



The STEEPLE

Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church

October 2020

Pastor David Missel
382-3311 - Office

LEPC website and Facebook:
www.seekinggodtogether.com
www.facebook.com/UPCLeicester

It is our desire to assist anyone who is seeking help, if possible, whether it be spiritual or otherwise. Please contact Pastor David or any Session Elder if you would like us to be of help."

LEPC NEWS

Prayer Ministry

For the upcoming week I intend to pray for _____.

New Members Class

Session is still seeking individuals who would like to establish a deeper commitment to the local church by becoming members at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

This "New Members Class" would provide "instruction in faith, worship, and the mission of the Church, as well as instruction for participating in the government and decision-making life of the congregation." (*EPC Book of Government 8-1*).

For those who desire to make this commitment, please talk with Pastor David who will be leading the class.

Witness

Missions: Session acted to provide \$450 from the Mission Account for tuition assistance to enable Elizabeth Donnelly to attend the Genesee Country Christian School. Due to the pandemic adjustments at York Central, this is an answer to prayer for her mom who would have had to choose between work or staying at home with Elizabeth because of the amount of virtual schooling that is done from home. The Genesee Country Christian School

holds classes each day in school which allows Charissa to keep working. Praise the Lord!

Food Pantry: The pantry is getting low on the following: cans of vegetables, fruit, soup, and meat. Instant potato packages, pancake mix, envelopes of pasta mixes, and crackers are also low. Thank you very much.

LEPC Rummage Sale

Thank you to all who contributed to the Rummage Sale through your prayers, labor, and donations. Rummage Sale proceeds are disbursed as follows: 25% goes to the Missions Fund and 75% goes to the Church Operating Fund. The total for this year was \$1,301.00. The Missions Fund will receive \$325. There were some advertising expenses to subtract, and then the balance will go into the Church Operating Fund.

To God Be The Glory!

YCS School Supplies

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this special offering with your prayers, time, and donations.

Dish to Pass Luncheon

The luncheons will begin again immediately following worship on October 11th. Please bring a dish to pass, and stay to enjoy some food and fellowship. Table service and refreshments will be provided.

Stewardship:

LEPC Financial Update for August: Operating Income: \$4,766.00, Operating Expense: \$2,616.46, Mission Income: \$965.00, Mission Expenditures: \$0.00

Miscellaneous

Puzzles: Looking for a new jigsaw puzzle to put together? LEPC has a selection from which you may borrow. It is located to the right of the TV in Fellowship Hall. Do you have a puzzle you would like to put on loan? Just mark your name on the back, add one of the puzzle labels to the box, and leave it on the puzzle table.

Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ, on behalf of The Genesee Country Chris-

tian School, will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the school located at 4120 Long Point Road, Geneseo, NY. Adult tickets \$10.00, Children tickets \$5.00. Call 585-243-9580 for more information.

Women of Encouragement

WOM has reconvened. They meet on Wednesday afternoons in Fellowship Hall from 1-5 p.m. All women are invited.

Monthly Celebrations

October Birthdays

24 Jan Wright

Anniversaries: (none listed)

If you see a need for corrections to the Monthly Celebrations, please contact Leo Richardson: grichardson001@rochester.rr.com



Jacksonville (Ore.) Presbyterian Church opens sanctuary as shelter for wildfire evacuees, seeks prayer

Jacksonville Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Ore., opened its multi-purpose sanctuary for evacuees of the Alameda Fire that has burned 3,200 acres and destroyed at least 600 homes.

As wildfires ravage the West Coast destroying thousands of acres of timberland and homes — including the homes of three of his church families — an EPC pastor in southwest Oregon is requesting "prayer for wisdom and a vision" as the church seeks to minister to those amid the storm.

"It's pretty overwhelming," said Dustin Jernigan, Lead Pastor of Jacksonville Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Ore. "It's hard not to find somewhere on the Oregon map where a community hasn't been decimated. There are whole towns that are just gone."

