



June 2025

2025 Annual Church Picnic Starr Park Sunday, June 8

Everyone is invited to our yearly Church Picnic in the pavilion at Starr Park, immediately following church.

Assorted meat platter, rolls, condiments, drinks, paper products and utensils will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass, if possible. There will be a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall to designate what dish you will bring.

Feel free to bring any games you would like to play or a lawn chair if you'd like to just relax and enjoy some friendly conversation.

Invite some friends!



Work Has Started on the Church Front Steps!

Andy Davis, of Davis Concrete, LLC in Portageville, began the steps repair in front of the church on May 19th. He, and another worker, removed the step treads to discover that time has had some detrimental effects on the mortar underneath. They must shore up those areas before the new treads can be laid. After the steps are done, we will be replacing the hand railings and adding porch railings to the ends of the porch.

We have yet to hire anyone for the railings, but we have been in contact with a few railing contractors.

Once this is done we expect everyone will want to make good use of the front door to enter and exit!





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
Leo Richardson	585-382-3153

(Clerk of Session)

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

JOY THAT STAYS

The following is a devotional written by Dr. David Jeremiah.

***I will see you again and your heart will rejoice,
and your joy no one will take from you.***

John 16:22 NKJV

The joy of Christ doesn't go away. Have you noticed how easily earthly joy can leave? Have you discovered how simple it is for your gladness of today to become your sadness of tomorrow, for your sweetness of the morning to turn into the bitterness of the night? Have you discovered how the people you thought were your friends today can become your enemies of tomorrow, the wisdom you thought was so great yesterday is foolishness today?

Nothing seems to be too stable in the world. You can't really count on much anymore. But the joy of Christ is a continual, never-ending, absolutely constant joy when we follow the principles of the Word of God. This joy survives all the difficult times in life. This joy is not hinged on happenings but on a Person.

In John 16:22, Jesus says, *"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."* Isn't that something? Jesus says the joy He wants to give every one of His children is the kind of joy you don't have to lose. Nobody can take it away from you!

I pray that the JOY Jesus can give will encourage, bless and inspire you to live in His joy and share it with others.

Joyfully yours,
Pastor David



Photo by Wendy Mallaber

***Joyful Father,
who rejoices over us with gladness:
as Jesus endured the cross with joy
for our benefit, give us to be like him
in sharing his joy, in compassion,
kindness, humility and love, with
each other, which we are enabled to
do only by your grace through him,
Jesus our Savior. Amen***

With permission, taken from Paul Tripp Ministries



Present with the Lord

Dorothy (Dot) Sliker, a beloved sister in our family of faith, joined the Church Triumphant on May 6, 2025.

Dot joined the Leicester Presbyterian Church in 1962 and was a faithful member throughout her time here. She taught Sunday School, became an elder of the Church, Clerk of the Church session, Superintendent of Sunday School and was involved in the church women's group, property and worship committees.

Her generous and encouraging character made her a beloved part of the Family of God here at Leicester.

Please keep her entire family in your prayers during their time of loss.



Photo by Wendy Mallaber

New Song Music & Performing Arts Ministries

(A Branch of Reclaimed Ministries, Inc.)

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Psalm 34:8 NKV

Dear Friends and Family,

It's hard to believe that this coming June marks our **30th year** in full-time, support-based ministry, and we can say beyond a doubt that **God has always been faithful!** For the past three decades, we have never received a salary; your generous support along with teaching music lessons and band instrument repair has allowed us to serve the Lord and share the Gospel full-time. We can't begin to thank you for your prayers and tremendous support that keep us and our ministry going!

