



January/February 2024

COMING IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

JAN. 10

**Organizational Meeting for
Social Witness and Outreach Ministry**

6 pm, see page 8

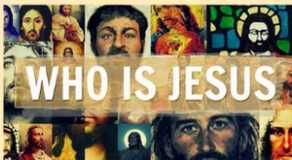
**Getting your House in Order for
Your Loved Ones**

1 pm, see page 14

JAN. 21

JAN. 22

Mondays at 2 & 6 pm



**New Study led by Rev. Johnson,
"Who is Jesus....to you?"**

Jesus has been referred to as teacher, healer, friend, Lord, and more. This weekly interactive class will use video, poetry, and music along with current scholarship to help us understand the life and ministry of Jesus and, more importantly, who he is to us in our lives today. For more information about this study, see pg 3.

Souper Bowl Supper, 5-7 pm

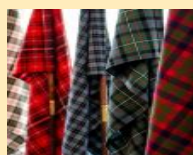
All are invited to this potluck featuring soups, chili, salads, desserts. Wear your favorite team jersey. More details and signup sheets to come.

FEB. 7



FEB. 11

10:30 am Worship



Kirkin' O the Tartan

*Celebrating our Scottish Heritage in
worship, more details on pg 12*

Souperbowl of Caring Offering

*All money raised will be given to a local
agency who deals with hunger, see pg 6*

2 NEW LPC INITIATIVES:

Pastor Intern Program and Endowment Fund for Buildings, Grounds & Campus

During worship on December 17 LPC announced exciting new initiatives for 2024: (1) A Pastor Intern Program and (2) An Endowment Fund for Building, Grounds & Campus.

One of our LPC members, inspired by the example of Albert & Marian Thomas and the LPC congregation's generous support for the Thomas Hall Renovation and Sanctuary Building AV System projects, felt called to make a contribution to celebrate these projects and help start initiatives to support LPC's Local Mission and Social Witness ministries and sustain our LPC buildings and grounds for the long-term.

The first initiative is a new Pastor Intern Program, which will fund a full-time LPC Pastor Intern staff position for the upcoming 3 years. The Pastor Intern will be a Presbyterian seminary student, taking a gap year during their studies, to intern for a full year of field experience in our LPC church and community.

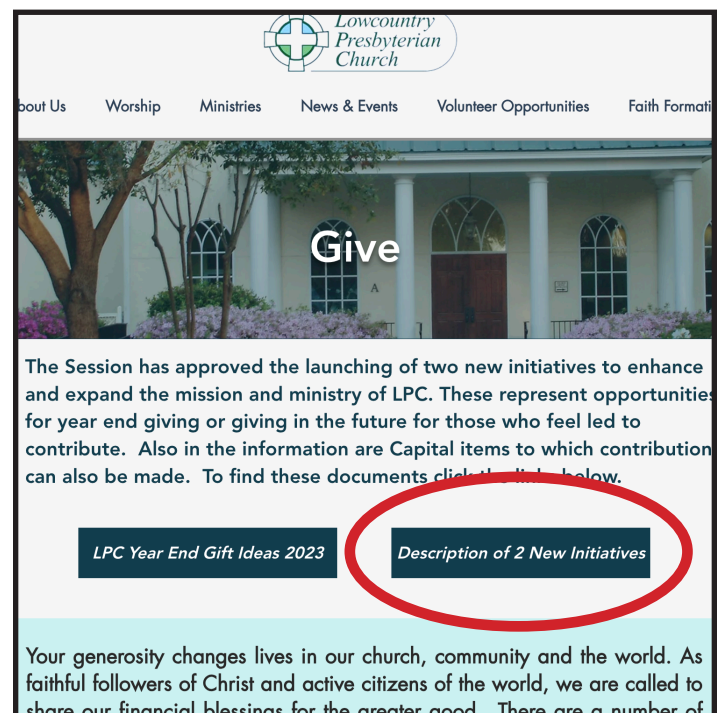
The Pastor Intern will focus on 3 things:

1. Working with the LPC local Mission and Social Witness partner organizations, particularly those who use LPC's Thomas Hall facility
2. Supporting both of LPC's Pastors and having a real-life experience as a Pastor working in a church community
3. Studying homiletics - the craft of sermon writing and sermon preaching - by learning and practicing with our LPC Pastors

The Pastor Intern will provide the staffing to support and expand LPC's Mission & Social Witness Ministry programs and services for our local Bluffton community - providing new opportunities for our LPC Community to engage with partner organizations and contribute our time and talents where we're interested and called.

The second initiative is to start-up a new Endowment Fund to pay for ongoing long-term capital improvement project needs for LPC's Buildings, Grounds & Campus. This Endowment Fund will be ready to accept long-term gifts and bequests from LPC members, guests and friends, starting next April 1, 2024.

More information about charitable giving to support these new initiatives can be found at lowcountrypres.org/give, or contact Admin & Finance Elder Jan Alpert at 804-304-5874 or JanAlpert@aol.com.



The screenshot shows the website for Lowcountry Presbyterian Church. The navigation bar includes links for About Us, Worship, Ministries, News & Events, Volunteer Opportunities, and Faith Formation. The main content area features a large 'Give' button over a photo of the church building. Below the photo, a text block states: 'The Session has approved the launching of two new initiatives to enhance and expand the mission and ministry of LPC. These represent opportunities for year end giving or giving in the future for those who feel led to contribute. Also in the information are Capital items to which contribution can also be made. To find these documents click the link below.' Two buttons are provided: 'LPC Year End Gift Ideas 2023' and 'Description of 2 New Initiatives'. The second button is circled in red. At the bottom, a light blue banner reads: 'Your generosity changes lives in our church, community and the world. As faithful followers of Christ and active citizens of the world, we are called to share our financial blessings for the greater good. There are a number of'.

FAITH FORMATION

Who is Jesus...to you?

*A weekly study of the life and ministry of Jesus.
Led by Rev. David Johnson*

From his birth to his death, the story of Jesus has inspired artists, challenged scholars, and provided new life to those who were willing to follow him. We will listen to the stories in the words of poets and the vision of directors. We will ask our questions and be questioned by Jesus with the help of scholars. And we will explore together what it means to follow Jesus' life-giving way. We will begin on January 22 with Jesus' baptism and conclude after Easter by looking at accounts of his resurrection. Each stand-alone class will be offered on Mondays at 2pm and 6pm. Please sign up in the narthex for the time you expect to attend most often. Email questions to Rev. Johnson at revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org.

Sunday School

For children:

Children's Sunday School is offered on the second and fourth Sundays of each month for four- and five-year-olds during the 10:30am service in the classroom near the nursery. Children are taught lessons from the Bible, such as prayer or forgiveness in age-appropriate ways.



For adults:

Abraham, Baptism, Covenant...Yahweh, Zion. The Christian faith from A to Z. Sunday school in the coming year will study the ABC's of our faith, along with lessons on current issues from "The Wired Word." Join with other interested learners between worship services (9:30 – 10:10am) in the parlor. Everyone is welcome and no advance preparation is needed.

Check-Out Your LPC Library

The LPC Faith Formation Ministry reminds you that we have a borrowing library for all to use in our church parlor. Rev. Johnson and Elder Dale Wilkes spent a few hours in November re-organizing and cleaning the library stacks. Books are now arranged by category thanks to Rev. Johnson. Feel free to borrow any of these resources at your leisure. No sign-out required.

Faith Formation Hosts Trip to Parris Island

Thirteen LPC members braved the cold, early morning of November 3 to attend Morning Colors and Graduation at Parris Island at the invitation of Battalion Chaplain Lt. Ian Clark. A presentation on *Ministry Aboard Parris Island* and a tour of the base was led by Lt. Clark and followed by lunch at Fishcamp. Lt. Clark was a guest minister at LPC this past summer.



