

Pastor's Ponderings

Flexible, responsive, adaptive, agile, creative. This is who we are called to be as Christ's body. Folks who follow the leading of God's Spirit where it leads, who attend to those around us and their needs and respond, those who work tirelessly and creatively to communicate God's message of grace.

And hasn't the upheaval of the pandemic offered plenty of opportunities to be those people and that church we are called to be?

At the Leadership Retreat, Session voted to return to the pre-Omicron practices of making masks optional and allowing singing in worship and for those who use the Church Building, whether for church or community activities. Good News! And a decision we hope will be lasting. But if not, we will roll with it – that's who we are!

We are also a people who seeks to be welcoming to all who may come to join us. And in that spirit, the Session encourages folks to do what feels best for them as far as masking. There are so many reasons why someone may choose to continue to wear a mask – many unrelated to whether they are vaccinated - living in a retirement community or with someone who is immunocompromised, having children at home, treatment for illness such as transplant or cancer, continued anxiety about the virus, not wanting to get the flu and more.

And we are also encouraged to be mindful that often the decision to mask or not is deeply personal, and to have to explain or to feel challenged about that choice does not feel welcoming. Your leaders ask that we all work together to create a place of welcome for everyone and one way we do that is with sensitivity to each person's need to make the best choice for themselves about masking.

May we keep looking for ways to extend hospitality and welcome in Christ's name.

Peace, be well -

Pastor Nona

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Our pastor's contact information can be found on the front page of this newsletter. Pastor Holy is available for conversation and prayer. Also, please continue to share your joys and concerns with us so that *we* may continue to support each other in specific prayer requests.

Joys and concerns may be submitted to the office via email or by phone. We check messages regularly.

Please let us know of answers to prayer – so that we can give thanks to God!

Dennis Witmer asked for prayers for Dave Robertson who had surgery yesterday to repair ligaments around his knee following a fall.

We pray for our world and it's leaders who work to find a peaceful resolution to the tensions in Russia and the Ukraine.

We pray for the sick, the lonely, the hungry, the frightened, and the lost. May the peace of Christ meet them where they are.



2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE		WORSHIP LINKS
2022 Budgeted Giving: 2022 YTD Giving: 2022 Budgeted Pledges: 2022 YTD Pledges:	\$233,441 \$ 50,407 \$190,000 \$186,504	February 20, 2022 Audio/Video link Bulletin/Liturgy link

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Session recently voted to change LBP's masking requirement to MASKS OPTIONAL.

However, please know that if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, you are welcome to do so!



FACE Masks

OPTIONAL

LIFT (youth group) meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. We begin at 6:00 PM with pizza and fellowship followed by a bible study, lesson or activity. As we head into Lent, we will continue with the Follow Me series and dive into <u>Practice Spiritual Disciplines</u>. LIFT is open to all those in 6th to 12th grade, and ALL are welcome. Bring a friend! <u>NEXT MEETING MAR. 3rd.</u>



LBPC is excited to welcome all K-5th graders to Children's Sunday School! Sunday School takes places during worship immediately following the Parable Time, at which point the children will leave with Miss Candy for a fun and informative activity. This season, they will also be learning to <u>Practice Spiritual Disciplines</u>. There is NO Sunday School on the first Sunday of each month, but children are invited to stay in worship and join their families for the Sacrament of Communion. Activity packets will be available to keep little hands busy!



The LBPC nursery is open! Children from birth through age 4 are welcome to stay in the nursery during our Sunday morning worship which begins at 10:00 AM. Miss Fabiola will be there to greet you. Stop in for a visit!!



The Brown Bag Bible Study meets every Thursday at 12:00 PM at LBPC. Through February they will continue their study of women in the bible. Starting in March they will turn to a more Lenten focused study. Candace Smith will be leading the group. If you have questions, please contact her at candacesmithevents@gmail.com. All are welcome!

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Rehearsals have begun for our Fifteenth Annual Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert, this year benefitting CHOP Neuro-Oncology. Our featured work will be the jazzy and eclectic "Missa Gaia" by Paul Winter. Adults and high school students are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 in the church sanctuary. The Beeches are requesting that all participants be vaccinated and masked.

LOWER BRANDYWINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADULT STUDIES

RICHARD ROHR STUDY 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH 12:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Contact Sandra Borror at borrorjury@aol.com

ADULT TOPICAL STUDY EVERY SUNDAY MORNING 8:00 AM VIA ZOOM

Contact Martha Coats at marticoats@verizon.net



This year, the season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2nd (Ash Wednesday). Although we are not planning a service on Ash Wednesday, there are plans in the works for several Lenten study and worship opportunities. The Worship Committee along with others are putting together a schedule that will be published soon. We look forward to welcoming you all—and your family and friends—to explore this most special time!