Since our last prayer letter, Bernadette's dad, Angelo, has had a heart valve replacement and, with the exception of a fall that he had in January, he is steadily improving. He's been working in his bees, mowing the lawn, and he is looking forward to driving again. **Thank you for your prayers!**

The Lord also provided us with a wonderful "new" 2021 Buick Enclave to replace our worn-out 2008 Chevy van. Taking on monthly car payments has been a stretch on our budget, but **God has been faithful.** The Buick was a special blessing when we went to the National Quartet Convention last fall. We rented a very reasonable little cabin just outside of Pigeon Forge, but when we arrived we realized **why** it was so reasonable: ***the driveway was 500 feet straight up the mountain!*** **Praise God for that Buick because our old Chevy wouldn't have made it up that driveway!**

Concerts at the Nite Lite Gospel House have started up for the 2025 Season and the concert attendance has been wonderful! The Lord is also moving us forward with the Handicapped Accessible Bathrooms for the ministry facility. Here Tim is measuring the roof to plan the Bathroom Addition. Tim has taken the lead in coordinating all of the aspects of the project: contacting the Code Officer, scheduling a Septic "Perk" Test, contacting an excavator to uncover the old septic, etc. Tim will even be drawing up the Addition Plans to submit to the Avoca Village Planning Board.

Along with praying for this Project, we have **major prayer request:** as many of you know, Tim has had a number of back surgeries over the years. A few months ago, he made an appointment for a reoccurring foot problem. **Praise God, he doesn't need back surgery!** However, the Podiatrist told him that he does need foot correction surgery otherwise in ten to fifteen years he won't be able to walk. We are placing this issue before the Lord in the hopes that Tim can have the surgery after we get back from the National Quartet Convention in October, but we are certainly fine with God healing his foot and skipping the foot surgery altogether. If surgery is God's plan, then Tim will be out of commission for approximately four months, depending on how the surgery goes. **So, your prayers are greatly appreciated, and we know that God has got this! Thank you again for all that you do!**

All because of Jesus,

Tim & Bernadette

7496 Eagle Valley Road, Savona, NY 14879

607-622-5391 Home & Office (no Texts please)

Monthly Celebrations June Birthdays

8 Cathy Mlyniec
19 Toni Yunker
21 George Briggs

Anniversaries:

27 M/M David Missel



Fatu Thoronka

Please continue to pray for Fatu Thoronka, our EduNations Sponsored Student, and the rest of the students and teachers at Sierra Leon, as they are starting to finish up this 2025 school year.

New Tableclothes Were Purchased for Fellowship Hall!



LEPC Session Highlights of 5/08/2025

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church and others

we meet: Mentioned were various physical difficulties. Member Dorothy (Dot) Sliker passed recently. The Session prayed around the table in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us and how He has been faithful to bring us along. Prayers were lifted up for the family of Dot Sliker and others who recently have passed noted by Session as neighbors and friends, as well as the ailments to be endured. Session also prayed for strength, comfort, guidance, care, and direction as they seek to honor God with our words and actions.

Missions: Our EPC supported missionaries are returning to their posts in the Middle East. Session approved a donation to CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Association) chapter, "Solid Rock Riders" of Hornell, NY.

Property: New tablecloths were purchased for Fellowship Hall. Church steps repair should be starting soon.

Next Session meeting is June 12th at 3:00 p.m.

Yes, the Grass is Still Growing!

Many thanks to all who are helping to keep the Church lawn in "tip top" shape. The Lawn Mowing Sign Up Sheet is on the table to the left of the Memorial case at the back of the Sanctuary. Sign up there or talk to Gene Gregg and let him know when you will be able to help.

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.

Please Pray for Israel

– Pray for Israelis to look to God — and to find Him! Please read and pray Ezekiel 36 over their nation.

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

– Pray for broken hearts to be comforted and healed — both Jewish and Arab.

– Pray for unity to grow and strengthen between Jewish and Arab believers.

– Pray for protection, deliverance, and salvation.

– Pray that they would not be overcome with evil, but that they would overcome evil with good, that God may be glorified.

Liturgists Signup for June

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

May God Bless!