FAITH FORMATION

Women of Faith

LPC's Women of Faith have enjoyed learning more about our ancient sisters in scripture while gaining a deeper understanding of ourselves and our relationship with God in our study of *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Why not join us?

Each chapter of our current book, *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs, can be read as a stand alone section, making it easy to participate in any session! The January 9th meeting discussion will focus on the story of Rahab from Joshua 2:1-21 and 6:1-5.

Women of Faith is a supportive community of LPC women, friends and visitors. The group utilizes book study to discuss, debate and creatively engage with God's word in our lives and world. We meet in friendship and fellowship on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00am in the Parlor. Please contact Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) or Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) for more information.

Here's a peek at what's ahead!

January 9th - pages 147-168

February 13th - pages 169-188

March 12th - pages 189-213

April 9th - pages 214-238

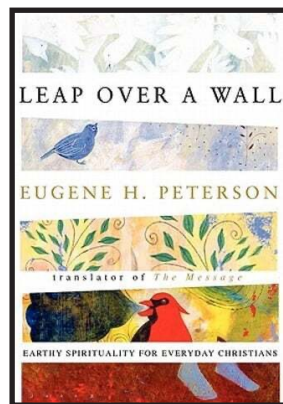
May 14th - review and wrap up of current book

The group enjoyed brunch and reindeer games at their December gathering.



Men of Purpose

Men of Purpose is a Men's discussions small group. We are reading and discussing *Leap Over A Wall – Earthly Spirituality for Everyday Christians* by Eugene H. Peterson. Do you want to learn more about King David? Here is your opportunity. King David was one of the most important figures in Israel's history and certainly their greatest king. We have just started to discuss this book. Peterson traces David's rise from young shepherd to a great king. Along the way he identifies the ways God could work through his great faith as well as his significant failures.



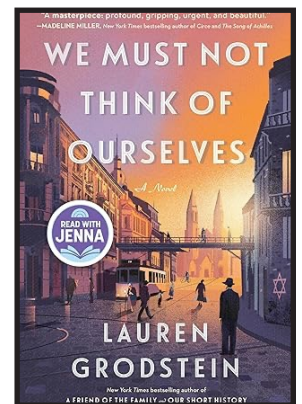
For questions, please contact Bill Walker – billwalker42@gmail.com.

Meetings at 9 am in the Parlor:

Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10, Feb 17, Feb 24

Bound Together Book Club

The next book selection for the LPC The Bound Together Book Club is *We Must Not Think of Ourselves* by Lauren Grodstein. The novel is historical fiction. The novel is "inspired by a little-known piece of history—the underground group that kept an archive to ensure that the lives of Jewish occupants of the Warsaw Ghetto in World War II were not lost to history—this is a heart-wrenching novel of love and defiance that People calls 'gripping, emotional and against all odds, hopeful'". *We Must Not Think of Ourselves* is Jenna Bush Hager's December Read With Jenna choice.



The next meeting date is Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 in the parlor.

MISSIONS MINISTRY



Thanksgiving Food Drive Results

The Mission Committee thanks you all very much for your generosity to the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Agape Family Life Center! Here's what Dr. Young, Agape COO had to say:

"Thank you Lowcountry Presbyterian Church for your continued support. The food drives, and monetary support helps Agape to provide healthier food options and meet the basic needs for so many families. You have been a tremendous blessing, THANK YOU!!!"

- Dr. Ponchitta Young, Chief Operations Officer Agape Family Life Center

In total, you donated over 1100 food items! That included 65 bags of fresh fruits and vegetables, 451 cans of much needed vegetables and 109 bags and jars of stuffing and gravy!

Backpack Buddies

LPC volunteers packed 165 bags of food for the Backpack Buddies program at Prichardville Elementary school on December 12. The next packing dates are Feb. 6, Apr. 12 and May 28. Contact Sandy Benninger, sbenninger@sc.rr.com.

