



September 2019

ListenLovePray

Newsletter vol. 3, issue 6

LLP Goes Purple!

Listen Love Pray joins other church and community organizations in Frederick County to go PURPLE. In going purple, we join a “massive grassroots call-to-action to unify our Frederick County community and reduce substance-related deaths and overdoses” says a Frederick County Health Department press release. The crossedBRIDGES organization has many events planned, and home and business owners are encouraged to display purple lights to show their support!

This community-wide observance starts in September, the National Recovery Month, and will continue throughout the year, demonstrating that Frederick County reaches out to those in active addiction, encourages those in recovery, cares for their loved ones, offers hope and resources, and invests in the future through youth prevention education. For more details look at the dedicated website: <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/purple-message>

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Lucinda Nelson with Jon and Carol Switzer showing their support by wearing their Frederick County Goes Purple shirts

A Message from the Executive Director

September is national recovery month and momentum is building to Go Purple! “Nearly 21 million Americans struggle with substance addictions, more than the number of people who have all cancers combined”, says the landmark 2016 report of the U.S. surgeon general. The prediction that 1 in 7 citizens will face substance use disorders and the fact that only 10% receive treatment, spurs on national and local efforts to bring awareness to prevention, treatment, and recovery options.

Did you know that one person dies every week from overdose in Frederick county, Maryland? This is a darkness that Listen Love Pray feels called to battle against in the name of Jesus. Years ago, my son Scott and I went to a meeting at Bethesda UMC. He talked about his fight against addiction and asked for prayer. The lead-

er had him stand up. As he prayed, he wrapped his arms around Scott. When the embrace would have naturally ended, the leader tightened his grip and said, “don’t let go of Jesus...keep holding on tight. . . take hold of Him. . . don’t let go.”

But those who embraced him and took hold of his name were given authority to become the children of God! —John 1:12 (TPT)

There is something important about the words *embrace* and *take hold*. In my experience, we need both. Embracing Jesus is awesome and certainly not just a one-time event. Taking hold is essential for, well, victorious living. I know that terminology might seem overly pious, but it just feels like the right term because life on earth throws us curve balls that sting. So often, our living does

not feel victorious.

Embracing Jesus and **taking hold** of His way, His truth, and His life are great images of the LLP ministries. With an average of 30 private, healing-prayer appointments each month, LLP helps people experience and *embrace* Jesus. *Taking hold* can be pursued during our Tuesday evening healing services, Thursday night classes, training workshops, and recovery ministries.

I hope this edition inspires you to embrace and take hold of the Savior. Our constant prayer is for everyone to know that Jesus is accessible. Jesus never gives up. Jesus loves us. Jesus still heals and delivers people today.

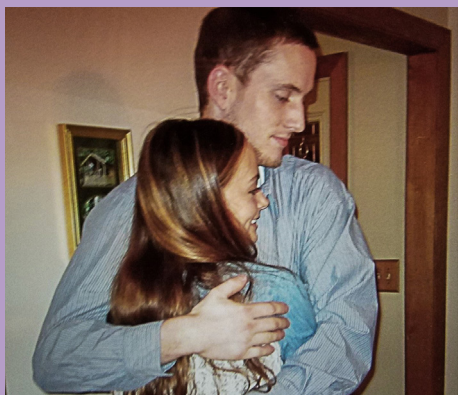
Lucinda Nelson, Executive Director, LLP

LLP Testimony

Psalm 23

If you feel mad at God – like I did for 7 months – read Psalm 23. Staying stuck in negative, destructive thought patterns is joyless. As I read the words of Psalm 23, they brought me peace, comfort, and lifted me up. Even though events in my life had not gone as planned, I realized that God never left me. I have times when I feel mad, sad, and hopeless. And then the atmosphere changes. Holy Spirit rains down and God's grace takes over. I start to feel thankful, hope filled and even joyful. God is good through every situation. Life is tough and God knows that. We don't understand why tragic events happen, but we do trust God's plan. And it's better than we could ever imagine. –Kristin Nelson, LLP

To see Kristin's entire testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95UYm5HTXZo&t=14s>



Inner Healing

Tuesday night healing services are special moments of God's grace. We don't usually take pictures during these prayer times, but this was so precious, we couldn't help but record the memory. Can you see the baby reaching his hand out toward the light in the candle?

After the service, this beautiful Mom wrote, "Thank you so much for this evening. I feel an amazing peace and confidence about what God is doing in our lives." She has given permission for us to share this so that others might be encouraged to come and bring their loved ones, of any age, to receive the peace and healing love of Christ.