*Praise the Lord, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the
Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.* Psalm 117 niv

Voice of the Martyr's:
icommittoprayer.com

April 10, 2025 | Indonesia

**Continued Healing for
Bombing Survivor**

Fenny's life was forever changed after a May 2018 church bombing in Surabaya, Indonesia, but she continues to heal spiritually and physically. She shared how, through the recovery process, the Lord gave her purpose and helped her understand her worth in God's eyes. She has undergone years of medical treatment and is making much progress. Fenny is now able to drive herself on a motorbike, something that would have been impossible for her even a year ago. Praise God for this progress, and pray that Fenny and the other bombing survivors would continue to experience God's healing in their minds and bodies.

May 1, 2025 | Kenya

Recent Fellowship Highlights Need for Christian Community

When a group of Christian leaders gathered for fellowship, they realized its necessity and importance. The gathering was facilitated by a local pastor, one of only two full-time pastors in the region, and composed of 13 lay leaders. Front-line workers reported that the gathering highlighted the need for more opportunities to fellowship with other Christian workers in this region of Kenya, which is dominated by Islam. "The gratitude of the teachers ... after the fellowship evidenced how they

critically needed such fellowships and encouragements regularly," a front-line worker said. "It was noted that the lack of such fellowships in a hostile environment is dangerous for any Christian and would deny the predominantly Muslim locals to see God's love and mercy demonstrated through Christians." Pray for more opportunities for fellowship and encouragement for the few gospel workers in this region, and for more laborers to join in the ministry.

April 17, 2025 | Burkina Faso

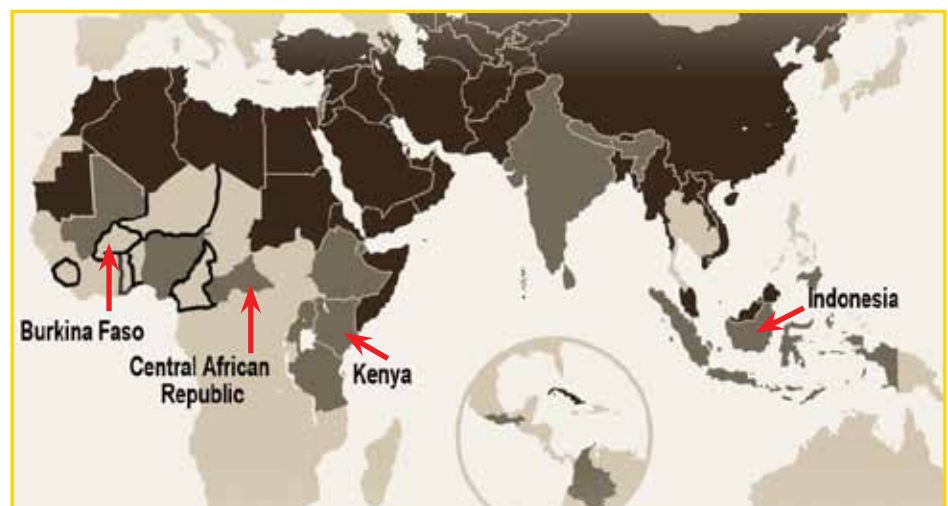
A Solemn Baptism

On Saturday, March 8, eight young Christians were baptized. The ceremony took place in a village in the southwestern part of the country where Muslim terrorists from neighboring Mali sometimes attack and kill followers of Christ. "These baptisms are different than most I have attended as they are quite solemn," said a front-line worker. "Once these individuals are baptized, they are targeted and are likely to be beaten or even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ." As they were being baptized, the Christians sang "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Seven of the newly baptized Christians also received Bibles.