Many Mission Blessings

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity through the Angel Tree, YOU provided gift cards to families of 150 children (the most ever) and a bag of oranges per family at the Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville, food and goodies to several seniors in Bluffton AND gift cards and books to 55 children enrolled in the Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) program that meets in Thomas Hall after school during the week.

But that's not all! The Christmas Eve collection to be sent to Save the Children for their tireless work on the ground with the children in Gaza and Israel totaled \$3,113.00. Thank you all for sharing your Christmas Spirit so abundantly.

MISSIONS MINISTRY



Angel Tree Gift Distribution

Our Missions Ministry Team, led by Christmas elves Dale Wilkes and Wendy MacCarthy, presented Christmas gifts of books and Walmart gift cards to 55 children in the NOC program on December 12. The children and other family members gathered in Thomas Hall for Christmas dance/song by the children and a bountiful potluck enjoyed by all. Many thanks to our generous LPC congregation for making this such a special event for the NOC community through our Angel Tree Gifts program. (not pictured Kevin MacCarthy who acted as elf support).

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Thank you to our members who have given generously to this program again this year. Sewing Machines, Latrine, shares of cows, families of chickens, pairs of goats and piglets along with farming tools, refugee food baskets and educating a child have been selected to name a few. We have selected Small Gifts but it makes a Big Impact around the world. \$2,762 was donated with 50 gifts purchased.

January's Change Can Make A Change

January's Change Can Make A Change is **Habitat for Humanity of the Lowcountry**. This nonprofit partners with families in need of an affordable home of their own; fostering stability, self-reliance, and a strong sense of community. Since 1990, HFH Lowcountry has built 178 homes in Beaufort and Jasper counties and has less than a 2% foreclosure rate. In July, Habitat instituted a merger that united all of Beaufort County under one umbrella. Construction is continuing to progress on the 3006 Walnut Street Build Home in Beaufort. In mid December the walls went up and before the end of the year, interior walls and sheathing will be complete.

There are upcoming volunteer opportunities as we start the New Year. If interested in volunteering, Contact Paul Sell at 843-707-1515 or email him at psell6@verizon.net. We thank you for your monetary contributions to Habitat for Humanity.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering will be taken on the day of the Super Bowl, February 11th. All money raised will be given to a local agency who deals with hunger. Whether or not you care about football at all, let's make this a big day to help tackle hunger. Mission team members will collect your donations in large soup pots as you exit, marked for either team, so you can vote for your favorite team. Bring your cash and checks made payable to LPC and marked for the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. You may wear your favorite team jersey and your tartan!



December Highway Clean Up

The following participated in the Highway clean-up in December: Mike Koch, Bert Ruys, Jean Nordby, Jim Wright, Sally Ayotte and not pictured, Dave Casperson

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Agape Family Life Center

Agape Family Life Center's Christmas event was a blast!!!! We served 150 children!!

Thanks to Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, each child received a holiday gift card, and we were able to provide a couple of holiday toys as well. Families were so appreciative. This could not have been the success it was without your passionate and unconditional support for children in Jasper County.

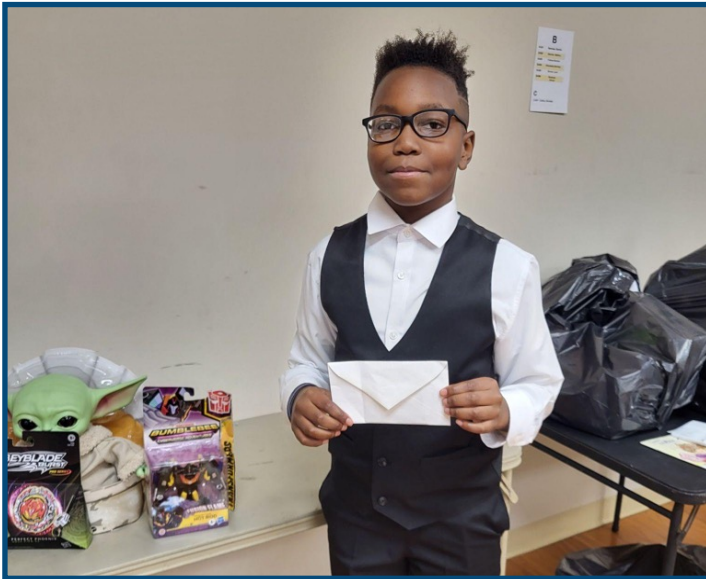
Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, you added great big smiles on the face of so many families.

