



Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789

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SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept 6th Lord's Supper

Text: Exodus 12:1-14,
Psalm 149,
Romans 13:8-14,
Matthew 18:15-20

Preacher:

Rev. Melissa Harmon

Assistant:

Mary Ellena Ward

Sunday, Sept 20th

Text: Exodus 16:2-15,
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45,
Philippians 1:21-30,
Matthew 20:1-16

Preacher:

Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Assistant:

Liz Shupe

Sunday, Sept 13th

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY & RALLY DAY

Text: Exodus 14:19-31,
Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21,
Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35

Preacher:

Rev. Clayton Rascoe

Assistant:

Mary Atthowe

Sunday, Sept 27th

Text: Exodus 17:1-7,
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16,
Philippians 2:1-13,
Matthew 21:23-32

Preacher:

Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle

Assistant:

Life of the Church:

David Dax—Peace and
Global Witness

Notes From the Director of Music

BEHIND THE SCENES: LPC ZOOM WORSHIP IN THE PANDEMIC

Greetings, dear friends!

It's been quite a journey for us at Lexington Presbyterian, as we've evolved to create a vibrant format for Zoom worship while unable to gather in person. Using Zoom for worship and for other meetings, we've all learned that the quality of our production and of our reception depends principally on the quality of our equipment and of our ability to operate/regulate it. Most of you have gotten used to Zoom worship as it comes out to you in your homes. I want to give you a glimpse of what it's been like for us who are 'in front of the cameras.'

After losing only one Sunday of observing worship, we launched our Zoom worship services on Sunday, March 22. In the beginning there were three of us in the sanctuary, Bill and Deb Klein, and I. Kelly-Ann served as master moderator from home in Crozet, and Skip Hess participated remotely from home, from where he, along with Kelly-Ann, launched our use of remote participation. By joining in on both his computer and his phone, Skip was, and remains, an important listening ear to verify the quality of our sound – both of speaking voices and of musical instruments (organ and piano).

None of us were especially technologically advanced or experienced. For many weeks, our frequent comment to other people was: "It's as if we're flying the plane, but we're still building the plane!" For the Kleins and me, who had spent our long careers perfecting and refining the presentation and flow of live, in-person worship, it was like being back in kindergarten again. (I'm almost feeling like a middle-schooler now.)

Kelly-Ann's meteoric rise to impressive Zoom mastery involved countless hours of study, research, and (largely self-) training. Moderating involves coordinating all of the various participant elements; confirming that video and audio are always in adjustment and focused on the right person (in-sanctuary or remote), engineering 'screen sharing' of documents, pictures, music; integrating any pre-recorded segments. We participants began with the discovery of the huge capability and potential of cell phones to serve as cameras and microphones. We started off with cell phones (propped up on music stands or tables until we got tripods), and with one or more laptop computers set up for camera/microphone use, or as monitors, so the speakers could have some visual contact with the congregation (all those Zoom boxes on the gallery view screen). Our early weeks saw a lot of work to refine the co-operation of all of our devices in the sanctuary

Bill and Deb learned to use AirPods, which could be linked to one's camera/mic– a big first step in improving the sound quality of their speaking voices, and, allowing them to hear instructions from the moderator. That all improved immensely when the second set of AirPods arrived. Some of you may remember the earliest days, when the two Kleins split a set of AirPods, each one having one pod in one ear (Not so great!) or when Deb (fortunately not hampered by social distance rules) could stand really close to her husband and 'piggy-side-saddle' through his AirPods (Again, not so great!).

Finding a way to produce good musical sound from the organ and piano took a while. All these devices (phones, laptops with microphone capacity) are created to focus on the sound of the speaking voice. We learned how we could go into the music microphone device to 'enable original sound,' which was an immediate improvement. We evolved to ever-higher grades of iPhone. We acquired a wonderful (tiny) 'exterior microphone' which attaches to the music camera/phone and has brought us to our current very decent level of organ/piano sound.

Notes From the Director of Music, Cont....

Switching from one microphone/camera to another involves muting one device and unmuting another. Just as we were all 'hitting stride' a few weeks into the process, Zoom underwent a major upgrade – on a weekend, between our Friday rehearsal and our Sunday service. On Sunday morning, the moderator had lost the ability to unmute any of us. This was a surprise, unexpected, major alteration in the normal operating procedure. The system, as it were, was not working as it had been. So we didn't hold the Zoom service with you. We recorded all the various segments of the service, and magic-worker Kelly-Ann cobbled them all together into a remarkable flowing sequence which aired later in the day.

