



### **It's Going to Turn Out All Right**

Inspiration comes from:  
Calm Moments for Anxious Days  
by Max Lucado

**“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take  
courage. I am here!”**

— Matthew 14:27 NLT

God’s call to courage is not a call to naïveté or ignorance. We aren’t to be oblivious to the overwhelming challenges that life brings.

***We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*** — Hebrews 2:1 NASB

### **Do whatever it takes to keep your gaze on Jesus.**

When a friend of mine spent several days in the hospital at the bedside of her husband, she relied on hymns to keep her spirits up. Every few minutes, she stepped into the restroom and sang a few verses of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Do likewise! Memorize Scripture. Read biographies of great lives. Ponder the testimonies of faithful Christians. Make the deliberate decision to set your hope on him.

As followers of God, you and I have a huge asset. We know everything is going to turn out all right. Christ hasn’t budged from his throne, and Romans 8:28 hasn’t evaporated from the Bible. Our problems have always been his possibilities.

**Feed your fears, and your faith will starve. Feed your faith, and**

### **your fears will.**

We know everything is going to turn out all right. That’s the promise of Romans 8:28. But it’s hard to remember when all the possibilities of what could go wrong are swirling around us. When fear is plentiful, let’s fix our gaze on Jesus and remember this:

***We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

— Romans 8:28 NKJV

### **God’s Promise to Me**

The Lord is in control. He knows how it all turns out. And He promised it will be for my good. He will give me the courage to keep going and the hope to hold on.

### **Believe He Can**

***Don’t be afraid; just believe.***

— Mark 5:36

The presence of fear does not mean you have no faith. Fear visits everyone. Even Christ was afraid (Mark 14:33). But make your fear a visitor and not a resident. Hasn’t fear taken enough? Enough smiles? Chuckles? Restful nights, exuberant days? Meet your fears with faith. Do what my father urged my brother and me to do. Summertime for the Lucado family always involved a trip from West Texas to the Rocky Mountains. (Think Purgatory to Paradise.) My dad loved to fish for trout on the edge of the white-water rivers. Yet he knew that the currents were dangerous and his sons could

be careless. Upon arrival we’d scout out the safe places to cross the river. He’d walk us down the bank until we found a line of stable rocks. He was even known to add one or two to compensate for our short strides. As we watched, he’d test the stones, knowing if they held him, they’d hold us. Once on the other side, he’d signal for us to follow.

“Don’t be afraid,” he could have said. “Trust me.”

We children never needed coaxing. But we adults often do. Does a river of fear run between you and Jesus? Cross over to Him.

### **Believe He can. Believe He cares.**

Does the path ahead look uncertain, even frightening? Maybe this image will help. When a father leads his four-year-old son down a crowded street, he takes him by the hand and says, “Hold on to me.” He doesn’t say, “Memorize the map.” Or, “Take your chances dodging the traffic.” Or, “Let’s see if you can find your way home.” The good father gives the child one responsibility:

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### ***LEPC Mission Statement:***

*We at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We prayerfully seek to do His will through the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship, discipleship, ministry, mission, fellowship and continually strive to make this church one that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.*



**Pastor David Missel**

585-658-1197 Residence  
djmguided1947@gmail.com  
585-382-3311 Church

*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.*

**When Pastor David is unavailable:**

*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
  - Patty Gregg 585-245-1311
  - Carol Griffen 585-382-3681
  - Shirley Matthews 585-382-3171
  - Cathy Mlyniec 585-322-6669
- Clerk of Session*
- Leo Richardson 585-382-3153

**Other Contacts**

**LEPC website:**

www.seekinggodtogether.com

**LEPC Email Address:**

grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

**LEPC Food Pantry:**

(by appointment only)  
585-245-3448

**Sunshine Person:**

Cathy Mlyniec  
cmlyniec@gmail.com

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Over the years, I have encountered many people whose thoughts are controlled by the emotion of worry. I share the following devotion with you; written by Dr. David Jeremiah, as something to seriously consider when you find yourself tempted to worry about something over which you have no control. I hope it will bring clarity between worry and concern.

As we journey through the year ahead, let us choose to trust in the faithfulness of God and do our part to execute our God given responsibilities.

Trusting in God,  
Pastor David

**THE SIN OF WORRY**

By Dr. David Jeremiah

***Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.*** Luke 12:22-23

Let me begin by stating something that you may or may not agree with: worry is sin. Worry is not part of our personality; it is not something to be excused because “everybody does it.” From God’s perspective, worry is sin. But in order to clarify this (it’s important to know when we are sinning and when we are not), let’s separate worry from concern.

It is certainly right to be concerned about things that are your responsibility and over which you exercise control. God expects us to be responsible, to be concerned that we follow through on what is ours to do. But worry is concerning yourself about things over which you have no control. Worry is allowing care and concern to escalate beyond the realm of responsibility and into a realm in which you have no authority or control - God’s realm; and that kind of concern, which is worry, is sin.