Many families did not want to take photos, although they were indeed very, very grateful. Some of them didn't mind the photo, and were more than willing to use this expressed moment as a sentiment to say thank you.

Thank you Lowcountry Presbyterian Church for your untiring mission efforts to serve those who are less fortunate. Thank You!!!!

Christmas Joy Offering

Thank you for your generous contributions, to date we have collected \$840 for the Christmas Joy Offering.



SOCIAL WITNESS & OUTREACH MINISTRY



Jesus' brief ministry showed the world what God's love could and should look like. He stood up for those who were relegated to the margins of society and spoke out against injustice in both the religious world and the culture. Combining

educational opportunities with local activities, this new ministry team will use our campus, along with the

many talents of our congregation to apply the gospel message to significant issues such as stewardship of the earth, the availability of low-income housing, and more.

If you are enthusiastic about changing our world for the better, come to the church parlor at 6pm on Wednesday evening, January 10 and join the outreach and social witness ministry. Also consider joining us for the Bluffton MLK parade and picnic on Monday, January 15. Email Rev. Dave at revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org if you have questions.

EARTH CARE MINISTRY



WHAT IS EARTH CARE—AND WHY DOES IT MATTER IN 2024?

When LPC became an Earth Care Congregation 6 years ago, the Session

adopted PCUSA's Pledge. We encourage you to review the Pledge if you are unfamiliar with it or are a new member of LPC! In January, a review of the activities LPC has completed in the four categories will be submitted to PCUSA to maintain our status. Watch for the narrative of our 2023 complete activities—and support Earth Care in 2024!

EARTH CARE PLEDGE

The Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in consultation with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination, developed a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." The resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010. Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth

Care Pledge affirmed by their session and signed by the clerk. As an Earth Care Congregation, WGPC is guided by this pledge to care for God's creation.

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation.

The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted.
3. Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people.
4. Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.

2023 EARTH CARE CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW

WORSHIP:

- Reusable plastic pencil bags were substituted for small manila envelopes for members to collect pocket change monthly for various mission donations.
- Earth Care tips were posted in Sunday bulletins encouraging members to share ideas.
- Get outside! Occasional coffee on the church patio following worship. Fellowship picnic held in a public park with all trash and recyclables removed following lunch.
- Cloth logo shopping bags were given to new members 2x yearly with the Earth Care Pledge and ways to volunteer attached.

EDUCATION:

- Get outside! Guided nature walks on Pinckney Island and Honey Horn Plantation.
- Promoted county-wide electronics recycling and shredding events as well as a new Christmas string light recycling event.
- Attended Coffee and Conversation Earth Care events at First Presbyterian Hilton Head Island facilitating bond with EC members there.
- Attended a county recycling speaker event at the public library.

OUTREACH:

- Joined a new Earth Care group within the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery focused on sharing ideas and getting other Presbyterian churches interested in the Earth Care program.
- Partnered with the Temple Oseh Shalom for the annual used shoe drive event to commemorate the Holocaust. (The Temple uses our sanctuary for their services.)
- Attended a potluck at St. Gregory Catholic Church celebrating International Friendship Day
- Chaired the Bluffton Walk for Water to bring an awareness of the lack of safe water available in undeveloped countries and the work of WATER MISSION, a Charleston-based non-profit that provides water treatment units to many villages world-wide. 125 walkers carrying buckets of water through downtown Bluffton raised \$18K for Water Mission this year!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- County-wide Adopt-A-Highway program continues with litter pickup 3-4x year on a road in front of our church and adjacent streets.
- And our biggest event of the year: the total remodeling of Albert and Marian Thomas Hall Fellowship Hall. This remodeling opportunity used many of the Earth Care guidelines in its plans. Here's a brief summary:
- New heavy steel roof with spray foam insulation underneath.
- New insulation and Hardy Plank exterior front and back.
- 9 new energy efficient window; 16 total windows thermopane.
- 4 new exterior doors. All 8 exterior doors have new weather stripping and sweeps.
- 2 new heat pumps. All 5 HVAC heat pump systems are high efficiency, zoned, and have programmable thermostats. Systems maintained and filters will be changed 4x/yr.
- All exterior and interior lighting was converted to LED.
- 5 low-flow toilets, 8 aerators on faucets, 2 electric hand dryers with HEPA filters and 2 battery-operated paper towel dispensers are all new.
- Paper products from recycled paper are purchased whenever possible.
- Reusable fabric tablecloths, flatware, and pitchers for beverages will be used.
- All kitchen appliances were replaced with energy star appliances.
- A new room-temperature water fountain replaces the energy consuming cold water one.

"...God's work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated... Restoring creation is God's own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore..."
—PC(USA) Environmental Policy

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Welcome to the New Year at LPC!

We look forward to welcoming potential new members in the first quarter of the year at classes to be held on Sunday afternoons from 3-5 pm on January 28, and February 4 and 18. Please contact the office for more information.



Looking ahead, we're excited about planning more events and gatherings throughout 2024. We hope there will be something for everyone. Keep an eye on newsletters and announcements for updates on these upcoming events, as we aim to foster stronger connections and deeper faith within our congregation.

Contact Elder Dale Wilkes at dalewilkes207@gmail.com to get involved.



Membership Ministry hosted a wonderful Christmas potluck dinner. (see next page)

Our Hospitality Hour Needs Volunteers

The time investment is small, the rewards are large. Talk to one of our Membership team about helping out once a month, or once a year! Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy New Year from Karen, Robin, Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers!

December was quite a busy month for Music Ministry with the Advent Cantata on December 10th (with both the Chancel Choir and the Jubilate Ringers) and their participation at the Christmas Eve services. The Jubilate Ringers played "Go tell it on the mountain" for the 4:00 p.m. service and the Chancel Choir sang "Cool Night, Quiet Night" for the 7:00 p.m. service. We are thankful for Tom Smith who sang so beautifully, "I wonder as I wander" at both services. We are so appreciative of the incredible music offered by Dr. Karen Ball every Sunday, many of them her own arrangements. She is truly a gift to this congregation and the Music Ministry.

Thank you to all the volunteers, led by Jim Martin, who provide their services to run the sound system and for making sure the livestreaming is working.

We appreciate everything you do each Sunday.

Now, on to 2024. The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, January 4th at 6:30 p.m. and will begin singing on Sunday, January 7th. We are always delighted to have new members join us, especially at this time of the year when we are starting new music. The Jubilate Ringers will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, January 9th at 12:30. Their first performance will be on February 11th for the Kirkin' of the Tartan, which will be held for just one service at 10:30.

We in the Music Ministry feel so blessed by the warmth and support we receive from the members, Elders, Pastors and staff at LPC. Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement over the past year and we look forward to adding our musical offerings and blessings to the Sunday Services in 2024.



LPC CHRISTMAS DINNER



WORSHIP MINISTRY

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

LPC will be celebrating its Scottish heritage with a Kirkin' o' the Tartan during a special service of worship on February 11th at 10:30am.