After those glimpses into some of the history of our Zoom evolution, here's a short description of what continues to go on every week, on the production/presentation side of worship:

We have a Zoom rehearsal on Friday mornings. Participating are in-sanctuary personnel: preacher, musician, camera/microphone operator. Remote personnel (worship assistant, Life of the Church presenter, and troubleshooter Skip Hess). Since the Kleins' retirement, Kelly-Ann has evolved out of moderator mode and she can stay on the 'front' side of the camera. A few of our guest preachers have opted to join in remotely for the Friday rehearsal, and some for both rehearsal and the Sunday service. Our moderators (Kelly-Ann, Andy Coffey, Mac Baker, Ruth Floyd) have operated both in-person in the sanctuary, and remotely. Occasionally a worship assistant will be in-sanctuary. The one other person in the room is our camera/microphone technician, who helps us switch video and/or audio function from one camera/phone to another. They are tasked with adjusting camera/phones to focus on presenters, and with coordinating with the moderator to assist with the unmuting/muting aspects of switching from one camera/phone to another. Eric Owsley and Cindy Irby were our brilliant pioneers in this work. Others who have joined that team are Kevin Burke, Doug Caldwell, David Dax, Liz Shupe, and Flash Floyd. I mention them by name because you don't see them, as you do the lead presenters and worship assistants.

On Fridays, we work through all of the transitions and shifts of the service, confirming good sound quality without feedback or other problems, bringing in remote participants, muting/unmuting and 'go ahead' cues to in-sanctuary presenters. (Any of us starting to speak or play before our microphone is on will have to start over!!) Given the rotation of personnel, along with the ongoing refinement of our technical expertise, and the fact that often at least one major presenter (guest preacher) is doing this with us for the first time, these Friday sessions are important.

On Sunday mornings, the Zoom presentation team starts at 9:00 a.m. (back to 10:00 as summer hours end) with sound checks and refreshing our memories about all of the particular technical operations of the service of the day. Around 9:30 our 'welcome' assistants (Jessica Willett, Mac Baker, Andy Coffey, Jan Hathorn, David and Mary Dugan) admit people into the meeting from the waiting room, and pre-worship social exchange time begins. At 10:00 (back to 11:00 in September), the moderator greets all of you, helps you all get muted, and we begin.

And so, dear friends, I trust that by giving you a more informed glance of all that goes on in front of the cameras and in the production, I haven't brought you to be distracted by all of the transitions and seams of our segmented and shifting video/audio presentation. We continue to refine our skills, of course without all the extra hours and hours of training and practice given to most broadcast personnel to bring them up to mastery. Our purpose is not commercial/professional technical perfection, but honest, inspired presentation in community with all of you as we enjoy the privilege of shared worship of our God. In anticipation of maintaining some form of streaming along with in-person worship, when that returns, Kelly-Ann has been hard at work with Flash and Ruth Floyd, and others, to identify what technical installations/adjustments will be required. [See you on Zoom!](#)

In-Person Worship Plans

Dear Members and Friends of the Lexington Presbyterian Church,

So much has changed since we last met for worship in-person. ZOOM church services began, our beloved ministers Bill and Deb Klein retired, numerous pulpit supply pastors have been leading worship online, and overall our lives have been turned upside down. However, led by the enthusiastic Reverend Kelly-Ann Rayle, our temporary stated supply minister, LPC is flourishing as we begin yet another chapter in the long and storied history of our church.

With guidance and clear input from the Advisory Task Force and the Session, the Worship Committee has planned and executed the many aspects involved with producing ZOOM worship services each Sunday, to now include live streaming and post worship viewing of the services on YouTube. The next step is planning for a return to in-person worship, and the committee is moving forward with the many details involved in a safe reopening. While we have no date as yet for resumption of in-person worship, we are hopeful that when that occurs we will have a new interim minister leading us.

Below in bullet form are actions which have been completed and recommendations from the Worship Committee.