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 87 large wildfires are burning in California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Many residents are under evacuation orders. In Oregon alone — Gov. Kate Brown said the state has never before had so

many uncontained fires—more than a million acres have burned. As of September 14, at least 35 people have died as a result of nearly 100 wildfires that have scorched more than 4.7 million acres. At least four people died from the Alameda Fire, which burned 3,200 acres about 10 miles east of Jacksonville between Medford and Ashland, Ore.

Dustin Jernigan reported a “heavy orange haze over Jacksonville and the entire region, causing terrible air quality.” Coupled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that residents are weary.

“It feels that we have already been running a marathon, and all of a sudden a bear showed up and is chasing us,” he said. “We are already exhausted. Now we have a whole different problem. Some people don’t have a place to sleep tonight. The main thing we need is prayer for wisdom, a plan, and a vision.”

The church opened its multi-purpose sanctuary the weekend of September 11-13 to about a dozen families who either had lost their homes or who were fleeing the devastation of the wildfires. Following the first few days, the number of people utilizing the shelter diminished, after which people were taken into church member’s homes.

Brenda Rosch, one of those who stayed at the church, told the Wall Street Journal that she fled her mobile home near Medford with only the clothes on her back and a tablet computer. The entire mobile home park where her home was located was destroyed.

“I was resting, and the next thing I know the sheriffs are outside, there is dense smoke in the valley, really thick smoke, and the sheriffs are outside saying evacuate now, evacuate now,” Rosch said.

Wildfires have resulted in an orange haze enveloping the region around Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. The church was organized in 1857 and is the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the region.

When the evacuation order went out last week, Jernigan said he drove to the downtown area of Jacksonville to let the police know the church would be opening its doors to the dis-

placed. While there he met a family who had driven three hours south from Eugene to the Medford area in an attempt to get away from the smoke of the fires.

“The irony was that one of our children’s directors had just left our town to drive three hours north to Eugene with the same idea in mind. To me, that is symbolic of the panic that we face. People are driving hours away and to get away from the fires. It’s a statewide problem,” he said.

Richard Evans, who serves the congregation as Associate Pastor for Missions, Discipleship, and Congregational Care, said he sees God at work in the crisis.

“I just see so many ‘God things’ in this,” he said, recounting an experience of one of the families in the church that lost everything.

“The afternoon of the day the fire ripped through—when it was nowhere near them at that point—the member went out for a hair appointment and something told them to take their dog with them. As much as they’ve lost, if they had lost their dog as well it would have been devastating,” Evans said. “It might seem like a small thing, but our lives are about everything, even small things. Yet I know a lot of people who haven’t been able to save their pets.”

Kate Hoskin, who grew up in the church and has a master’s in counseling psychology, addressed the congregation on September 13 at Jernigan’s request.

“She said that if people do not begin processing a crisis like what residents are experiencing, that in 72 hours PDS (Prolonged Duress Stress Disorder) can set in,” Jernigan said. “But she also said the quicker that people can begin processing their trauma, the better off they are from having longtime effects.”

While the wildfire crisis is the immediate focus, Jernigan added that the pandemic has posed the greater existential threat. The church’s pre-COVID in-person attendance of 400 is now about 200, he said.

“Living here, people have a framework for wildfires. People don’t have a framework for not doing corporate worship for a year and a half. That’s more of, ‘What in the world,

how do we continue operating?’”

He said the combination of the pandemic and wildfires has impacted his own family and their 5-year-old special needs son.

“I want to remind other EPC churches that COVID has been especially hard on families with special needs, because they have had to forgo in-person schooling and services like therapies,” he said. “Now for us, it’s even harder because our son can’t even go outside, he can’t go to speech therapy, physical therapy. We don’t do Sunday School like we used to, and we don’t see friends like we used to. I just want to blow that horn and say, ‘Hey pastors, if you have families with kids with special needs, they are a particularly affected group of people right now.’”

by Tim Yarbrough
EPCConnection correspondent

This entry was posted in Church News, Ministers, Pastors, People, Small Church on September 16, 2020 by EPCConnection.

Wise people...

