

Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church
1039 Lawrence Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609)882-7909 (609)882-1723 (fax)
office@tlrchurch.org

Worship Schedule

10:00am Worship

11:00pm Fellowship

*Childcare for children up to 3 years old is available during the service.
If you have any questions, please call the church office at 882-7909.*

Important Dates to Remember

September 9th, 7:00pm – English School Registration

September 16th, 7:00pm – English School Classes Begin

September 22nd, 11:30am – All-Church Picnic

September 29th, 10:00am – 1st day of Sunday *Cool*

October 2nd, 5:30pm – Wednesday Night Dinners Resume



August 25, 2019

Dear Lawrence Road friends and family,

There once was a foolish man, Jesus told his followers, who heard the word of God but did not trust in it. He felt secure in his success, confident that it was his own labor that had provided it. Good times would come and this man would celebrate, party hearty as if there were no tomorrow. But there is always a tomorrow and when tomorrow came, when mourning, and crying, and pain came, he was woefully unprepared. He was like a man, Jesus said, who built his house on sand. And when the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, it fell—and great was its fall.

Of course, being one of Jesus' stories, there was another man, too. A wise man who heard the word of God and did that word, who built his life on the promises of God. Through all the messiness of life, the beginnings and the ends, the sorrow and the joy, the goings-out and the comings-in, this man trusted that God was in it, that God's promises were sure, that despite the evidence of his eyes, despite the mourning, and the crying, and the pain, God was faithful, God was steadfast, God's love was eternal, and God would see him through.

He was, Jesus said, like the man who constructed his house on the rock. The rains fell on him, too. The floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, too. But it didn't fall. Its foundation was the solid rock of the eternal God. And what God does endures forever.

I can't help but wonder if Jesus had the words of Ecclesiastes 3 in mind when he told this story. For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time for the rain to fall and the floods to come and the winds to blow and beat upon our houses.

A time for the foolishness of lives built on the shifting sands of culture and fashion and peer pressure and our fickle desires and agendas to show themselves as the flimsy, unstable constructions that they are. A time for the wisdom of standing on the solid rock of God's eternal steadfast and faithful love to be realized and celebrated. A time indeed for everything under heaven.

And we know that that is true. We may not want to accept that life is messy by nature, by design. We may not want to accept that joy comes in the morning but quite often only after a night of great sorrow and pain. We may not want to accept that beginnings beget endings, and death is as much a part of life as birth. But if we live long enough, we know it. God has made it that way. All of it is part of life, the beginnings and the endings. All of it, the good, the bad, the ugly, is in the hands of God.

To know that, to build our lives on the truth that there is nothing that is not covered by the life-giving shadow of God's wings, that there is nowhere that God is not, is the solid rock that allows our house to stand through the storms that are a part of living. What we experience on the bad days and the really, really terrible days is not God's doing, but God is in it, God is with us, God is steadfast, faithful, eternal, and we are not alone. What God does endures forever, and what God does is love us through everything, every time, every season, no matter what. Stand on the rock of that blessed assurance and, when the floods come, and they surely will, our house will stand.

For everything there is a season and time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to begin and a time to end. God has made it this way and what God does endures forever. And what God has done is love us through all the seasons and all the times. And that love, my friends, will never end.

But my ministry among you will. It's the way of things, the way God has made the world to be. Nothing lasts forever, nor does God intend it to. There is a time and a season for everything. During Vacation Bible School this year, one of the moms gave me a hug and told me how much her daughters loved VBS every year and how much they loved me. We're already talking, she said, about how wonderful it will be when you officiate their weddings. Dear friends, her oldest daughter was 5. I'm flattered, really, but by the time that little girl is marriage age, I'll be pushing 90. God has made it that way on purpose—and no amount of wishful thinking is going to change that reality.

I have been your pastor for more than seventeen years. My service among you has been one of the most beautiful seasons of my life. Every day, the good days and the bad days, the days when we laughed and the days when we wept, the days that we built things that were amazing and the days when we tore down things that were no longer working, the days when we planted seeds among our children that we pray will bear powerful fruit and the days when we plucked up what had been planted and said goodbye to beloved sisters and brothers in faith, all of them were blessings that continue to resonate in my life and will stay with me until Christ comes to take me home. I will never forget all the beginnings that we have celebrated together.

But it is time now for my ministry among you to end. On Wednesday of this week, I will ask session to vote to recommend that you concur with my request to be released from our covenantal relationship as pastor and people as of December 31 of this year.

It's not an easy decision, but it is the right one. Because for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. And because I rest on the rock solid truth that, through it all, through the mourning and the dancing, the gathering and the sending, the weeping and the laughing, the ending and the beginning, God is in it, God is good, God is faithful, God is with us, and we will not be alone. For God is love, eternal, unchanging, steadfast, forever love. And, my friends, if we've learned anything in these past 17 years together, it's that love wins.

With all faith, hope, and love,

Rev. Dr. Nina Peck Reeder

Pre-school and Elementary Sunday *Cool*
Every Sunday
during 10am worship
beginning Sunday, September 29

Calling all kids, preschool through 5th grade! We start this year with Jesus as a boy lost in the Temple. Then we'll pick the story with John the Baptist eating grasshoppers and honey in the wilderness and move on Mary and the angel of God foretelling the coming of the Messiah. Your children will explore through art, music, story, cooking, and the magic of puppetry the many ways that God is at work in our lives.