When we worry, we deny the faithfulness of God-and that is why worry is sin.

**LEPC Annual Congregational Meeting**

Session announces the calling of the Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting for January 26, 2025, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect church officers, approve all treasurer’s reports, and to receive and act upon all other reports and matters brought before the congregation.

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“Hold on to my hand.” When fears threaten your faith, remember this:

**My Scripture of Hope**

***You go before me and follow me. You place Your hand of blessing on my head.*** — Psalm 139:5 NLT

**God’s Promise to Me**

I don’t have to live afraid. Because God cares. He holds my hands and leads me safely to Him.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

***Wishing You and Your Loved Ones a Happy, Healthy and Spirit-Filled New Year!***

## Highlights Regular Session Meeting of 12/12/2024

### Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church and Others we meet:

Members and others in need of physical, emotional and spiritual healing were lifted up in prayer. We also prayed that we all would be good witnesses to those with whom we interact.

### Pastor's Report: *Communications:*

Update on Sonya's condition (*an individual on the LEPC prayer chain*). Multiple solicitations for support were received. No action was taken on these.

**Witness Report: *Food Pantry:*** Six requests for food came in November.

**Missions:** Session approved a donation to Reclaimed Ministries in support of our two missionaries, Tim and Bernadette Negus. LEPC received a thank you acknowledgement from Faith Comes by Hearing Ministry for our donation in November.

**Christian Ed:** The Berean Class is doing a 4 week study on Advent, produced by the Bible Project.

**Property:** William McDougal will again be plowing snow at LEPC this season. The church lawn tractor was tuned up and ready for 2025. We are searching for a new piano tuner.

**Personnel:** Session approved Leo Richardson as Clerk of Session and Carol Griffen as Church Treasurer for 2025.

**Miscellaneous:** Cathy Mlyniec volunteered to organize either a game time or movie time for LEPC in January 2025.

**Next Regular Session Meeting** is scheduled for January 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025.

## Samaritan Purse, Operation Christmas Child

LEPC again participated in Operation Christmas Child. Nine boxes were filled with toys for needy children, while some folks filled a box online, and others donated financially to help with shipping costs, or where needed most.



Photo by Gene Gregg

Five hundred and eighty-seven boxes were collected on "opening day" at the local collection point, Faith Fellowship Church, Lakeville NY, for Operation Christmas Child.

## Monthly Celebrations

### January Birthdays

- 1 Dorothy Sliker
- 8 Paul Griffen
- 16 David Thomson

### Anniversaries:

- 25 M/M Bill Radley

## Prayer Shawl and Lap Robe Ministry

If you know of someone who has serious health problems and would find some encouragement, warmth and comfort from receiving a handmade shawl or lap robe, please contact Carole Missel.

Each robe or shawl given is prayed over specifically for the recipient.

## Liturgists Signup for January

*Thank you to all who have helped in this ministry this past year.*

For those who want to read scripture during Sunday worship, please remember to sign the "Volunteer" list on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. May God Bless!

## Women of Encouragement Christmas Project 2024



### Fatu Thoronka

Fatu is 18 years old and is in the class of JSS1 at Mapainda Junior Secondary School in the Mayatta area, Sierra Leone. Her hobby is volleyball. Please pray for Fatu, her educational future and the other students and teachers at the school.

LEPC supports EduNations through our Missions Funds.

### Continued Prayers for:

*Pray for peace in Jerusalem.*

*May all who love this city prosper.*

*O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls and prosperity in your palaces.*

*For the sake of my family and friends,*

*I will say, "May you have peace."*

*For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,*

*I will seek what is best for you,*

*O Jerusalem.*

Psalm 122:6-9 niv

- Pray for Israel and the Middle East.
- Pray for all hostages and refugees throughout the world.
- Pray for all the "innocent" civilians caught in the middle of war.
- Pray against hatred throughout the world.
- Pray for our soldiers that are in harms way.
- Pray for the persecuted Christians around the world.
- Pray for our church, community and nation.

*God's will be done!*



Two hundred and fifty Christmas ornaments and cards were made by the busy ladies of Women of Encouragement for the residents at the local Nursing Home.



Wendy Mallaber



Patty Gregg



Barb Merrill, sewing, with friend, Cathy.

Women of Encouragement meet on Wednesdays at LEPC and is comprised of ladies with big hearts and a love to quilt and share that love with others! Some of the members attend LEPC and some are friends from the surrounding areas.

What a true Christmas Blessing!

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## Silent Night, Holy Night

Inspiration comes from: **100 Favorite Hymns** by Stacy Edwards

Originally written in German, “Silent Night, Holy Night” is the only one of Joseph Mohr’s works to be translated into English. It was written for a Christmas Eve service at Mohr’s church, but it didn’t catch on for a couple of decades. By the middle of the nineteenth century, however, its popularity had spread. Bing Crosby’s version of this Christmas classic is the fourth best-selling single of all time. (You really can’t go wrong with a Crosby-Christmas combo.)