...bring joy to their faith (Prov. 10:1).
...work hard (Prov. 10:5).
...accept instruction (Prov. 10:8).
...treasure knowledge (Prov. 10:14).

...listen to others (Prov. 12:15).
...stay calm when insulted (Prov. 12:16).

...think before they act (Prov. 13:16).
...walk with those who are wise (Prov. 13:20).

...look ahead to see what is coming (Prov. 13:20).
...act cautiously and avoid danger (Prov. 14:16).

...make learning a joy (Prov. 15:14).
...are hungry for truth (Prov. 17:27).
...manage their anger (Prov. 29:11).

...generously shares with those less fortunate (Prov. 22:9).
...walk with integrity (Prov. 11:3).

Be wise.

Have a great day!

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

<https://thepreachersword.com>

post at the Preachers Word 9/25/2020

9/11 Remembered

These photographs were submitted by Susan Jackson. She took them this past September 11th at the **Flight 93 Memorial** in Shanksville, PA.



The flight path of the doomed airliners.



Marine One brings the President and First Lady.



The field where they lie.



The Tower of Voices - 40 chimes for 40 heroes.



Shanksville Fire Department memorial.



"A common field one day. A field of honor forever."



Fire Department receives a rousing welcome with cheers and honking of horns.



The faces of those lost.

The Steeple Newsletter

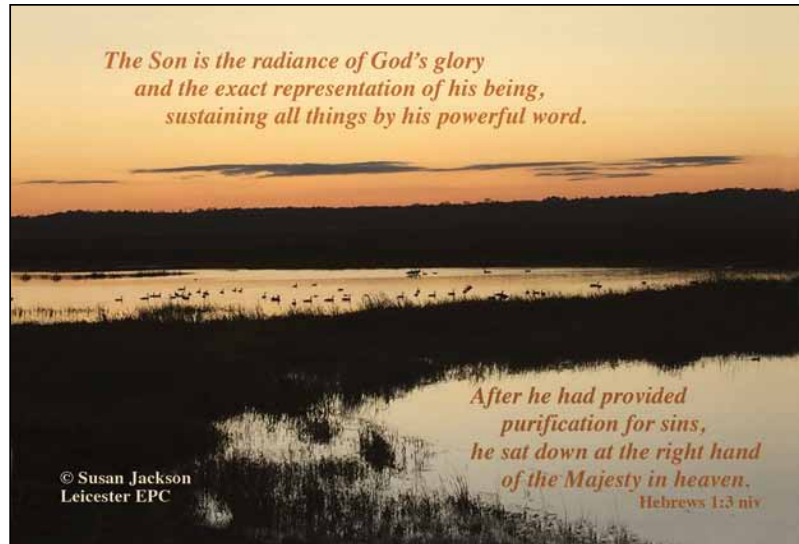
is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of local events, provide information to stimulate and edify it's readers, mixed with a touch of humor to lighten the day.

Submission Deadline:

The 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

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Steeple Staff
Technical Advisor, Sharon Richardson



FREE
Scripture Postcards are available at
Leicester EPC.

This month's Scripture Postcard is a photo taken by Susan Jackson.



Leicester EPC

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**If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands.**

If not, count your blessings.

For Emergencies or Personal Matters

Pastor David Missel 382-3311 Church
658-1197 Residence

*Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays
as his day off so matters of less urgency could
be left on the church office answering device,
or call one of the Ruling Elders:*

George Briggs 585-382-3038
Gene Gregg 585-382-3027
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Carol Griffen 585-382-3681

Other Contacts:

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LEPC Food Pantry (by appointment only):
585-245-3448
Sunshine Person - Cathy Mlyniec:
cmlyniec@gmail.com

*"I have come that they may have life
and have it abundantly."*

John 10:10

LEPC Supports Our EduNations Child

Margret Conteh

Margret lives in Sierra Leone, Africa, where the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reaches out with the Gospel in several villages. Margret attends the Mayatta Hope Academy in Makump.

Please remember her in your prayers and in your giving to the Missions Fund.