April 24, 2025 | Central African Republic

**Christian Mother Abducted,
Others Killed by Islamists**

On Feb. 13, 2025, Islamists abducted a Christian mother of five as she worked in her family's cropland in Bocaranga, in the northwestern region of the Central African Republic. "That day I didn't go to the garden. I stayed at home," said her husband, Emil. "While she was in the garden, she was caught by them and kidnapped." The kidnappers have called Emil and demanded an exorbitant ransom for her return. "I don't have any solution, so I cry out to the Lord for help in this situation. I cry out to him," he said. On Feb. 27, 2025, Islamists also raided a nearby village, burning 75 homes and killing roughly a dozen people. The Islamist attacks in the area have been ongoing for several years, filling Bocaranga with displaced Christians seeking safety. Local Christian leaders request prayer that God will change the attackers' hearts and bring peace to their land.





Inspiration comes from:

NIV Application Bible

Character of God: God is Love

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. — Ephesians 2:4-5

To anyone who questions whether God truly loves them, Paul can point to a very concrete proof: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God did not love us because we were lovely or perfect or worthy. No, we were sinners, dead in our transgressions (Eph 2:1). God did not love people because we deserved it, and this shows the amazing measure of God’s love.

God’s love is central to His nature.

God lacks nothing, and yet He chose in love to create the universe. This act was selfless, directed out from Himself to His creation. God’s love led Him not only to watch that creation curiously from afar, but also to be involved with it. God upholds the workings of the universe by His loving providential hand.

God’s love led Him even further. When human beings, whom He formed in His image, fell into sin, God did not abandon or destroy them. Rather, He bound Himself to them even more closely. In love, He took on human flesh and came to dwell among people. God the Son emptied Himself of the glories and benefits of Heaven and lived as a man. He allowed Himself to be

arrested and crucified to open the way for eternal life for all believers. God did not do this because He had to; He did it because of love. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us to take away our sin and make us children of God.

APPLICATION

While none of us can love like God, as God’s image-bearers we can imitate God’s love in our world. God’s loving nature is one of His “communicable” attributes — one that we ourselves can share in and demonstrate. When we practice the kind of selfless love Christ demonstrated, we glorify God and point others to Him. No Christian testimony is complete without a deep offering of love.

While none of us can love like God, as God’s image-bearers we can imitate God’s love in our world.

Character of God: God is Truth

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. — John 14:6

Scripture teaches that God is truth. When the Son of God became a human in Jesus, He came “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Speaking to Thomas at the Last Supper, Jesus announced that He was “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

Everything Jesus spoke was the truth. His words were not only His own; He spoke what the Father desired (John 12:49). Therefore,

because we know that God is trustworthy and that God and Jesus are full of truth, we can be assured that no word of Christ will fail. In the same way, we can trust the words of the Bible. If God is truth, then His words in the Bible are true. There are no lies, mistakes, or guesses in God’s Word. Scripture is founded in God’s supreme wisdom and knowledge.

The completely truthful nature of God means that God is in fact the very foundation of truth. Nothing outside of God’s design is true, and there is and there is nowhere else truth can be found. Saint Augustine wrote that wherever truth is found, it belongs to God: All truth is God’s truth. This means that all things in creation that humans discover as facts belong to God. Nothing is outside of God’s domain.

APPLICATION

In today’s world, it can be difficult to know what is true. So many voices clamor for our attention and claim to have the right answer, the true answer. Truth is so important to our society and in relationships. It is necessary for trust. It is necessary for justice. So, how do we pick through the lies and find the truth? In order to know truth, we must know God. When we immerse ourselves in His Word and cultivate a relationship with Him through prayer, we will find that we can discern the truth from lies because we will become transformed into a person more and more like Jesus (Romans 12:2). As we remain in Him, we will know the truth and the truth will set us free (John 8:31-32).

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Submitted by Carole Missel

Contagious Calm

Inspiration comes from:
Anxious for Nothing

by Max Lucado

Editor's note: There's a good reason that Max Lucado is called "America's Pastor." He has his finger on the pulse of the nation and words of healing and hope to share. In this age of fear, anxiety, depression, social unrest, racial divide, we hope you find great comfort in this excerpt of *Anxious for Nothing*.