LLP Goes Purple! (continued)

Go Purple is just one of the ways that crossedBRIDGES, <https://www.bridgesconnected.org>, is trying to unify "our community to meet our greatest needs in restoring the good that God intends." For the last 9 months, a team of people, including LLP's Lucinda Nelson, has been formulating a church workshop titled *Christ's body and substance use disorder*.

This workshop is "designed to provide a simple, effective plan for the church to intelligently and safely love those affected by this crisis" according to their flyer. The 4-hour sessions are the first part of a three-fold process that crossedBRIDGES has initiated with the Holy Spirit to help the church establish an effective plan on how to embrace those struggling with substance abuse disorder, including opioids.

Lucinda's talk, presented July 27, 2019, was part of the group's initial workshop held at New Beginning Nazarene church in Mt. Airy. Other speakers in the workshop included, Dr. Dan Haffey, Heather Poffenberger, David Brooks, Jonathan Switzer, and more.

Below is a short excerpt from Lucinda's presentation:

"In my experience as a Celebrate Recovery leader and working in the Listen Love Pray Foundation, I know this problem is a whole lot bigger than anyone of us can imagine. To me, even though I have been personally involved through my son Scott, in some ways, I still am perplexed and horrified by the evil that is running rampant with substance use disorder, or addiction.

Addiction is not an evil that just affects the person using drugs. I know this, personally, and by working with families with loved ones who struggle. My daughter Kristin gave us a valuable saying, "Family and friends - you are

important and your needs matter too." All of us need healing. All of us need Holy Spirit power to push back darkness.

God has told us, we are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). So, how can YOUR church establish an effective plan? How can your church embrace those struggling with substance abuse disorder?

I don't know. God knows.

The evidence-based, or "best" practices for the Body of Christ, in any situation is to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus, who was connected to His Father and moving in the power of Holy Spirit.

When Jesus walked through Galilee, he didn't refer to a sheet of paper that listed the "best practices" to treat lepers, or the blind, or demon possessed. God, His Father, led him to specific people and through the power of Holy Spirit, He healed and delivered them in beautiful and unique ways, perfect for each individual. And the crowds were amazed.

So, what are the best practices for your church? I, personally, do not know. There is one – God the Father – who does know. And I believe He wants to tell you – perhaps even this morning."

Would you have liked to have heard Lucinda's entire talk? Good News! It's on our youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JPwgcxlnW4>. Or you could attend the workshop on Saturday, September 21st from 8:15am – 12 pm at Grace Community Church, 5102 Old National Pike, Frederick, MD 21702. If you, or someone in your church, is interested in learning more, register for this free second workshop at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christs-body-and-substance-use-disorder-tickets-67454220389>

Summer Group Learns to Pray for Healing

This summer, due to a request from someone in Bowie, MD (1.5 hours away), LLP created a workshop on the basics of healing prayer. Much to our surprise, 25 students from many different towns attended! Generally, our classes are Friday-Saturday workshops, but Holy Spirit guided us to offer a unique combi-

nation including healing services, classroom time, and personal ministry.

Thank you to our teaching volunteers: Judy Winfield, Carol Pennington, Ken Nelson, Amy Duray, Lucinda Nelson and our numerous, vital healing prayer ministers!

The Ranch Ministry: Prayers and Bibles for Men in Recovery



This July, 9 volunteers from LLP were at The Ranch to teach our monthly ministry program. After the

“lesson” we broke into teams and offered private prayer sessions for anyone who wanted to pray. Since the word of God is alive and powerful to create lasting change, we typically use some scripture in the prayer time. We discovered that many of the men did not have a bible – and expressed a desire to have one!

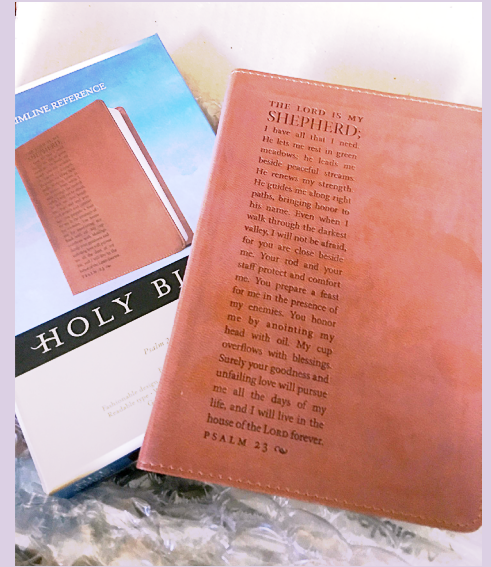
After praying on this need, as He does, God works. The very next week, we received a donation to buy the needed bibles! God is good and His word never returns without accomplishing what it intends. We can't wait to go back and give them this price-

less gift. Also, truly fitting that Psalm 23 is imprinted on the cover of their bibles!