Over the years, some have questioned the concept of a “silent night” when the song is about a baby being born in a stable. Surely, they claim, there were cries of babe and mother mingled with the noise of various animals. I fear those individuals may have missed the point entirely. It was a silent night in that it was a holy night.

*There is a stillness in holiness that causes worldly noise to fade into the background.*

### Lord, what a holy night it was when love came down to earth.

Take a moment and read the words to Mohr’s hymn. Think about it not in terms of a birth story but as God entering the world.

**Imagine the hush** of Heaven as all the host held their breath.

**Envision the awe** of the shepherds.

**See a silent Joseph** who just witnessed the Son of God being born.

Did a cattle low? Sure.

A baby cry? Absolutely.

But make no mistake. It was a silent, holy night.

**Lord, what a holy night it was when love came down to earth.**

Excerpted with permission from 100 Favorite Hymns by Stacy Edwards, copyright Thomas Nelson.

Submitted by Carole Missel

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## Voice of the Martyr’s:

icommittoprayer.com

November 7, 2024 | East Africa

### Entire Village Changed by God’s Word

As Musa was serving as an imam in his village in East Africa, he kept hearing about his son, Saad, preaching the gospel throughout the village. Saad’s bold witness angered other local Muslim leaders, who warned Musa to stop Saad from evangelizing. Though Musa didn’t find any fault with his son’s evangelistic activities, he decided to confront Saad

about them. But when Musa went to Saad, something surprising happened. Saad was studying the Bible with his pastor, and Musa watched and listened as Saad and the pastor discussed different verses. “He was so impressed at what he was hearing,” a front-line worker said. “He asked them if he could also join them to really understand what the Bible is teaching.” Musa then placed his trust in Christ, which has impacted the whole village. “As a result of his conversion, almost everyone in his village is now Christian,” the front-line worker reported.

November 14, 2024 | India

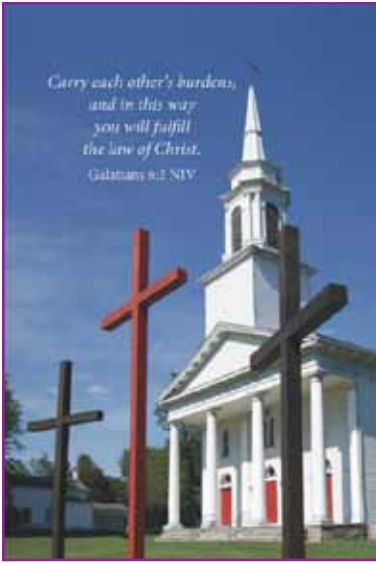
## Jail Time Provides Fruitful Ministry

When Kashvi was visiting her Hindu sister-in-law in the hospital, sharing the gospel and praying with her, another person in the hospital heard her and called the police. Kashvi was arrested under state anti-conversion laws and spent three days in jail. While in jail, she said, she had no fear or worry. She had an opportunity to minister to a girl who had been in prison for two years. Many of the Hindu prisoners and some of the police officials also asked her to pray for them, and she was able to share the gospel with the police superintendent, who had asked her to pray for him after noticing her character and honesty. Since being released, Kashvi has continued her outreach to women in the jail and their children. Pray for Kashvi’s ongoing ministry and for those who heard the gospel during her imprisonment.

November 28, 2024 | Lebanon

## Front-Line Workers Face Danger in War Zones

Christians compose 33% of Lebanon’s population, the largest percentage of Christians in any Middle Eastern country, which has made Lebanon a place of refuge for many persecuted Christians from throughout the region. But the ongoing conflict in the region has created a dangerous environment for front-line workers there. “Bombing is happening on a daily basis in Lebanon,” said one front-line worker. “And one happened very close to one of our workers as he went to meet with some persecution survivors.” The worker requests prayer for “all the churches and Christians there to be fruitful instruments in the hands of the Lord to spread the gospel in such volatile and dangerous circumstances in Lebanon.”



## EPCConnection

EPCConnection is the news and information service of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.



To subscribe go to:  
<https://epconnection.org>

## Everyone is Welcome!

**Sunday morning Worship**  
 9:15 - 9:30 Prayer and Share  
 9:40 - 10:20 Berean Sunday School  
 10:30 - Traditional worship (Hymnals/piano)  
**Communion** First Sunday of the month  
**Dish-to-Pass Luncheon** 2nd Sunday of the month after church



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## 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.

For those who would like a printed version of the church newsletters, we keep the last 2 months' issues in the brochure rack, on the wall to your right, as you exit the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.

**Submission Deadline:**  
**The 3rd Sunday of the month**

**Contact:**  
 Sharon Richardson  
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 Leo Richardson  
 grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

**Staying Connected:** If anyone does not receive the Steeple Newsletter, participate in Prayer Chain Activations, receive church updates by e-mail, or has a change for the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wants to be included, please contact Leo Richardson.