- Early church will return at 8:45 with a ZOOM service and live streaming in the sanctuary.
- The late service will be at 11:00, also in the main sanctuary, with in-person services and “LIVE” streaming. The Property Committee has marked all pews in the sanctuary for social distancing. Maximum capacity for the first floor is 85 and for the balcony 95. If the limit is reached, no one else will be admitted.
- For contact tracing, members will be asked to register on-line for each Sunday service. Ushers will check off names as people enter the church. For guests and those who forget to register, ushers will obtain contact information.
- Entrance to the sanctuary will be only through the front doors or the double handicap doors -side entrance to Murray Hall and the sanctuary.
- Face masks are mandatory -NO exceptions. Masks will be available if needed.
- Ushers will seat all attendees beginning with the main floor first. Once it is full, then the balcony will be available. So, if you have a “regular” area where you sit, it is highly unlikely that you will be sitting there.
- Hymns will be played -not sung; there will be no passing of the peace; there will be no offering; and for communion, individual packets will be provided by the ushers. Offering plates will be placed at the entrances and exits from the sanctuary.
- Ushers will provide directions for exiting the sanctuary immediately after the service.
- At this time, no childcare will be provided for in-person worship.

For those who will be attending, we ask that you carefully adhere to these standards. Our ushers will be providing yeoman’s service, so please make their job easier. It is our goal to return to the sanctuary in the safest possible manner while being able to worship the Lord in-person.

Yours in Christ,
Your Worship Committee

Lex Pres Youth and Children

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 13 three of our young people will make their profession of faith. These young people met on a regular basis with John Turnbull, Bill Klein, and Kelly-Ann Rayle beginning last spring. They also met with an adult "mentor." Their original confirmation, scheduled for Sunday, March 15, was interrupted by the start of rapid closings and social distancing associated with COVID-19. We are excited to provide these young people a new date for celebration.

The list of Confirmands and their Adult Mentors are as follows:

<u>Confirmands</u>	<u>Adult Mentors</u>
Grace Evanoe Fure	Mary Atthowe
Kevin James Squire	David Dax
Ryan Christopher Squire	Rich Bidlack

We offer our congratulations to these young people...and express our gratitude to their adult mentors.

September Youth Group Events

Starting in September, the Youth Group will meet once a month via Zoom. The rest of the month will be focusing on in-person events.

First, the group will be celebrating the last week before school starts, with ice cream and outside time. They will meet at Hopkins Green on Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00-7:00pm for Sweet Things Ice Cream.

Then we'll meet via Zoom on Sunday, Sept 6th.

The following Sunday, the 13th the group will be going to Hull's Drive In.

Please spread the word on all of these events, and as always, invite your friends!



Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, via Zoom @ 10:30 am before the 11:00 am Worship Service.

This fall we will be offering Sunday School options via Zoom.

Hear from Pastor Kelly-Ann and all of the teachers and leaders meeting via Zoom this fall as they present their AWESOME class offerings!!!!

So please mark your calendars. The start of Sunday School Classes:
September 20, 2020

Adult Classes will begin at 9:45 am each Sunday. (Zoom meeting room opens at 9:30 am)

Children's Classes will begin at 10:15 am each Sunday (Zoom meeting room opens at 10:00 am)

Here are the classes currently scheduled: Koinonia, A.S.K. class, Youth S.S., and Faith Village. Mid-week groups continuing to meet: Lectio Divina and Leah Circle. *Any additional classes will be announced through REALM

Instructions and information to register for classes will be sent by Tuesday, September 14.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

YOUR CAMPUS MINISTRY AT WORK:

August 14: Campus Ministry delivered 300 cards with information about the Lex Pres website and ways to access our virtual worship services to Main Street Lexington. These cards will be placed in "welcome" bags and delivered to incoming W&L students.

August 19: Campus Ministry participated in a Zoom virtual Religious Life Fair with incoming Washington and Lee students. Cynthia Hintze provided information about Lex Pres and ways to access our virtual worship services.

August 23: Campus Ministry participated in the Rat Sunday event at VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics. Campus Ministry members handed out colorful, laminated cards to Rats that provided information about the Lex Pres website and ways to access our virtual worship services. We also gathered email information from 44 Rats who might be interested in a close connection with Lex Pres and will work to maintain those contacts.

