



Lexington Presbyterian

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2022 | VOLUME 21

Summer, Sweet & Short

Summer came, and in some ways, summer went. Technically there are still a few weeks before we breakout the hoodies, pour the pumpkin spice, and plan the fall parties, but with the school year beginning, it feels like summer is winding down. It's hard to believe that it's time for the kids to go back to school. Summer always seems to fly by and with fewer weeks off for students, it goes by even faster.

Maybe this is just one person's opinion or a case of over sentimentality but the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year comes with a degree of sadness of for me. As a kid that was superficial. Summers meant fun and freedom, and a new school year was a return to homework, tests, and the daily grind. Now that I'm older, the sadness is still there but the reason for it has changed. The end of summer and the beginning of a new school year are sign posts, or mile-markers, that tell me time is moving on. The kids are growing up and the number of summers that we will have with our family as it is, are getting fewer.

But that's the reality for all of us regardless of where we are in life. For some of us, a new school year doesn't impact our lives, but changing seasons still come in their own ways. Summers end whether it's in early August or

on September 21st. Ecclesiastes reminds us that our lives are made up of seasons that come and go. God designed it that way and He uses that to teach us and shape our lives.

As I reflect on this, I'm learning that it's ok to be sad about changing seasons and time passing too quickly. It's healthy to grieve the losses and the changes. Acknowledging it can be a big help in starting the next season well. I think God's also teaching me to enjoy the time. It's easy to become restless. It's easy to compare ourselves to others and think the grass is greener on the other side. It's easy to long for the good old days, or be so focused on the future that we miss the blessings of today, and the here and now. And I'm learning to let go and let God through prayer. I'm learning to let go of anxiety, worry, fear, frustration and my own plans by surrendering them to God through prayer. The more I talk to God about the things I wrestle with, the more I am able to trust Him, and surrender that to him. That's helping me enjoy the season I'm in. Praying and enjoying the time God has given us can make the seasons sweeter, even the tough ones, and especially the ones that seem to go by far too fast.

Happy Birthday!

Happy August birthdays to our family and friends! We hope each of you have a blessed day celebrating and thanking God for another year to serve and enjoy Him. If we missed your birthday let Aaron know. And don't forget about the birthday offering basket at church which supports two kids overseas Melvin in Honduras and Shravani in India. Thanks, and have a truly happy birthday!

August Birthdays

- Aug 3rd Tom Harlow
- Aug 6th Deb Sipe
- Aug 6th Kelly Trauernicht
- Aug 12th Jim Hunger
- Aug 12th Steve Sipe
- Aug 13th Rachel Rutherford
- Aug 14th Jerry Kleopfer
- Aug 15th Rev. Mitch Hutchins
- Aug 17th Kalem Young
- Aug 19th Tom McCandless
- Aug 20th Lark Barks
- Aug 21st Mark Haas
- Aug 28th Linda Robertson

The Birthday Offering Supports



Welcome to our new Elders

As most of you know, we elected Donna Sipe and Bryan Wallace to serve as an elder in our church on June 6th. They were ordained and installed on July 24th and they participated in their first board meeting, (or session meeting) on July 25th. They went right to work!

With all of the elder talk this summer, it might be helpful to talk about what exactly is an elder. This is probably a question no one is asking, and it's a subject that can get dry quick, so here's the Cliffs notes version.

Different churches do different things but as Presbyterians we are led by elders. They are called by God to serve a congregation. You can read 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1:6-9 for some of the qualifications that are to be present in an elder's life.

The work of an elder is to serve Christ and the church. They do this by teaching, leading, praying, seeking God's will, and by living as an example to others. Elders also equip the congregation for the work

of ministry. They watch over the church by overseeing the finances and handling the business of the church, and also by watching over the spiritual health of the congregation.

As Lincoln reminded us, there are a lot of similarities between our nation's government and the Presbyterian church. We elected elders to be representatives on the board. The difference is an elder does not represent the will of the congregation but the will of God. Through prayer, study, and through their relationship with one another, an elder discerns God's will for the church.

For those who are still reading this, you might see how awesome this responsibility is. Donna and Bryan will join with Kayte, Lisa, and Cory as our five elders. They will serve you, pray for you, they might even challenge you; in a good way to help you grow and take your next step with Christ. They will help us faithfully follow

Christ and do His will. As a congregation, we should pray for our elders. We should communicate with the elders about joys and concerns, and share with them ideas that God may be putting on our heart. Then, we should be teachable and humble enough to listen to them. None of us are perfect, and none of us have all the answers. Thankfully, God doesn't expect that from us, that's why He sent Jesus. Because of that, we are to follow Jesus, obey Him, and learn from Him so that we can walk in love and unity with one another. And we should be quick to extend grace to one another just as Christ has with us. Each of us has a unique place in the body of Christ and as we work together in those places as an elder, member, pastor, or wherever Christ puts us, we will honor Him and be a blessing to others. May we at Lexington Pres., do exactly that.