Join us as we pray that everyone who receives a bible will open it up, read the words of life, and be transformed.

*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

—Isaiah 55:10-13 (NKJV)



Prayer groups at The Ranch



LLP Testimony

Steep in God's Presence

So many times, we come to God with a list, but on August 20th at the healing prayer service, the Holy Spirit fell on me in such a way I only wanted to steep in Him. I didn't care about my list or anyone around me. I was able to just rest (truly rest) in His presence, to be filled with His peace, love and rest.

He told me when I come to His heavenly place, I am restored, purified, filled as His Spirit dwells in me. He gave me a vision of my spirit soaring and told me He wanted my spirit to soar as I rest in him, lay my burdens down, trust in Him, and remember His promises. He reminded me that nothing separates us and nothing can separate us. Then He sent me home as a vessel restored, carrying His truth and love for the world. It was lovely.

—LLP prayer minister, Tandi Tucker Toni at the Special Healing Prayer Service with Kath and Ryan on August 20



Release

I struggle with giving my weakness and sadness to Jesus, like He wants us to do.

At the Tuesday healing service, I gained a deeper understanding that God doesn't want to Lord it over me like a boss – He wants to Lord over me with Love.

A love that's bigger than me, bigger than I know about, or ever experienced.

A love that's bigger than my problems, bigger than anything.

I came to a greater degree of surrender because I realized that God is big enough for my problems. He really wants me to give him my issues (pain, worry, fear, sadness).

Jesus wants to be Lord of my life not to lord over me but to set me free.

—LLP prayer minister, Carolyn Bonifant at the Special Healing Prayer Service with Kath and Ryan on August 20

LLP at Frederick Rescue Mission

Understanding and Learning to Live in God's Grace

Maureen Armacost's teaching for "The Changed-life Program" at the Frederick Rescue Mission (FRM) on Sunday, August 25th

So much of our lives are evaluated. We are constantly being surveyed... evaluated – was the service good enough? What could have been done better? Give us your rating on a scale from 1 to 5. I've had people tell me if they get anything less than a 5, they get in trouble! People are rewarded or punished, based on those survey results, based on those evaluations, based on what they do.

Not in God's Math. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation ... we just need to believe that Jesus died so we might have eternal life with our Father in heaven.

This is unmerited favor. This is unconditional forgiveness. This is love. This is God's grace

In comparison, man says grace is:

- Elegance and charm – dancers and skaters are graceful in their smooth effortless moves
- Approval
- Favor – sometimes goodwill
- Mercy & pardon
- Grace period – extra time to pay a bill before penalty charges kick in
- Prayer before a meal

It is interesting that, according to Biblical scholars, Jesus never used the word grace. Instead, he demonstrated it, both through his parables, and through his actions.

- The parable of the prodigal son

- The parable of the farmer who sought workers to bring in his crops all day, and regardless of how long the workers worked in the field, each was paid the same – unmerited favor
- The adulterous woman - let him who is without sin cast the first stone – Jesus told the woman 'I do not condemn you ... Go now and leave your life of sin.'
- The ultimate example of course, is Jesus dying on the cross – standing in for us – so that we might have eternal life with the Father.

The many prayers in the Psalms speak about grace; asking God to bestow his grace for strength, for freedom, for help, for mercy. (all from TPT).

- Psalm 51:22 — So here's what I've learned through it all: leave all your cares and anxieties at the feet of the Lord, and measureless grace will strengthen you.
- Psalm 4:1 — God, you are my righteousness, my champion defender. Answer me when I cry for help! ... Grant me your grace, hear my prayer, and set me free!
- Psalm 27:7 — God, hear my cry. Show me your grace. Show me mercy and send the help I need!
- Psalm 86:1-5 — Lord, bend down to listen to my prayer. I am in deep trouble. I'm broken and humbled and I desperately need your help. Guard my life, for I'm your faithful friend, your loyal servant for life. I turn to you in faith, my God, my hero; come and rescue me! Lord God, hear my constant cry for help; show me your favor and bring me to your fountain of grace! Restore joy to your loving servant once again, for

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Ken praying at the Frederick Resuce Mission



all I am is yours, O God. Lord you are so good to me, so kind in every way and ready to forgive, for your grace-fountain keeps overflowing, drenching all your lovers who pray to you.