**Please note there will be only one service of Worship on this day.

If you have a tartan banner, or would like to carry a borrowed banner and participate in the processional (which involves a 1 pm rehearsal on 2/10), please contact Pam Davis-Webb at psdw44@gmail.com



Kirk is the term in Scotland for church and kirking is considered a blessing. The tartan is a symbol of love and togetherness, no matter what our heritage. The Kirkin' o' the Tartan service at LPC will include a ceremonial procession of tartans, hymns and bagpipe music as we remember ancient times while asking God's help and blessings in the future. Following the service enjoy Scottish shortbread and tea during Hospitality time.

Be sure to mark your calendar and wear your tartan on February 11th!

Hanging of the Greens



The Worship Team thanks the many LPC elves who worked diligently to decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care is Calling to You!

How many things do we enjoy at LPC that we tend to take for granted? These things happen only because of volunteers. And we need help to keep them going.

Congregational Care phones every member to extend birthday wishes. It takes 12 people to make this happen over the course of the year. Do you have a few minutes a day to call on members? There is an average of about 25 birthdays a month. We have 6 openings for 2024 and would love to have you decide this is something you can and would like to do. Jerri Hanna would be delighted to have you join this group.

Flowers are rearranged and delivered to various members after church services. This occurs about 40 weeks during the year. Would you be willing to do this once a quarter? Fran Parker would love to welcome you to her team.

Funeral receptions may be provided and are a comfort for the family in their time of grief. Maureen Kalmbach would be thrilled to have a few people offer to help with this important outreach to our grieving members. This group is down to 3 members. We typically have about 6 receptions a year.

When someone has an extended illness, lives alone, or has difficulty cooking, a meal is of great comfort. Marie Pendleton is hoping to find more volunteers to help her with this mission. This is hard to gauge, but we estimate about one or two meals a month may be needed.

We are a congregation of aging members. Our average age is around 72. As our members age and are away from family, it brings comfort to have people check in on them either by phone or visitation. If you have a day every month where you could give an hour or two, would you

consider joining the Caring Connections/Lay Visitation Team? Jerri Hanna would welcome you to this group.

Everyone raves about our Medical closet, but it takes people to make that gift to the community work. If you have a couple of hours each month where you could organize and sort the medical items, Carol Hissom, Fran Parker, and Christy James would welcome the extra hands.

A skill that not everyone has is that of knitting or crocheting. If you are still able to do those tasks, would you consider joining Jane Lundblad and her Prayerful Stitches group in making shawls and lap robes? You can do this in the comfort of your own home. Yarn can be supplied if you wish.

These are just several of the ways that you can help to fill the needs of LPC. It takes many hands to keep all these activities going. Please pray to find where you may be called.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Dafne Chavelas, daughter of members Eric and Carmen, and long time member of LPC, who was married December 3rd in Charleston to Jacob Ryan.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

We never plan to have a catastrophic or debilitating accident or illness, but they happen and we should have things in order to enable our loved ones to step in and help without adding undue stress for them.

Sundays, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 & March TBD
1-3 pm in Thomas Hall | Contact the LPC office or sign up in the Narthex of the church



Getting Your House in Order for Your Loved Ones

Do your loved ones know where your important papers are? Do they know what your expenses are each month and how they are paid? Do they know who your doctors are? Do they know the various insurances you have? We never plan to have a catastrophic or debilitating accident or illness, but they happen and we should have things in order to enable our loved ones to step in and help without adding undue stress for them.

Session 1, January 21, will focus on expenses that you incur during the course of a year, insurances you have, and standing appointments. You will need to bring copies of recent bills and insurance declaration pages, along with information about how those bills are paid.

You will be provided with a 3-ring binder, plastic storage sleeves, and tabs for separating sections of your notebook.

The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person and includes one set of materials. Sessions 2 and 3 of the workshop will be Sundays, February 11 & 25 also from 1-3pm in Thomas Hall. At session 1 you will be told what you need to bring for session 2, etc. A fourth session will be determined by the group in February.

Contact the LPC office for sign up or sign up in the Narthex of the church. Deadline for signing up will be January 15, 2024.