IMPORTANT OUTREACH INFORMATION:

The Outreach Committee has contributed \$250 on behalf of the church to the Irma Thompson Fund, which was established by the Rockbridge NAACP earlier this year to help increase the diversity of local teachers and school staff members. Irma Thompson was a beloved educator and community leader from Buena Vista who died last year at the age of 102.

The fund will make grants to help teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators of color with moving expenses, housing, or other job-related expenditures. It is part of a broader community effort to help recruit and support educators of color moving to the area, and to promote diversity in the county and cities' schools.

For more information about the fund, or to make a personal contribution, follow this link:

<http://rockbridgenaacp.com/2020/06/03/contribute-to-the-irma-thompson-fund/>

JOIN LEAH CIRCLE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING:

Leah Circle will resume regular meetings via Zoom on Wednesday September 9 at 1:00 p.m. A reminder with the Zoom login link will be sent out prior to the meeting via email. If you are not a current member of Leah Circle we would love to have you join us. You can contact Debbie Pollard at pollarddlm@gmail.com or by phone at 703-919-1386 to register your email address/phone.

IS ANYONE ANSWERING THE PHONE AT THE CHURCH THESE DAYS?

While we cannot be in the office to answer the phone during most week days, we are still checking voicemail everyday! You can leave us a voice mail and we will try to get back to you in 1-2 business days. You can also send a note to admin@lexpres.org at any time!



RACE RELATIONS RESOURCES

The Outreach Committee has compiled a list of resources that explore the way society has been structured from the beginning to favor white people and discriminate against people of color. The list below includes movies, books, and podcasts. Many of them can be found in the Rockbridge Regional Library; *these are asterisked*.



Nonfiction Books for Adults

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin*

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi*

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown*

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates*

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander*

The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein*

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson.* The author explores what she calls America's caste system.

Fiction Books for Adults

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou*

Home and *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison*

Fiction Book for Young Adults: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas*

Books for Children

Chocolate Me! by Taye Diggs*; *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o*; *Whose Knees are These?* by Jabari Asim; *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry*; *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson*; *I Believe I Can* by Grace Byers*; *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison*; *My Hair is a Garden* by Cozbi A. Cabrera*; *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman*; *All are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold*; *All the Colors We Are* by Katie Kissinger; *Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See?* by Eric Carle*; *Harlem's Little Blackbird* by Renee Watson; *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson*; *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown*

Movies and Documentaries

Do the Right Thing (1989) (Warning: Lots and lots of profanity, brief nudity); *Malcolm X* (1992)*; *The Glass Shield* (1994); *Fruitvale Station* (2013); *12 Years a Slave* (2013)*; *Selma* (2014)*; *13th* (2016) ; *Fences* (2016)*; *I Am Not Your Negro* (2017)*; *Get Out* (2017)*; *The BlackkKlansman* (2018); *Blindspotting* (2018)*; *If Beale Street Could Talk* (2018)*; *The Hate U Give* (2018)*

Animated Film for Children: *Azur and Asmar: the Princes' Quest* (2006)*

Podcast: **Scene On Radio**, from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University

Seeing White (Season 2, released in 2017). This series explores how whiteness came to be a thing and how it was used to discriminate against people of color. It contains a lot of details you probably didn't learn in history class.

The Land that Never Has Been Yet (Season 4, 2019). Another series full of eye-opening historical facts, this one explores democracy in America. How democratic has it been, really? This one is not exclusively about racism, but racism inevitably comes up as those in power shape the nation to their advantage.

Movies that are NOT helpful in exploring racism because of a "white savior" narrative and/or inaccurate scenes:

The Help; *The Blind Side*; *The Green Book* ; *Freedom Writers*; *Hidden Figures* (In real life, NASA mathematical genius Katherine Johnson made her own decision to use the "whites only" restroom. She didn't need her supervisor to "save" her by tearing down the restroom signs.)

From the Director or Culinary Ministries

Not just one, but 3 great recipes for quick meals. Perfect for busy schedules and hungry kiddos!