Children will start in church with their families and then will move to Sunday *Cool* after the children's message. You will pick them up downstairs after church. Please bring your children and then stay to worship yourselves. We look forward to this exciting new way of sharing God's love with our kids.

Mark your calendars—

Sunday *Cool* fun begins—September 29 during 10am worship



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer is never quite long enough, but it is an opportunity to kick back a little. As it draws to an end, it is time to rev up again and start a new school year.

Orientation Day is Friday, September 6 and our first week of school begins on Monday, September 9. We are welcoming 53 children and 48 families to our 2019 - 2020 school year. We have 3 sets of twins, which is fun and a significant number considering we are not a large preschool. We have several openings remaining in our three-year-old program, but we are at capacity in other classes.

The teachers are busy sprucing up their classrooms and preparing for an exciting year. I want to express our gratitude to Roger Leigh and Emilio Jimenez for their hard work in getting the school ready. We appreciate all they do for us.

Wishing all a wonderful September!

LOG High School Youth Fellowship

For those new to the area or the church, the youth group at Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church is called LOG which stands for Love of God. The group meets weekly and supports one another as we navigate our faith in a world that is often difficult to have a lot of faith in. The LOG group has been keeping in touch with one another and the adults throughout the summer. Some of our group helped out with Vacation Bible School in July bringing energy to the week and fun to the kids. Last month, we headed to Colonial Lanes for fun and fellowship! Who knew that the adults could bowl so well! And still, the youth's scores beat the adults by many points! We continue to hold game nights where our youth challenge each other in a variety of team building games and other meaningful and fun activities. The adult team has met a few times over the past few weeks to solidify programming for the fall.

We look forward to the upcoming months filled with weekly Wednesday night dinners followed by games, conversations, and fellowship, hiking, bowling, music, lock-ins, and more! We will begin this year with a kick-off on Sunday September 22nd at 11:30Am, joining the congregation in the all church picnic with lunch and an outing following the picnic.

LOG is held every Wednesday, beginning October 2 from 5:30-8pm. Dinner with the church is at 5:30pm in Fellowship hall.

We are so excited to start up again and we look forward to a fun-filled and meaningful year!

Danielle Allison



CHOIR NOTES

Our wonderful choir will resume rehearsals in September. It's going to be a great season, filled with a variety of dynamic new music and "old favorite."

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY REHEARSALS (9 - 10:00 am)

Sept. 8

Sept. 15

Sept. 22 SING: The Light of God's Love

Sept. 29

THURSDAY MORNING REHEARSALS (10:00 am - 11:00 am)

Sept. 5

Sept. 12

Sept. 19

Sept. 26

Stay tuned for information on occasional weekday evening rehearsals as we prepare for Lessons and Carols.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & ADULT SEMINAR

BEGINNING OCTOBER 2



Sanctuary Flowers

LRPC needs some Flower Power! If any of the dates below are meaningful to you, either as a memorial, or a celebration, please consider being a flower donor. The cost is \$30 for two bouquets. You decide what the dedication will say and the flowers will be in the church sanctuary for Sunday worship on the date donated with your dedication in the bulletin. Please contact Mary Loetscher at Johnmary93@verizon.net, or call **609-882-4390** if you are interested or if you have any questions.

The dates that are still open are: **September 22 and 29; October 6 and 27; December 1, 8, and 15**

Some people keep them, some donate one or both to the Deacons to take to our sick or homebound members, the choice is yours.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 2	Kelsey Holt
Sept. 3	Richard Miller
Sept. 6	Brian Friedeborn Stephanie Gregg Jacquie Pillsbury
Sept. 10	Shirley Guenther
Sept. 11	Brooke Carter Hsu
Sept. 14	Ezekiel D'Ascoli Isabella D'Ascoli
Sept. 15	Roger Leigh
Sept. 17	Ryan Anderson
Sept. 18	James Nagele
Sept. 24	Amelia Baffuto John Murawski Ifeoma Ogbonnaya
Sept. 25	Josefina Vasquez
Sept. 28	Michelle Marandola
Sept. 29	Jayne Maltman

The English School

at the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church



The English School is getting ready for the fall 2019 semester and looking for volunteers!

Please consider joining The English School as a volunteer. Come to one of our upcoming training sessions: Wednesday, August 28 or Thursday, August 29 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities. Your time will make a difference in the life of someone who needs your support.

Wednesday Night Conversation: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

The English School is looking for Wednesday night conversation group leaders from 6:30 pm- 8:00 pm, from September 18, 2019 until November 20, 2019. Students are grouped in their levels (Basic, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 or Level 4). Volunteers do not have to come every week. Even one week of conversation will help our students practice their speaking skills.

Depending on the number of students attending, a volunteer may have a group of students by himself or may have another tutor working with him. The goal is to have expose ESL students to more English speaking voices and therefore, improve their listening and their speaking skills.

Thursday Night Tutoring Hour: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (choose an hour)

The English School is looking for volunteers to tutor a single or group of students from September 19, 2019 until November 21, 2019. Three time slots are available: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, 7:00 pm –8:00 pm and 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to attend every week with their assigned student(s). The goal of tutoring is to assist student with their English reading, writing, speaking and listening and build a rapport with the student.

Sincerely,
Paula Rainey

Please contact:

Paula Rainey, Managing Director
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