What a picture! Being drenched in God's grace!

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 2:1-10, he teaches us grace is a gift – God's precious gift to us – and it cannot be earned.

- Verse 4: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

How do we live and breathe God's grace?

Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 1:15-16:

- I can testify that the Word is true and deserves to be received by all, for Jesus Christ came into the world to bring sinners back to life—even me, the worst sinner of all! 16 Yet I was captured by grace, so that Jesus Christ could display through me the outpouring of his Spirit as a pattern to be seen for all those who would believe in him for eternal life.

We have received God's grace. Let us share it with others.

Snapshot Testimonies from the Changed-Life Program

Tony (age 30) from Glen Burnie, MD, recovering from pain pills and alcohol

In what ways have you experienced grace?

I'm alive, my marriage, baby on the way

In what part of your life would you like to experience grace?

Just continues grace each day I'm alive

Is there something you would like to have prayed for?

Sobriety, seminary school, pregnant wife and marriage

Maureen teaching



Steve (age 31) from Elkton, MD, recovering from meth, grief, shame, guilt, heroin

In what ways have you experience grace?

Getting this chance within this program, police officer saving me from overdose, 3 weeks clean, hitting a deer on my Harley at 50 mph and not wrecking, surviving a stabbing

In what part of your life would you like to experience grace?

My relationship with my fiancé, my mother and my growth as a Godly man and later on in life create a program like this for juveniles

Is there something you would like to have prayed for?

My relationship with my fiancé, Lindsay and to heal from not being there when my Dad died and for my grandfather who refused chemo and is dying, Lloyd Reeves, *wish my father knew I never meant anything I've said or done*

Willie (age 38) from Aberdeen, MD, recovering from lifestyle of heroin, crack

In what ways have you experienced grace?

So many, people trying to kill me, escape from prison sentences

In what part of your life would you like to experience grace?

Addiction

Is there something you would like to have prayed for?

For a family and children of my own. That I be released from the bondage of all addictions, poverty mindset, finances, generational curse. Break every chain so I can be who God wills for me to be. I need your help.

Thank you, Jesus, for using LLP to bring your healing love to help these men truly live a changed life. The Changed-life program at Frederick Rescue Mission (Beacon House) is going strong with many men attending and feeling the love and grace of God.

Some of our friends living at FRM



My Father's House

Lori Clark is a woman who loves Jesus and feels called by God to help with the addiction crisis. She is the director



and owner of My Father's House, a new Christian home in Mt Airy, MD for women in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse.

Lori's vision is to equip women with the support, training, and life skills necessary to maintain lifelong sobriety and become productive members of the community through employment, working through a 12-step Christ-centered program while living in a supportive, Christian environment.

Carolyn and Lucinda met recently with Lori to talk about how Listen Love Pray can support her and the women of My Father's House as they begin their journey with Jesus to freedom! Please pray for this ministry and consider attending her open house on September 14 and 15. For more information, check out www.myfathershousemaryland.org



Lori, founder of My Father's House, with Carolyn of LLP (right)

When the Leaders Get Better, Everyone Wins

Judy Winfield, Ken Nelson, and Lucinda Nelson, part of the LLP leadership team, made time to get better! They heard encouraging, Christ-based talks designed to help them in their leadership for LLP.

The Frederick Christian Fellowship Church (FCF) hosted the simulcast for The Global Leadership Summit. The GLS web site describes it as “a world-class, two-day event broadcast LIVE in HD from Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago every August. Hundreds of locations in North America join together to broadcast this event featuring world renowned faculty members who deliver a unique blend of vision, inspiration, and practical leadership skills. Leaders worldwide leverage the Summit to sharpen their skills and to unleash the full potential of their teams.”