Disaster was as close as the press of a red button. Four Russian submarines patrolled the Florida coast. US warships had dropped depth charges. The Russian captain was stressed, trigger-happy, and ready to destroy a few American cities. Each sub was armed with a nuclear warhead. Each warhead had the potential to repeat a Hiroshima-level calamity.

Had it not been for the contagious calm of a clear-thinking officer, World War III might have begun in 1962. His name was Vasili Arkhipov. He was the thirty-six-year-old chief of staff for a clandestine fleet of Russian submarines. The crew members assumed they were being sent on a training mission off the Siberian coast. They came to learn that they had been commissioned to travel five thousand miles to the southwest to set up a spearhead for a base near Havana, Cuba.

The subs went south, and so did their mission. In order to move quickly, the submarines traveled on the surface of the water, where they ran head-on into Hurricane Daisy. The fifty-foot waves left the men nauseated and the operating systems compromised.

Then came the warm waters. Soviet subs were designed for the polar waters, not the tropical Atlantic.

Temperatures inside the vessels exceeded 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The crew battled the heat and claustrophobia for much of the three-week journey. By the time they were near the coast of Cuba, the men were exhausted, on edge, and anxious.

The situation worsened when the subs received cryptic instructions from Moscow to turn northward and patrol the coastline of Florida. Soon after they entered American waters, their radar picked up the signal of a dozen ships and aircrafts. The Russians were being followed by the Americans. The US ships set off depth charges. The Russians assumed they were under attack.

The captain lost his cool. He summoned his staff to his command post and pounded the table with his fists. "We're going to blast them now! We will die, but we will sink them all — we will not disgrace our navy!"

The world was teetering on the edge of war. But then Vasili Arkhipov asked for a moment with his captain. The two men stepped to the side. He urged his superior to reconsider. He suggested they talk to the Americans before reacting. The captain listened. His anger cooled. He gave the order for the vessels to surface.

The Americans encircled the Russians and kept them under surveillance. What they intended to do is unclear as in a couple of days the Soviets dove, eluded the Americans, and made it back home safely.

This incredible brush with death was kept secret for decades. Arkhipov deserved a medal, yet he lived the rest of his life with no recognition. It was not until 2002 that the public learned of the barely avoided catastrophe. As the director of the National Security Archive stated, "The lesson from this [event] is that

a guy named Vasili Arkhipov saved the world."¹

Why does this story matter? You will not spend three weeks in a sweltering Russian sub. But you may spend a semester carrying a heavy class load, or you may fight the headwinds of a recession. You may spend night after night at the bedside of an afflicted child or aging parent. You may fight to keep a family together, a business afloat, a school from going under.

You will be tempted to press the button and release, not nuclear warheads, but angry outbursts, a rash of accusations, a fiery retaliation of hurtful words. Unchecked anxiety unleashes an Enola Gay of destruction. How many people have been wounded as a result of unbridled stress?

And how many disasters have been averted because one person refused to buckle under the strain? It is this composure Paul is summoning in the first of a triad of proclamations.

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything. — Philippians 4:5 NIV

The Greek word translated here as gentleness (*epieikes*) describes a temperament that is seasoned and mature.² It envisions an attitude that is fitting to the occasion, level headed and tempered. The gentle reaction is one of steadiness, evenhandedness, fairness. It "looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case."³ Its opposite would be an overreaction or a sense of panic.

This gentleness is "evident to all." Family members take note. Your friends sense a difference. Coworkers benefit from it. Others may freak out or run out, but

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- the gentle person is sober minded and clear thinking. Contagiously calm.

The contagiously calm person is the one who reminds others, “God is in control.”

The gentle person is sober minded and clear thinking. Contagiously calm.

This is the executive who tells the company, “Let’s all do our part; we’ll be okay.” This is the leader who sees the challenge, acknowledges it, and observes, “These are tough times, but we’ll get through them.”