Chicken Stuffed Baked Potatoes

Ingredients:

For the Ranch Dressing:

¼ - Cup Sour Cream

½ - Cup Duke's Mayonnaise

1 - Tbsp. Dill

1 - Tsp. Black Pepper

¼- Cup Heavy Cream

1 - Tsp. Red Wine Vinegar

1 - Tbsp. Chives, chopped

For the Potatoes

2 - Russet Potatoes

1 ½ - Cups diced Chicken

1 - Tbsp. Paprika

3 - Strips Bacon

1 - Onion, diced

1 - C Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Directions:

Ranch Dressing: Put sour cream, heavy cream, mayonnaise and red wine vinegar in a mixing bowl and mix well. Add chives, dill, salt and pepper and mix again.

Potatoes: Bake potatoes until slightly soft. Cut in half length-wise and scoop out most of the pulp, but not all of it or the skins will collapse.

In a saute pan, cook bacon for 3 to 4 minutes or until crispy. Remove from pan and allow to cool. Crumble bacon. Set aside.

In the same pan, add the chicken and onions and cook for 5 minutes. Add paprika and cook for 4 more minutes. Add to ranch dressing.

Fill each potato skin with the mixture and top with cheese and bacon crumbles. Bake at 350 for 8 minutes.

You may use raw chicken but I use the grilled chicken that is in the frozen food freezer at the grocery store. If I am in a hurry, bottled ranch dressing will work well.

Stove-Top Macaroni and Cheese

Ingredients:

1 - Pound Elbow Macaroni

¼ - Cup All-Purpose Flour

1 - Teaspoon Garlic Powder

½ - Cup Sour Cream

1 - Cup each Extra-sharp Cheese and Parmesan Cheese*

1 - Cup Velveeta Processed Cheese

Salt & Pepper

1 - Stick Unsalted Butter

1 - Tsp. Ground Mustard

1 - Cup Heavy Cream

1/3 - Cup Milk

Directions:

In a large pot of salted water, cook the macaroni according to the directions on the package. Drain, but do not rinse.

In a medium size pot, melt the butter. Add the flour and whisk. Add the ground mustard, garlic powder, salt and pepper and mix. Slowly add the cream and milk and continue whisking. Heat the mixture until it bubbles which will take about 3 to 4 minutes. Reduce the heat and add the Cheddar, Parmesan, Velveeta cheese, and sour cream. Stir until melted and smooth. Add the macaroni and toss to mix. Continue heating until all ingredients are warm and thickened. Put in serving bowl and watch the kids

*Freshly grated cheese is best. Pre-packaged cheese often contain additional ingredients which may make the cheese clump.

From the Director or Culinary Ministries

Potato Chips Encrusted Chicken Tenders

Ingredients for Chicken Tenders

- 1 - Cup All Purpose Flour
- 2 - Teaspoons Garlic Powder
- 2 - Teaspoons Onion Powder
- 1 - Teaspoons Paprika
- 1 - Teaspoon Ground Mustard
- 1 - Large Bag of your favorite flavor Potato Chips
- 3 - Large Eggs
- 2 - Pounds Chicken Tenders
- Salt & Pepper

Ingredients for Dipping Sauce

- 1/3-Cup Duke's Mayonnaise
- 1/2 - Cup Honey
- 1/4 - Cup Dijon Mustard
- 1 - Tablespoon Yellow Mustard
- 1 - Tablespoon Whole Grain Mustard
- 1/4 -Teaspoon Garlic Powder Salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. This will use the flour, egg, and chips technique. In a bowl, beat the 3 eggs. In a baking dish, add the flour, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, ground mustard and 2 teaspoons each salt and pepper. Stir. Crush the potato chips into a coarse mix.

In the first baking dish, put the seasoned flour. Next to this, put the bowl with the eggs, then the baking dish with the crushed potato chips.

Drag the chicken tenders in the seasoned flour, then into the eggs and finally roll in the crushed potato chips. Place on the prepared baking pan. Bake for approximately 15 minutes, then turn the tenders over. Bake for another 10 to 15 minutes or until a thermometer reads 165 degrees.

Remove from pan and put on rack to cook slightly.

Put all ingredients for the dipping sauce in a bowl and mix well. This can be made ahead and kept in the refrigerator.

*I use a special seasoned flour which I buy from Herman's Produce instead of mixing the flour and seasonings. I use honey BBQ chips.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL OFFERING COMING THIS MONTH

Peace & Global Witness Offering (Sunday, October 6th): The Peace and Global Witness offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. This offering is usually received around Worldwide Communion Sunday, enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Your gift will join with others as the Church works for peace. It provides the means that allows us to offer ourselves to the pursuit of ending violence and bringing about reconciliation, no matter where it occurs in the world.