Acts 14:23

Paul & Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer & fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.



School Supplies

For the past several years the Lexington area churches have joined together to purchase school supplies for all the students and Lexington Elementary. During a school board meeting in the summer of 2021, it was announced that the school district received a grant to purchase the supplies and they have received this grant again for the 2022-2023 school year. In order to continue to find ways to support our local elementary school we touched base with the principal and he put together a wish list of items that were not covered by the grant. Our church was able to purchase the majority of those items because of your faithfulness to give. We believe that part of our mission as a church is to be a loving member of the community and your tithes and offerings help us do that. Thanks for giving generously to our church and thanks for loving our neighbors, especially the ones right across the street.

Below is a picture of the supplies we purchased. **Zip lock bags, paper, baby wipes, dry erase markers, and we also purchased headphones.**



Church Signs

In our culture we say things like, "nobody's perfect," or, "everyone makes mistakes." Both expressions are true. They echo places in the Bible like Romans 3:23. In one sense, those expressions are comforting. They are used to reassure others, including ourselves, in moments of failure or as we deal with feelings of inadequacy. At the same time, while we know these truths are universal, no one is perfect, we are not comfortable with others knowing that it's true for us too.

We learn how uncomfortable imperfection is early in our lives. In school we are given grades and we are surrounded by peers who can be quick to highlight failures, weaknesses and inadequacies. Those experiences teach us to try and hide imperfections. Along the way, to varying degrees, we experience feelings of shame and we try to hide that too. This is where Jesus can help. Jesus heals shame through unconditional love, amazing grace, and great compassion. But in the Gospels, some of the people who experienced that were the ones who admitted they needed it. No one is perfect and I'm not either. In church there is no need for facades. As we are honest, authentic, and open, we will be met with Christ's love that can heal and free. And we will be able to help others experience that same freedom in Christ.



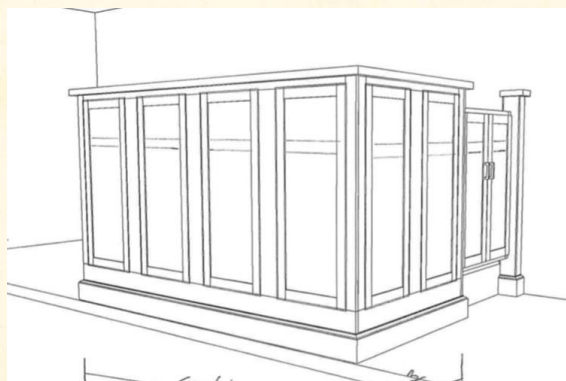
Pastor's Pen

An Update on Some Updates

One of the things that I really appreciate about you as a church is your willingness to be flexible, try new things, and go with the flow. You have allowed me to be me as a pastor, rather than fit into the typical box that so many traditional, mainline church pastors tend to fit in. You've been open to contemporary music, longer sermons, occasional humor, and changes with technology. When I first came here as a student, I remember using transparencies on an old fashion overhead projector that still sits in our conference room. In short time you installed a projector and a screen. Years after I became your pastor, we started streaming our services on Facebook through a poorly positioned iPad. Little did we know that by 2020, live streaming would be so important. Now we have a new soundboard, a 4k streaming camera, and a couple of new stage lights. And on a Sunday when everyone is here, we have a worship team with four band members and two singers, three when I screech into a mic. A lot has changed over the years. And now we are planning on making some more changes.

Technology has become a tool that we can use to extend the front doors of our church to wherever people are. We can reach into people's homes through technology. We can stay better connected as a congregation in a busy world where coming to church every Sunday isn't as easy as it was a generation ago. We can do classes, meetings and studies in new ways. Technology can be a tool that we leverage to help us love God, love one another, and love the lost to Christ. And we are planning on making an investment as a church there. Our big picture plan is to improve how we stream the service and to update some other pieces of equipment that are original to the new building, going all the way back to 1997. This will be done in stages. The first stage will be to construct and install a sound booth in the sanctuary. This will help us put all of the different components like a sound board, computer, and camera in one place. It will also give us a good work space for volunteers to operate in.