Gentleness. Where do we quarry this gem? How can you and I keep our hands away from the trigger? How can we keep our heads when everyone else is losing theirs? We plumb the depths of the second phrase.

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything — Philippians 4:5-6 NIV

The Lord is near! You are not alone. You may feel alone. You may think you are alone. But there is never a moment in which you face life without help. God is near.

God repeatedly pledges His proverbial presence to His people.

To Abram, God said,

Do not be afraid... I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward. — Genesis 15:1

To Hagar, the angel announced,

Do not be afraid; God has heard. — Genesis 21:17 NIV

When Isaac was expelled from his land by the Philistines and forced to move from place to place, God appeared to him and reminded him,

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. — Genesis 26:24 NLT

After Moses’ death God told Joshua,
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9 NIV

God was with David, in spite of his adultery. With Jacob, in spite of his conniving. With Elijah, in spite of his lack of faith.

Then, in the ultimate declaration of communion, God called Himself Immanuel, which means “God with us.” He became flesh. He became sin. He defeated the grave. He is still with us. In the form of His Spirit, He comforts, teaches, and convicts.

Do not assume God is watching from a distance. Avoid the quicksand that bears the marker “God has left you!” Do not indulge this lie. If you do, your problem will be amplified by a sense of loneliness. It’s one thing to face a challenge, but to face it all alone? Isolation creates a downward cycle of fret. Choose instead to be the person who clutches the presence of God with both hands.

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? — Psalm 118:6 NIV

Because the Lord is near, we can be anxious for nothing.

This is Paul’s point. Remember, he was writing a letter. He did not use chapter and verse numbers. This system was created by scholars in the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. The structure helps us, but it can also hinder us. The apostle intended the words of verses 5 and 6 to be read in one fell swoop.

The Lord is near; [consequently] do not be anxious about anything.

Early commentators saw this. John Chrysostom liked to phrase the verse this way:

*The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety.*⁴

Theodoret of Cyrus translated the words:

*The Lord is near. Have no worries.*⁵

We can calmly take our concerns to God because He is as near as our next breath!

1 Taylor Clark, *Nerve: Poise Under Pressure, Serenity Under Stress, and the Brave New Science of Fear and Cool* (New York: Little, Brown, 2011), 3–9.

2 Gerhard Kittel, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1964), 2:588–89.

3 E. Vine, *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words: A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Original Greek Words with Their Precise Meanings for English Readers* (McLean, VA: MacDonald Publishing, n.d.), “Gentle, Gentleness, Gently,” 484–85.

4 John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians*, trans. Pauline Allen (Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013), 285.

5 Theodoret of Cyrus: *Commentary on the Letters of St Paul*, trans. Robert Charles Hill (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2001), 2:78.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

Walk Away from Worry

Inspiration comes from:
Trade Your Cares for Calm
by Max Lucado

Imagine your whole life untouched by worry. What if faith, not fear, were your default reactions to threats? Envision a day, just one, absent the dread of failure, rejection, and calamity. This is the possibility behind Jesus’ question, “*Why are you afraid?*” (Matthew 8:26 NCV).

Fearless Fear Less Tomorrow

Fear may fill our world, but it doesn’t have to fill our hearts. It will always knock on the door. Just don’t invite it

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in for dinner, and for Heaven's sake,
don't offer it a bed for the night. The
promise of Christ is simple:

**• We can fear less tomorrow
than we do today.**

When I was six years old, my
dad let me stay up late with the rest
of the family and watch the movie
The Wolf Man. Boy, did he regret
that decision. The film left me
convinced that the Wolf Man spent
each night prowling our den, await-
ing his preferred meal of first-grade,
red-headed, freckle-salted boy. My
fear proved problematic.

To reach the kitchen from my
bedroom, I had to pass perilously
close to his claws and fangs, some-
thing I was loath to do. More than
once I retreated to my father's bed-
room and awoke him. Like Jesus on
the boat, Dad was sound asleep in
the storm. How can a person sleep
at a time like this?

