



Real Connections

SEPTEMBER 2026 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Labor Day - September 7th

Men's Group Meeting (6:30 p.m. Library)
– September 8th

Trustees Meeting (6:30 p.m.) –
September 9th

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) –
September 9th

Preschool Back in Session (9:45 a.m.) –
September 10th & 11th

UWIF (10:00 a.m. Library) – September
12th

Youth Group resumes - September 13th

Prayer Group (6:00 p.m.) - September
14th

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) –
September 16th

Epilogue (11:30 a.m. Lori's Wildwood
Restaurant) – September 16th

Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) - September
16th

SPRC (6:30 p.m.) – September 17th

Prayer Group (6:00 p.m.) - September
21st

Preschool Open House – September 23rd

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) –
September 23rd

Crop Walk - September 27th (2:00 p.m.
Presque Isle)

Annual Charge Conference (3:00 p.m.) –
September 27th

Prayer Group (6:00 p.m.) - September
28th

Womens' Bible Study (9:30) – September
30th



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Please see pages 2 and 3 of this
month's newsletter.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathleen

Council Update - September 2026

Ministry Next Steps: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Ministry Fair and signed up to serve! We are excited to begin this next chapter of ministry and the work of supporting our neighbors.

If you signed up, you will be contacted by the leaders of the two ministries you rated as #1 and #2. They will reach out to discuss the ministry, your interests, and the ways you would like to participate and support the work.

If you did not have an opportunity to sign up, it's not too late! You can sign up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/JTdkQJc6RsqtEXKp7>

Everyone has a gift to share, and everyone is called to serve! We look forward to seeing how God will use our gifts as we Connect. Grow. Serve.

Coming Soon. . . Lakewood Apparel

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 16.

LITTLE LIONS

Updates from Lakewood Preschool

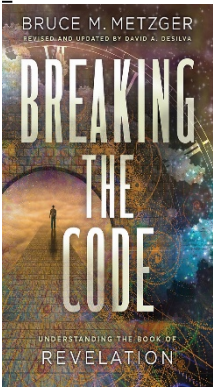
Exciting things are happening! We will have 54 new students starting this fall. Our orientation day is on September 9. We are going to be putting up a new outdoor sign very soon! The Toddler and Me session starts at the end of September, and we currently have 30 kids enrolled.

We have a Lakewood Preschool attire link if you want to support the school. The school gets money back from each purchase.

Would you like to know more about....?

These are possible studies for the fall. We are wondering what is of interest to you and what days and times would best fit your schedule. These studies would be offered both in person at the church and online (Zoom). Please us know by filling out the form on the bottom and drop into the collection plate.

"Breaking the Code" by Bruce Metzger; revised and updated by David DeSilva

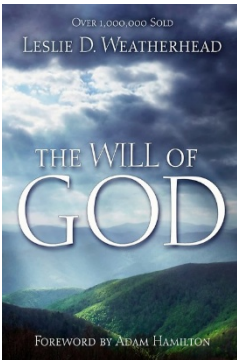


Although many Christians find the **Book of Revelation** to be full of great beauty and comfort, others find this part of the Bible bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Bruce M. Metzger provides one of the most important and trustworthy guides to Revelation, and now it includes findings from the most current biblical research.

In *Breaking the Code Revised Edition*, you'll still find Dr. Metzger's rich content and insights presented in his approachable, non-academic style, but now with additional teaching from New Testament scholar David deSilva.

Come join us for a study that explores the original intentions and current faithful applications of this powerful statement to the church amid difficult times. Resurrection hope is not just an individual reality, it is a graceful gift of God to the world.

"The Will of God" by Leslie Weatherhead;



"Tragedy befalls us and leaves us confused. Life doesn't turn out as we had planned. World events bring unspeakable horrors into the lives of innocent people. The unimaginable happens and we are left asking, 'Why? Why did God let this happen? ...'" (From the introduction)

It was during the tumultuous era of World War II that Leslie D. Weatherhead, a British clergyman, preached five sermons on understanding the will of God for the congregation at City Temple in London. These sermons became the classic book *The Will of God*, which has helped hundreds of Christians explore how God's will is related to God's character and ultimate intentions for us.

Our Study will incorporate the book topics, videos of current thinkers and people of faith; to add to our discussions.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

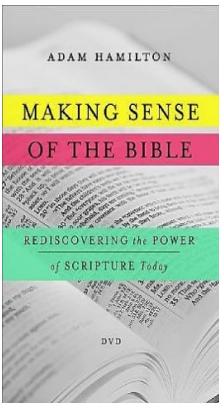
Email: _____

I would be interested in: ☐ Breaking the Code ☐ Will of God
 ☐ Making Sense of the Bible ☐ Art and Practice of Prayer

I would like to meet: ☐ in person ☐ online (Zoom)

Days and time that work best for me: ☐ Monday Morning ☐ Monday Evening
 ☐ Tuesday Morning ☐ Tuesday Evening
 ☐ Thursday Morning ☐ Thursday Evening

"Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton



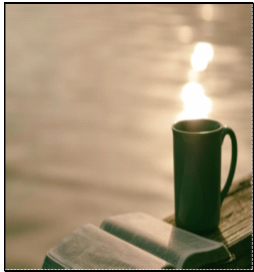
In Making Sense of the Bible, Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, Is the Bible ever wrong?