How will you live out God's grace through this Special Offering?

**THANK YOU TO OUR PULPIT SUPPLY FOR AUGUST!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER!**



Dr. Samuel Adams—Aug 2



Rev. Betty Dax—Aug 9



Rev. Clayton Rascoe—Aug 16



Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle—Aug 23



Rev. Bernard Bangle—Aug 30

THANTASTIC THURSDAYS AND LECTIO DIVINA

THANTASTIC THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Our Thantastic Thursdays in August were filled with fun, food and flowers! We're taking a short break the first Thursday in September, only to return with more food and fun during week 2!

Thursday, September 10: MAKING SALADS WITH SKIP

Join us in the kitchen once again for a fun night of making all kinds of salads. Make room in your recipe folders now—you're sure to add a few new ones after this evening's session!

Look for more details through the weekly newsletters and REALM notifications.

LECTIO DIVINA

Jesus quoted the “first and the greatest” commandment from Deuteronomy 6:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

But how often do we, as God's people, hear God? How often do we listen?

We live in an age when we are bombarded daily, hourly, minute by minute with noise and demands.

Cell phones seem permanently grafted to our ears.

We “relax” by watching “action programming” or competitive sports

As an old TV commercial said: “Minute Rice? Who has the time?”

But the Bible teaches that God doesn't speak in all this activity.

Elijah, a prophet zealous for the Lord, learned this when he was driven away from his home into the wilderness. He hid in a cave on a desert mountain:

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.

Earthquake and fire followed, and then “after the fire came a gentle whisper.”

It was more important to God for Elijah to listen than to be zealous.

Lectio Divina is our chance to set aside an hour a week, sit down, shut up, and listen for God's whisper.

Some of you are thinking: “What? You just sit and are silent for an hour? I couldn't stand that! No, it's not that radical. So what do we do?”

First we read a selected scripture – typically one of the Lectionary passages for the week. We each listen for a word or a phrase that stands out. A short silence follows in which each of us ponders that word or phrase to determine how God may be speaking in it.

After the silence we share (or not) what we have heard, or perhaps questions that have arisen. The same text affects each of us in different ways.

Following the discussion, we read the text again from a different translation to provide a different view.

Another time of silence follows wherein we continue to ponder the text and the additional insights from the first discussion. How is God speaking to me in this text in this room right now?

Another brief time of discussion follows.

This is where it comes together: We let go of our own words and let God's Word soak in, we rest in God's loving presence, we pray, we simply ARE.

Imagine it! Once a week you too can bathe in God's love. It will become habit-forming.



The [Highlights](#) of the Stated Meeting of the PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH on August 22 through Zoom are now available online. Click on the “Highlights” link above to download, or visit our [website](#) for all documents of the meeting. Please review at your convenience. Thank you.

RAFIKI REPORT

During this pandemic, we have received wonderful report from all ten Villages demonstrating our commitment to seeing God's Word and great education be distributed—despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

As you will see, the virus may have shut down countries, but it cannot stop the gospel and God's Word from going far and wide!

- The RBS Home Devotion Pages are being distributed via Whatsapp to many in our communities.
- Electronic and hard copy educational materials are being distributed to students
- Widows and Rafiki mothers are making masks for the Village or for the local community. This helps in two ways—the widows earn income and our communities receive much-needed PPE.
- Rafiki children are cooking, cleaning, farming and making repairs around our Villages.
- A multitude of facilities projects have been completed.
- Classes are being held for resident children who have stayed in our villages.
- Senior students are receiving preparation for the national exams.
- Food is being distributed to the needy families of our day students and homestay children.
- New construction is starting on a Senior Secondary School in Ethiopia.
- Children on homestay are sharing God's Word with their host families.

Prayer Requests:

1. Twenty more long-term missionaries for 2020, and to retain existing missionaries
2. All orphans and day students to be fully funded and a day student program to be implemented
3. Funds to build two primary schools in Tanzania and Ethiopia

For more information go to www.rafikifoundation.org

GIVE ONLINE NOW: Go to our website at www.lexpres.org and select “Giving” at the top of the page, OR click the “ONLINE GIVING” green button at the bottom of that same page. This will take you to our REALM site for giving—select Rafiki under the “Fund” line.