Opening a sleepy eye, he would
ask, "Now, why are you afraid?"
And I would remind him of the
monster. "Oh yes, the Wolf Man,"
he'd grumble. He would then climb
out of bed, arm himself with super-
human courage, escort me through
the valley of the shadow of death,
and pour me a glass of milk. I would
look at him with awe and wonder,
What kind of man is this? Might it
be that God views our storms the
way my father viewed my Wolf Man
angst?

*Jesus got up and gave a command to the
wind and the waves, and it became com-
pletely calm. — Matthew 8:26 NCV*

He handles the great quaking with
great calm. The sea becomes as still
as a frozen lake, and the disciples are
left wondering,

*What kind of man is this? Even the wind
and the waves obey Him! — Matthew
8:27 NCV*

What kind of man indeed.

**• We can fear less tomorrow
than we do today.**

God's Word for Your Worries

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? — Psalm 27:1*

*So don't be afraid. You are worth much
more than many sparrows. —Matthew
10:31 NCV*

*I tell you not to worry about everyday life.
—Matthew 6:25 NLT*

*Take courage. I am here! — Matthew
14:27 NLT*

*Do not fear those who kill the body but
are unable to kill the soul. — Matthew
10:28 NASB*

*Do not be afraid, little flock, for your
Father has chosen gladly to give you the
Kingdom. —Luke 12:32 NASB*

*Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in
God, and trust also in Me... I will come
and get you, so that you will always be
with Me where I am. — John 14:1, 3
NLT*

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Submitted by Carole Missel

Lean on Me

Inspiration comes from:

Jesus Calling for Moms

by Sarah Young

Lean on Me as you face the circum-
stances of this day. Whether or not
they realize it, all people lean on —
depend on — something: physical
strength, intelligence, beauty, wealth,
achievements, family, friends, and so
on. All of these are gifts from Me, to
be enjoyed gratefully.

However, relying on any of
these things is risky, because every

one of them can let you down.

When your circumstances are
challenging and you are feeling
weak, you tend to obsess about how
you are going to make it through the
day. This wastes a lot of time and
energy; it also distracts you from Me.
Whenever this happens, ask Me to
open your eyes so you can find Me
in the moment. "See" Me standing
nearby, with My strong arm ex-
tended toward you — offering you
My help. Don't try to pretend that
you have it all together or that you're
stronger than you really are. Instead,
lean hard on Me, letting Me bear
most of your weight and help you
with your problems.

**Rejoice in Me — your
Strength — and worship while
leaning on Me.**

*A man of many companions may come to
ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer
than a brother. — Proverbs 18:24*

*But I will sing of Your strength, in the
morning I will sing of Your love; for You
are my fortress, my refuge in times of
trouble. O my Strength, I sing praise to
You; You, O God, are my fortress, my loving
God. — Psalm 59:16-17*

*By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed
each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped,
leaning on the top of his staff. — Hebrews
11:21*

You Can Rely on Me!

Trust in Me forever, for I am the
Rock eternal. It is easy to trust Me
for a while — especially when things
are going well in your life. But I
am calling you to trust in Me at all
times, no matter what is happening.
I understand what a difficult assign-
ment this is, and I know that you will
sometimes fail in this venture. But I
continue to love you perfectly even
when you don't succeed. Let this as-

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sureance of My unfailing Love draw you back to Me — back to trusting Me.

Though your trust is imperfect and unsteady, I am the Rock eternal — absolutely steady and unchanging.

You can rely on Me!