The motto of GLS is *Everyone Has Influence*. The summit is designed to help people learn how to maximize their influence. We all have influence, at church, at work, at home, or on the sports field anywhere we go. We can change the environment and bring the leadership of Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, to bear in any place. Just a few of the amazing key points learned were:

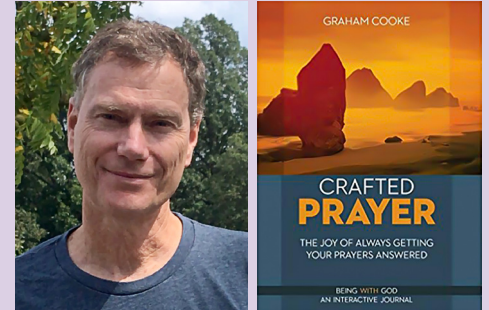
- Values are not words on a wall but written on your heart.
- Practice radical redemptive inclusion.
- Business is about people, and when you love others as you love yourself, business is good.
- Perfection robs you of production – often it is good enough to move on – step out of doubt and insecurity into doing it. You have everything you need to do what you are called to do
- Leaders are called to see things differently. Where others see obstacles, leaders see opportunities.
- Leaders often believe the lie that they cannot be vulnerable. Show up as your true self and give people credit. If you thoughtfully tell someone something vulnerable, they will probably do the same. There is power in empathy and we connect with people in our vulnerability.
- Rejection is an opinion
- Some questions for reflection. Who were you before anyone told you who you were supposed to be? If your body could talk to you, what would it say? Who are your safe people?

For more information, check out www.globalleadership.org



Kingdom Life! New!! Men's Fall Study Group

Thursdays at 7:00 pm
October 17 – November 21



Join Ken Nelson as he leads a 6-week Men's Fall group study.

- Become more aware of your kingdom assignment
- Explore things that are holding us back
- Take steps to overcome them with the things God wants us to have instead
- Develop specific prayers for the areas of struggle
- Generate a crafted prayer for the whole group

Resources:

- CD: Turning Passivity into Prophecy
- Book: *Crafted Prayer* by Graham Cooke (available at amazon.com)

Please register at www.listenlovepray.org.

Healing Prayer Services

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

First Tuesday
Calvary UMC, Mt. Airy, MD
No childcare available

Second Tuesday
New Beginning NC, Mt. Airy, MD
Childcare available upon request

Third Tuesday
New Beginning NC, Mt. Airy, MD
Childcare available upon request

Fall Weekend Workshop Healing Prayer

Friday September 27, 7-9 pm &
Saturday September 28, 8:30-noon

After taking HP1, students may take the other levels in any order. HP3 is a Friday evening–Saturday morning workshop.

Please register at www.listenlovepray.org.

Topics include:

- Humility – Total reliance on Holy Spirit
- Praying with faith and authority
- Conception to birth prayer
- Praying for healing of abortion and miscarriage
- How to pray to release fear
- Letting go of anger

We believe that in order to pray powerfully for others, it is essential to understand Jesus' ministry and our commission as His disciples to do the same. Level 3 starts with a biblical foundation and then builds upon that with other biblical content about healing. We include testimonies about our personal experiences with healing prayer and stories of how we have seen God heal and deliver people over the last 7 years.

Self-Care Works: a Codependency Support Group

2nd and 4th Mondays 7-8 pm
starting on September 9

Life is a precious gift. We have a lot of responsibilities – grocery shopping, raising children, mowing the lawn, paying bills. Taking care of yourself is also your responsibility. If you grew up in a dysfunctional family or have a loved one who struggles with addiction, you might have developed codependency behaviors. One of the main problems with being codependent is that you have no idea how you hurt yourself.

Everyone is welcome to come to a new support group run by Listen Love Pray Foundation. There will be a teaching, prayer, and time for sharing thoughts and feelings. Meets at New Beginning Nazarene Church, Mt. Airy, MD.

Please register at www.listenlovepray.org.

Fall Book Study Opportunities

Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Register at listenlovepray.org

Life of the Beloved

by Henri J.M. Nouwen

(available at amazon.com)

3-week Study Group

September 12, 19, and 26

Reviews:

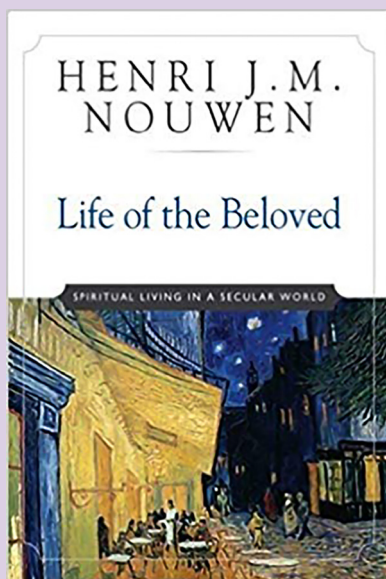
Brilliant in its clarity. Authentic. Feeling. Profound and deep

The most beautiful book. So easy to read and practical.