From there, Hamilton considers the real questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike, including:

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"?
- Is Jesus the only way to salvation? • How does God view homosexual people?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving

The Art and Practice of Prayer - Video and discussion



What is prayer? Does it simply consist of getting something out of God or does it tap into something deeper in us, a longing for intimate connection, as a parent picks up a child to hold them? This curriculum is to start the discussion as to what prayer means and how we regain a practice that is at the core of who we are. We will hear from theologians and thinkers who share their own journeys of prayer. Part of the curriculum will provide suggestions for practices that can either be done alone or communally.

Topics include: Prayer as Emptying and Making Room, Prayer as Communion, Prayer as the Gift of Presence, Prayer as Breath for the Journey, Prayer as an Agent of Transformation, Prayer as Listening.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would be interested in: ☐ Breaking the Code ☐ Will of God

☐ Making Sense of the Bible ☐ Art and Practice of Prayer

I would like to meet: ☐ in person ☐ online (Zoom)

Days and time that work best for me: ☐ Monday Morning ☐ Monday Evening

☐ Tuesday Morning ☐ Tuesday Evening

☐ Thursday Morning ☐ Thursday Evening

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Gilchrist	09/01
Alexandra Gilchrist	09/01
Errol Lim	09/01
Maggie Marsden	09/01
Jeremiah Bull	09/02
Phillip Lawton	09/02
Linda Offner	09/02
Neal Gerarde	09/05
Megan Hulick	09/05
Chip Fried	09/06
Janice Day	09/07
Stuart Enterline	09/08
Janice Daeschner	09/09
Dennis Morell	09/13
Emma Hess	09/15
Adrienne Hess	09/17
Jennifer Lyons	09/20
Matthew Renshaw	09/22
Louise Giddings	09/25
Janice Naglowsky	09/25
Daniel Goodman	09/26
Matthew Killian	09/27
Robert Lewis	09/27
Nancy Pence	09/27
Sharon Pike	09/27
Michael Renshaw	09/28
Dennis Belknap Sr	09/29



It is almost time for the 51st annual Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. This event raises money for people who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world. 25% of funds collected will be used to address hunger issues here in the Erie area. Last year, the Erie County Walk raised a record \$108,540!

The Walk is scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, September 27**, and will begin at the **Beach 1 Runner's Pavilion** on **Presque Isle**. Our team will meet at 1:15 p.m. at the site and the Walk will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Lakewood United Methodist Church has a team registered online, so please join our team or sponsor our team. You can register and/or donate by going to the following link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/home>

If the link does not work, do an online search for Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. Donation collection envelopes and other informational materials for interested walkers will be available in mid-August. Contact Chris Paul for additional details. If you are not walking, please consider sponsoring one of the Lakewood walkers or the Lakewood team.

United Women in Faith

Lakewood United Women in Faith will be meeting Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We will be discussing plans for the rest of the year. Any interested women are encouraged to attend.



AUGUST 2026 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship:

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube):

Average weekly combined "attendance" for August:

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date:

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



TRACY/ASBURY BACKPACK PROGRAM 2026-2027

Food insecurity impacts 1 in 5 children and can make it more difficult for students to learn and be successful in school. Second Harvest Food Bank provides needed food for children through the Backpack Food Program each week from October through June. Students receive two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and snacks for the weekend.

Since 2014, Lakewood has provided volunteers to pickup the food from SHFB, pack the bags at Lakewood and deliver bags to Tracy and Asbury schools. We have had many faithful and reliable volunteers these past 12 years and are grateful for how well our ministry teams work to get the job done each week.

The 2026-2027 program will begin the first week of October. **We are in need of a SHFB pickup driver for the 4th Wednesday morning of the month and a Tracy/Asbury delivery driver to fill in as a back up on Thursday mornings when needed.**

If you would like to volunteer to help as a driver or packer, please contact Maria Spicher at mespicher56@gmail.com or 814-397-8545.



Erie City Mission volunteers needed Are you looking for an opportunity to directly serve those in need? Lakewood volunteers are needed on Sunday, September 20, to help with preparing and serving a meal and providing fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Contact Lisa Medina or Chris Paul if you have additional questions. Volunteers meet at about 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. We usually need about 10 volunteers so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you are interested in helping with this ministry but are unable to serve on September 20, there will be one more opportunity to serve in 2026 on November 15.



Lakewood Youth News

Helping youth to discover, experience and know the
love and presence of Jesus Christ.

Meeting Schedule

Students in grades 6th – 12th are welcome to join us.

Come anytime!
Attendance is not mandatory.

September 13: Kick Off Sunday 10:30 am – 11:45 am

September 20: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

September 27: Crop Walk or Outing or Event - TBD

October 4: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

October 11: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

October 18: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

October 25: District Youth Event – Halloween Party
South Harborcreek UMC - 5:00 – 8:00 pm

November 1: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

November 8: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

November 15: Youth Outing or Event – TBD

November 22 - 29: No Meeting

*Dates and events are subject to change as opportunities arise or change.

Contact Information

For questions and concerns please contact us any time.

Jackie and Jeremiah Bull

Home: 814-833-4520

Call or Text: 814-323-6805

Email: missjackie77@hotmail.com