For more information contact Elder Jerri Hanna at jjhanna@lpc.com.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jim Martin	16	Karen Couser
2	Judy Barry	16	Daniel Herrin
4	Sue Dason	17	Rip Powell
6	Ernest Bush	18	Earline Nichols
6	Nancy Doran	18	Walt Stein
7	Matt Hale	18	Ann Tekelenburg
7	Vera Toulmin	20	Debi Franklin
8	Evelyn Baker	21	Ronald Woolston
8	Fran Casperson	22	Carl Smith
8	Judy Placer	25	Carol Hissom
9	Lori Higgins	30	Debbie Hager
10	Beth Bleile	30	Mark Stauffer
12	Harriet Bender		
15	Edith Rea		
16	Bebe Blount		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Lois Lunardini	18	Jeri Hanna
4	Leland Day	21	Larry Tremitiere
4	Janet Lang	25	Kim Hardin
5	Kathy Crist	25	Don Pierce
7	Marilyn Miesner	27	Mick Mikkelson
7	Lauren Robinson	27	Chuck Kreitler
8	Carolyn Alexander	28	Maureen Kalmbach
9	Dick Eberhart		
10	Micki Underwood		
14	John Rea		
14	Rob Webb		
14	Tedi Zaryczny		
17	Becki Hale		



THANK YOU NOTES

“Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, food, flowers, transportation, notes and cards that supported me through my fractured pelvis ordeal. The Lord has blessed me with rapid healing so I now have no restrictions and can drive again. Hallelujah! May 2024 be a year of good health and much happiness for the LPC family for whom I am most grateful.” - Lois Johnson

“Thank you to everyone at the church for being so good to me with all the help I received, and thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. It made my home feel more like Christmas.” - Carolyn Alexander

“Dear members of the Congregational Care Committee, thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant. Not only does it brighten my apartment, it shows the love and caring of LPC. Also thanks to Karen Couser who not only delivered it, but came up to share some time with me. I am grateful to you all! Wishing you the joys of Christmas.”
With love, Jane Deakin

“Dear Members, thank you for the beautiful white poinsettia and God bless you all for your loving care.” - Bud & Pat Woodard

“Dear Friends and Church Family, Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, beautiful flowers, gifts and chicken soup. All are appreciated.” - Nancy Johnson

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Kathy Crist on the death of her husband, Mark.

The family of Susan Lowe

Marilyn Miesner on the death of her nephew, Nicholas Wade

Carolyn Marshall - death in the family, Cousin Judy's father, Jack Mundell

Vera Toulmin - on the death of her sister-in-law, Holly Grason

GREAT CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH WITH CHURCH FAMILY!



L-R: Dave Couser, Sloan Gray, John Woodruff, Karen Couser, Peggy & Taylor Evans

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session convened called meetings on 11/14/23 and 12/13/23, where they:

- Continued a study of Jonathan Merritt's book *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*.
- Held a dedication event for Thomas Hall.
- Approved the 2024 budget.
- Examined and accepted new elders to be installed in January by listening to them share their faith stories.
- Chose months for fellowship events for each ministry.

The next two Session meetings are scheduled for January 24th and February 28th. If you have any questions or would like to see the minutes, please contact Janit Maguire, Clerk of Session at janitmaguire@gmail.com or 845-527-6409.

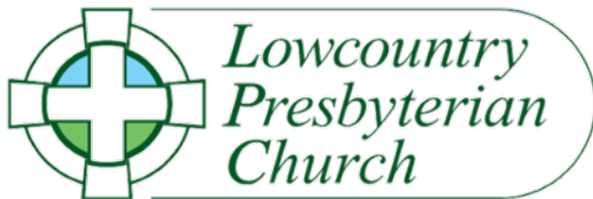


The Session enjoyed a Christmas meal together December 13th at Lulu at Rose Hill following their final meeting of the year.

Not pictured but also present was Karen Couser.

Mission Statement:

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.



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