Prayer

Sacrifice Reconciliation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW



Leave Gifts to Benefit Lower Brandywine Presbyterian

Please consider making a gift to Lower Brandywine Presbyterian that tells the story of your hope in Christ. Each will is unique and must be structured to fit the needs and estate plans of the individual in accordance with the laws of the state in which they live. For this reason, you should consult a lawyer to assist you in drafting your will and estate plan. Our Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer (MRO) can guide you through this important giving process:

Olanda Carr, Jr. 5141 Sharon Rd, Charlotte, NC 28210 olanda.carr@presbyterianfoundation.org

<u>Legacy Options</u> You can leave a gift to your church in the following ways: • A bequest in your will • Retirement plan beneficiary • Life insurance beneficiary • Proceeds from the sale of real estate or property • Other ways that suit your situation.

Consult with an attorney or professional advisor before making changes to your estate plans. For more information visit: <u>https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/wills-legacy-giving/</u>



Did you know that you can contribute to LBPC with a stock contribution or electronically through our website? Visit the Giving tab on our website to see how!

Stock Transfers – inform your investment company to send the transfer to Fidelity Investments. Our DTC is 0226, Account **Z72-118389.**

If needed – Fidelity Investments – 4001 Kennett Pike Ste. 120, Greenville, DE 19807, our Account Executive is Daniel Glazer 302-428-3776 ext. 78869.

Please remember to advise Linda Natali at finance@lowerbrandywine.org of your donation, so that we may credit your giving account promptly.

Donations of Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement Accounts

Did you know that you can make a donation of all or a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account to tax exempt charities, such as Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and your donation will be tax exempt?

Here's how it works. If a person is at least age 70½, they must take at least a minimum distribution from their IRA or incur a penalty equal to one-half of the otherwise required minimum distribution amount. They may take more than the minimum at their discretion. These individuals may instruct their IRA account manager to distribute any amount of their choosing to one or more tax exempt charities such as Lower Brandywine Presbyterian.

When that is done, it is considered to be a tax-exempt contribution. Lower Brandywine would acknowledge to the giver the receipt of that contribution from their IRA. Also, this contribution is tax exempt even if the individual does not itemize deductions for income tax purposes because the IRA account manager would not identify this to the IRS as reportable income in accordance with the tax code.

For more information about Qualified Charitable Distributions, check out the Internal Revenue Service Publication 590-B, "Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)" or speak with your tax advisor.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 22ND—MARCH 6TH

Start Date	Start Time	Subject
02/23/2022	12:00 PM	Alanon
	7:30 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal
02/24/2022	12:00 PM	Brown Bag Bible Study
02/26/2022	10:00 AM	Riegel Memorial and Burial
02/27/2022		Transfiguration of the Lord
		MFM: LBPC Mission Statement
	8:00 AM	Adult Topical Study (Zoom)
	10:00 AM	Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed)
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School after Parable
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
02/28/2022	3:00 PM	Staff Dinner
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
	7:00 PM	Alanon
	7:00 PM	Alateen
03/01/2022	12:00 PM	Richard Rohr Small Group
03/02/2022	12:00 PM	Alanon
	7:30 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal
03/03/2022	12:00 PM	Brown Bag Bible Study
	6:00 PM	LIFT
03/06/2022		First Sunday in Lent
		Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Good Samaritan Offering
03/06/2022	8:00 AM	Adult Topical Study (Zoom)
03/06/2022	10:00 AM	Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed)
03/06/2022	11:00 AM	Fellowship

February 2022 Readings

Sunday, February 6

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11

Sunday, February 13

Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Luke 6:17–26

Sunday, February 20

Genesis 45:3–11, 15 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 Luke 6:27–38

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 27

Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01	Jacob Csuy	
02/03	Mimi Lovelace	
0206	Trude Holmes	
02/08	Julieta Balderas-Castro	
02/09	William Sudell	
02/11	Nancy Plerhoples	
	Sandra Messikomer	
02/12	Harold Salmons, III	
02/12	Harold Kenton	
02/14	John Danzeisen	
02/16	Madison Armstrong	
02/18	Clint Veasey	
02/20	Darlene Sullivan	
	Lisa Holt	
02/21	Kate Connolly	
02/23	Art Beebe	
02/23	Steve Ernst	
02/28	Weston Wright	

Keep up with the latest news from the PCUSA and the NCP (New Castle Presbytery) by subscribing to one of the many available e-newsletters. There is so much happening in our denomination beyond our walls! Learn more about how other Presbyterians are responding to the needs of our world. Follow the links below to subscribe:



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