Our Realm account is setup to handle text giving for Metsy (Rafiki):

Text LexPresVA Rafiki \$<dollar amount> to 73256 to give to Rafiki - Metsy using your text messaging.
.Example: To give \$50 to Metsy I would text the message “LexPresVA Rafiki \$50” to 73256 (don't use quotes)
(Standard text message rates do apply)

NOW HIRING

Lexington Presbyterian Church is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to work 20 hours a week (M-Th 10:00am - 3:00pm).

Job duties include:

- Answering phones and maintaining a presence in the church office
- Providing secretarial support to the church staff
- Managing correspondence and mail for the church
- Coordinating the church calendar and use of the church facilities
- Monitoring and maintaining office equipment and supplies

Requirements and qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED
- Proficient with Microsoft Office and email
- Excellent communication skills
- Professional demeanor
- Self-starter who can work independently

To apply, please email a resume to Kimberly at admin@lexpres.org.



SESSION NEWS

LPC Session Meeting---August 4, 2020

The LPC Session met on Zoom on August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The following is a synopsis of the proceedings. The meeting started with worship.

Frank Friedman shared his experience with personally contracting the coronavirus with the hopes of helping session make decisions about conducting in-person services.

Congregational and Sessional Data:

Two deaths in the congregation: Marion Rohne (July 2, 2020) and Barbara Joyner (July 10, 2020).

No baptisms, births, new members, weddings, or transfers took place. Current membership is 498.

Communications:

- Thank you notes from Rockbridge Area Health Center and from Massanetta Springs for financial gifts.
- Received a signed contract from our interim candidate for session's approval

Issues related to the larger church:

- The CAT study will begin soon.
- The Interim Search Committee Chair, Rob Fure, reported on the recommendation of the committee's top candidate. The candidate visited and has signed a contract. Session voted unanimously to approve the contract. One last step will take place with a Presbytery examination. The full announcement will go to the congregation following that examination.
- Presbytery will take place on Zoom on August 22, 2020.

Worship Committee summarized the work that has taken place with the recommendations of the Task Force. A summary of Phase One Overview:

Capacity/Occupancy Limit: After the property committee, on July 12, completed marking the sanctuary with painter's tape to indicate sitting positions for one person with six foot physical distancing for 50 persons on the first floor and 30 persons in the balcony, the worship committee has studied the arrangement and the committee believes that the ushers could seat couples and families in a pew by using two single positions. Preregistration will be important to make the seating arrangement work to its maximum.

Managing Entry, Exit and Safe Distancing: The worship committee is considering using a six-usher team each Sunday to manage entry, seating, exiting, all with safe distancing. Fifteen LPC members have volunteered to be ushers. Of the fifteen, three want to be subs, and that is good; but with twelve ushers, each team will have to work half of the in-person services offered during Phase One. The worship committee is concerned about the practicality of such an arrangement. The committee is drafting a document of usher responsibilities, which will be used for training. No training has been scheduled at this time. Again, preregistration is important for this process to work to its best.

Pre-Registration for Sunday worship: As stated previously, pre-registration is important to this process. The committee is working on multiple means for our members to pre-register in addition to their using Realm.

Online Worship: Remote worship will continue to be offered for as long as there is a need. Importantly, the committee is looking at the in-person service and the current Zoom service being offered at separate times. This arrangement is being considered because the process of each of these services is so different and may not offer an appropriate simultaneous worship service for each group, in-person and Zoom.

Worship Staffing: The worship team and the worship commit-

tee will coordinate for in-person worship. The worship team includes the pulpit supply (if needed), a worship assistant, a Life of the Church person, the director of music, the stated supply pastor, and a person to operate the sound system. The pulpit supply schedule is complete through September.

Music: The worship committee will coordinate the music program with the director of music and the pastor for each Sunday.

Sunday Worship Details: The worship committee will coordinate with the administrative assistant to prepare the bulletin which will be distributed by ushers by placing the bulletins in the pews. The ushers will always be wearing gloves including during the distribution of bulletins. As stated previously, the committee is looking at offering the Zoom worship at a different time from in-person worship.