Why is it always easier to believe someone else is beloved by God than to believe I am? Nouwen believes “self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life, because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the “Beloved.” He speaks of listening for that voice and believes once we hear it, we will keep trying to hear it ever more clearly.

The Life of the Beloved is deceptive in its simplicity. We are chosen, blessed, broken and given by the One who knows us as His beloved.

I am only a couple of chapters in, and even if he doesn't make another point the whole rest of the book, I'll have been VERY glad I bought it!!



Raising the Dead

by Chauncey W. Crandall IV, MD

6-week Study Group

October 17 – November 21

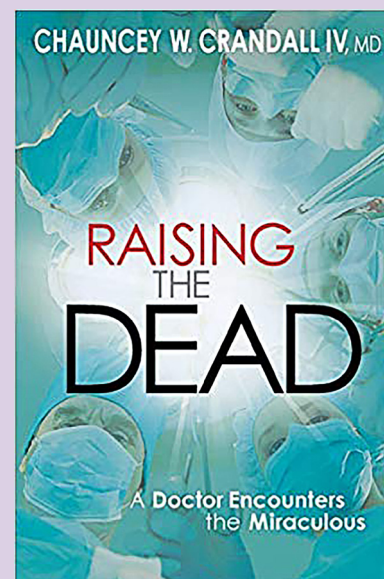
Reviews:

Dr. Crandall was extremely candid in expressing his feelings and the steps by which he walked, gaining spiritual knowledge from one area to another. He diligently researched all aspects before arriving at any conclusions. Having been a Christian many years, I found his book enthralling and even desiring deeper revelations of the Lord who is the Author and Finisher of Life and Death.

A powerful example of faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ

This is undoubtedly this best book I have ever read. I could hardly put it down. It is very inspirational and helped to build my own faith.

For everyone who longs to see Jesus do the same today as he did long ago



ListenLovePray Events

September

- September 3** **Healing Prayer Service**
Calvary UMC • 7:00 pm
- September 8** **The Ranch Lesson and Prayers**
6:00 pm
- September 9** **Self-Care Works**
2th and 4th Mondays
New Beginning • 7:00–8:30 pm
- September 10** **Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- September 11** **Women's Bible Study**
Wednesdays
New Beginning • 10:00–11:00 am
- September 12** **Life of the Beloved Book Discussion**
Thursdays through Sep 26
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- September 14** **Beacon House (FRM) Ministry**
- September 17** **Continuing Education – Unhealthy Soul Ties**
New Beginning • 5:30 pm
- September 17** **Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- September 22** **Beacon House Ministry**
- Sept 27 & 28** **Healing Prayer Level 3**
Fri 7:00–9:00 pm • Sat 8:30–noon

LLP Meeting Locations

New Beginning Church
12350 Jesse Smith Rd
Mount Airy, MD 21771
www.newbeginningnazarenechurch.org

Calvary United Methodist Church
403 South Main Street
Mount Airy, MD 21771
www.calvary-mtairy.org

**Beacon House
Frederick Rescue Mission**
419 W. South Street
Frederick, MD 21701
www.therescuemission.org

October

- October 1** **Healing Prayer Service**
Calvary UMC • 7:00 pm
- October 8** **Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- October 15** **Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- October 17** **Raising the Dead Book Discussion**
Thursdays through Nov 21
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- October 17** **Men's Fall Study Group**
Thursdays through Nov 21
New Beginning • 7:00 pm

Keep in Prayer

- The Frederick Community as it pulls together to help in the addiction crisis
- crossedBRIDGES
- My Father's House
- 20 women and children in Faith House
- 70 men in *The Ranch* and Frederick Rescue Mission
- LLP Foundation

Did you miss some of the excellent LLP teachings this summer?

Not a problem! LLP has added 57 of their best teaching videos to their YouTube channel. Watch from “Forgiveness” to “The Battle in Your Mind” to “Healing Your Image of God”. Over 12 new videos have been added this summer. Go to the Listen Love Pray YouTube channel to catch up on the latest teachings.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EvNdJsXRY9YTE9890t-alg/videos>



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LLP Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity.

Your generous donations of time, effort, and money empower the healing transformations that Jesus does here through LLP. To donate, visit our website. All donations are tax-exempt.

Lord, continue to bless the spirits, minds and hands of our loving donors. Keep LLP ever faithful to your call and your word. May each soul touched by LLP feel the healing love of Jesus. Amen.

LLP works in recovery centers, churches, and the community. Jesus still heals and delivers people today!