal glory.

Prayer Page

Pray for the pastor: Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, we come before you to lift up Pastor Kelly. We ask that You lay Your healing hands on him, relieving his pain and restoring his body to full strength. Guide the doctors and medical team, giving them wisdom to find the right levels to treat the Parkinsons. We pray for peace and comfort for the Negus family. May this trial bring glory to Your name and allow Pastor Kelly to be strengthened by Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Praying for LPC ministries:

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

- Session asks for prayer for the Session as work progresses towards finding a Transitional Pastor to lead LPC.
- Session asks for prayer for the persons [Transitional Pastor and Senior Pastor] that God has chosen to lead LPC.

Deacons: Heavenly Father, In our personal lives, our changing world, and in our church, it is so good to know that You, Lord, are unchanging. You have providence over our world, our church and our personal lives. Thank You for blessing us with Your unchanging faithfulness, love, and mercy. Forgive us when we begin to believe Satan's deceitful lie that You do not want the best for us. Strengthen us with steadfast trust in You when we enter seasons of change. Continue to guide us in faithfulness as we minister to the needs of your people and let Your light shine through us and your church to those in our community. May Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. ~Amen

Praying for our family

Pastor Kelly
Mike Bishop
KC Carlsen
Jan Majors
Dianne Perry
Judy Cavanaugh
Bill Stortz
Helen Markham
Carole Schafer
Paul & Carol Welker
Doris Moranski
Violet Chaves
Judy Martin
Don Flaig

Home Members

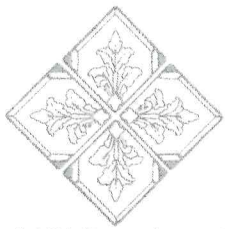
Shirley Richard
Nancy Patterson
Dave Breckenridge
Millie Epolito
Jackie Harbold
Judy Kish

LPC's Military Personnel:

Thomas Carlsen II

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 716-684-2277.



Lancaster Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 716.684.2277

Raffi Wright, Youth & Music Director

Non-Profit
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Permit #40

www.L-P-C.org

office@L-P-C.org

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.

Address Service Requested



Worship with us every Sunday
9:30AM
Childcare provided.
LIVESTREAM available.
Sunday School & Adult Education
Every Sunday @ 10:45am
www.L-P-C.org