Offering: The ushers will place offering plates at all entrances and exits that will be used by attendees. The committee will coordinate an appropriate offering message during the service.

Communion: The worship committee has determined that pre-packaged communion elements are available at a reasonable price, and there is a lead time to order. The ushers will distribute the communion packages with gloved hands.

Personal Protective Equipment: The worship committee has worked with the property committee, and the committees have determined that appropriate masks and gloves are readily available at reasonable prices. The ushers will have masks and gloves available for attendees.

For action:

The Task Force recommends that all facilities will remain closed during the week even when in-person Sunday worship begins. No objections were voiced.

Christian Education:

Online children's programs continue.

Work is moving ahead on Fall Children's CE plans.

The Youth had several meetings combining both virtual and in-person, outdoor gatherings with proper distancing. A movie will be shown called "The Case for Christ".

The youth has plans to raise funds for Metsi, our church's adopted Rafiki student.

Campus Ministry is preparing for fall matriculation materials and discussing ways to keep in touch with LPC youth going to college.

Communications:

Paper bulletins and newsletters are being delivered to Kendal and to those without computer access.

Financial Management:

Adjusting procedures for spending and set the spending percentage from invested funds at 5% for 2021.

Urged the congregation to keep on giving. We are falling behind the pro rata budget.

Nominating:

Continue to work on the Class off 2023 for Session.

Personnel:

Looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant.

Approved a week of vacation for Kelly-Ann Rayle.

Property:

Continues to work on building issues to maintain the facility and to prepare for in-person worship.

A Task Force for Technology is now meeting to evaluate how to improve our ability to have quality in-person as well as virtual services going forward.

September Session meeting was moved to September 8, 7:00 p.m. It will take place in Dunlap with appropriate social distancing and will also be offered to those who are not comfortable coming into the building by Zoom.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Lectio Divina ONLINE 3:00pm Stewardship SubC Meeting ONLINE	2 8:00am Church Staff Meeting ONLINE 9:15am Worship Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE	3 1:00pm Adult Subcommittee ONLINE	4 10:00am Worship Prac- tice for Partici- pants	5
6 4¢-A-Meal Offering 11:00am Traditional Worship ONLINE 7:00pm Youth Group Fellowship ONLINE	7	8 10:00am Lectio Divina ONLINE 5:00pm Campus Subcommittee Meeting ONLINE 7:00pm Meeting of the Session	9 8:00am Church Staff Meeting ONLINE 9:15am Worship Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE 1:00pm ONLINE Leah Circle Meeting 5:45pm REALM Training ONLINE	10 7:00pm ONLINE Thantastic Thursday – Making Salads with Skip	11 10:00am Worship Prac- tice for Partici- pants	12
13 Youth Group at Hull's Drive In TO- NIGHT ONLINE RALLY DAY 9:45am Rally Day Activities ONLINE 11:00am Traditional Worship ONLINE	14	15 10:00am Lectio Divina ONLINE 12:00pm Commu- nications Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE 5:30pm Property Committee Meet- ing	16 8:00am Church Staff Meeting ONLINE 9:15am Worship Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE 4:30pm Outreach Com- mittee Meeting ONLINE 7:00pm ONLINE Chil- dren's Subcommittee Meeting	17 3:00pm ONLINE Adult Subcommit- tee Meeting	18 10:00am Worship Prac- tice for Partici- pants	19
20 Youth Group Event – Time TBD 9:45am ONLINE Adult Sunday School 10:15am ONLINE Children Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship ONLINE	21	22 10:00am Lectio Divina ONLINE 4:30pm Youth Sub- committee Meeting ONLINE 7:00pm Finance Committee Meet- ing ONLINE	23 8:00am Church Staff Meeting ONLINE 9:15am Worship Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE	24 7:00pm ONLINE Thantastic Thursday	25 10:00am Worship Prac- tice for Partici- pants	26
27 Youth Group Event – Time TBD 9:45am ONLINE Adult Sunday School 10:15am ONLINE Children Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship ONLINE	28	29 10:00am Lectio Divina ONLINE	30 8:00am Church Staff Meeting ONLINE 9:15am Worship Commit- tee Meeting ONLINE 11:00am Congregational Life Committee Meeting ONLINE 4:30pm ONLINE Adminis- trative Council			