The sound booth will mean some changes in the way the sanctuary looks. Two of the coveted back pews will be removed on one side of the sanctuary for the sound booth. It will sit against the back glass wall. Changes aren't easy, but sometimes they are necessary for growth. The elders, our technology team, and a called committee have been working with Dawn Taylor and Michelle Haas to design something that will be functional and aesthetically pleasing. The booth will look like a furniture piece, like it was meant to be there. It will be a big first step into some updates that will help us serve one another and folks beyond the walls of our church better. It will be about 8-12 weeks before this will happen, but if you have any questions or concerns, please know that you can always reach out to me and any of our elders. I know change isn't easy, but I think these updates will be helpful as we launch into our third century as a church. Below is a sketch of what this sound booth will look like. Thanks for being willing to try new things and for being a flexible church as we seek to follow Christ. *Blessings Aaron*



Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers & requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

- Pray for newly engaged Katie Hunger and Arthur Swanson as they prepare for their future together and deal with a wrecked vehicle.
- Rich Hinchman's nephew Luke Eberly was in a motorcycle accident and sustained some serious injuries.
- Todd Carr continues to battle gout.
- Betty Tidwell's Sister Dora Hawkins
- Kayte Martin and her other shoulder
- Ashley Johson continues to recover from her surgery.
- Mike Modisett is doing well following his bypass surgery. Continue to pray for him as he recovers.
- Pam Huttshell is dealing with knee pain and additional health concerns.
- Pray for all of those battling addiction

Pray for those who are in a season of loss

- The Smiths, the Middleton's and Angie Hinchman's family.
- Pastor Mitch Hutchins who lost a son recently
- Pastor Dave Huey who lost a daughter-in-law and grandson. Be in prayer for his son and granddaughter as they continue to recover.

Pray for those Battling Cancer

- Catherine Taylor
- John Harlow
- Rich Hinchman's sister Paula and sister-in-law Beth
- Bella a student over at Lexington Elementary
- Ken Medley
- Keith Thompson
- Missy (Melissa)

**Pray for the folks in Eastern Kentucky
Pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect Group** returns on August 10th. This group meets each Wednesday at 7pm at the church. You can also join us via zoom. This is a great time to ask questions, discuss the Bible, hear from one another, and grow in our relationship together. Hope you will consider joining us soon!
- **The Clearing House** needs our help. The Scott County Clearing House provides food and assistance for folks in need. With the economic challenges the demands have been greater and their shelves are getting empty. We will do a special offering for the Clearing House on Sunday August, 17th. In the meantime, if you would like to purchase some needed items and bring them to the church, we will deliver them. Needed items are:
 - **Cornbread Mix, ready to serve canned soup, dry pasta, peanut butter, canned meat like tuna, chicken and Vienna Sausage. Canned beans, and gallon or quart size zipper bags to separate items.**
- **Lovely Ladies** – This is a group made up of ladies throughout our community who are putting together baskets and they are filling purses for women who could use some encouragement. Carolyn Nowlin of Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church is organizing this and they hope to send care packages regularly to the ladies at Center Stone Englishton Park in addition to others in our community who need to be reminded that they are loved by God and by others. If you would like to participate in this group and assemble care packages let Aaron know and he will put you in contact with Carolyn Nowlin. If you would like to donate items for

this project you can bring those into the church any time and we will deliver them. Items they need for the care packages are:

- Hard candy, small snacks, socks, chap stick, lotion, shampoo/conditioner, house shoes, journals, notebooks, coloring books, coloring pencils, regular pens and pencils.
 - Items should be alcohol free.
 - You can also donate purses in good condition
 - If you have any questions let Aaron know
- **Ukraine Update:** Thanks to those who donated to help the folks at YWAM in Cluj, Romania serve Ukrainian refugees. The work is on-going. The folks in Romania continue to send trucks filled with food and supplies into Ukraine. They also are planning to build 100 temporary homes in Bucha just outside of Kiev between August 23rd and September 4th. Each home costs about \$5,500 plus \$1,000 for furniture. You can read about this project on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/elsmcluj>. If you would like to donate to this you can put a note on the check or on an envelope that says for Ukraine and we will send it over to them. Below is a picture of the temporary housing they are planning to build.



Messages

July 24th and August 7th

On these two Sunday we talked about developing a healthier view of work and play. During the summer months many of us are more likely to take time to play, do vacations, have family reunions, cookouts, and enjoy time outside. In the Bible we see that play is not a bad thing. It's not a frivolous waste of time when it helps us enjoy God's creation and this life that He's given us and when it helps us rest and recharge. The flip side of that coin is work. Something that takes up about a 1/3 of our lives. Again, in scripture we see that work is more than a necessary evil or even a means of providing for our families and ourselves. Work is an opportunity to glorify God by doing good, and contributing to the betterment of His world. Work is difficult, but it is valuable. In these two messages we will attempt to develop a healthy Theology of Play and Work.

Sunday, August 31st

This Sunday, Josh Spencer spoke to us from 1 Peter 4. In this message he challenged us, and pushed us out of comfort zones, and even out of the usual way that we pray. In this message Josh talked about the issue of suffering and how we can glorify God through it like Peter encourages his readers to do in 1 Peter 4. While it's ok to pray the suffering away, it's also an opportunity to glorify God in it. It's not easy but this message helps us think through how to go about doing it. You can find this sermon and others on our website and on our Facebook page.



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