When your walk through this world feels wobbly, remember that I am your Rock. I always provide a stable place for you to stand. I can easily bear all your weight, including the weight of your problems. So come to Me when you are feeling heavy laden with worries. I invite you to lean on Me — trusting Me with all your heart and mind.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

When Everything Feels Out of Control

Inspiration comes from:

Untroubled Heart

by Kara Stout

Morning

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

— Isaiah 55:8–9

Life so often feels out of our control. In truth, most of life is out of our control. There are some painful seasons or experiences when we especially struggle with not being able to control or change our circumstances, which leaves us confused, anxious, and disheartened. From our viewpoint, it's hard to make sense of it.

I have been through a several-years-long course of learning I am not in control, from losing both of my parents to cancer, to struggling with infertility, to the ups and downs of our adoption journey. I did what I could within each of these circumstances — I prayed, researched, sought the expertise of doctors, looked into treatment plans — but ultimately, the outcome was up to God. It was hard not to desire more control. I so desperately wished there was something more I could do to make those situations feel less chaotic and heartbreaking. But I realized the best thing for me to do was surrender because, in every circumstance, each heartache was building my faith and deepening my trust in God. The more I surrendered, the more peace I felt.

God is the One in control, better at governing it all than we could ever be. His ways are perfect and good. This doesn't always mean they feel good, but we can still trust they are because God is good. He never abandons us while we wrestle to try and understand. He carries us through by His love, and He changes our perspective by His grace. He transforms us, making us more into the likeness of Christ, when we can say in humility,

Nevertheless, not my will, but Yours, be done. — Luke 22:42

God allowed Job to endure great suffering and loss (Job 1–2); He allowed Hannah to be barren for many years (1 Samuel 1); He allowed Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den (Daniel 6); He allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery (Genesis 37:18–36) and unjustly placed in prison (39:19–21); He allowed Paul to be a prisoner and be shipwrecked on his way to Rome (Acts 27). While these circumstances and events were

out of their control, God's great purposes were unfolding.

The Lord restored and healed, comforted and blessed, rescued and gave honor. His justice and mercy prevailed, and His power and grace brought salvation.

We can find courage from those who have gone before us when certain moments in life feel so painfully out of our control. We can keep trusting in the sovereign plans and deep love of the Lord.

Lord,

When everything feels out of control and it doesn't make sense, please calm my heart. When circumstances are painful, please give me grace to trust You more. Surrendering is not always easy, and when it's not, please help me abandon my false sense of control, taking hold of Your hand and Your peace instead. I find rest and hope this morning that You are in control and I am not. Amen.

God is the One in control.

Evening

Ten Thousand Things

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. — Romans 8:28

God is doing so much behind the scenes that we may never know about or see in this life. John Piper captured this so well when he said, "God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them."¹ We cannot even scratch the surface of grasping all that is in His control, both in our lives and the entire universe.

I love jigsaw puzzles. And I couldn't help but think of Piper's words in terms of puzzle pieces. I envisioned God putting together a 10,000-piece puzzle, doing it at

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Our Mission

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Our Vision

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

Our Motto

*In Essentials: Unity.
In Non-Essentials: Liberty.
In All Things: Charity.*

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 church and local events, and provide information to stimulate and edify its readers.

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:

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His perfect pace within His perfect sovereignty. It was a puzzle He alone could fully see, and although I could see only three pieces, I still trusted that the whole puzzle was coming together. And I knew it was for my benefit that He didn't reveal it to me all at once.

In life, God knows the big picture and exactly how all the pieces will perfectly fit together. We are shown only a few pieces, giving us glimpses of the puzzle He is intently and affectionately completing. So pause and ask yourself: Can I be satisfied that only God knows what the final masterpiece is? Can I be content with just seeing a few pieces of the puzzle? Can I make peace with not knowing all He is doing behind the scenes, trusting He is in control of the bigger picture?

As His children, we take one day at a time with our Father, abiding in His sovereignty. We cannot see the whole picture, so we seek the guidance and wisdom of the One who does. Proverbs says,

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. — Proverbs 19:21 NIV

While it isn't bad to make plans, we should do so through prayer while holding our plans loosely. We do not know what tomorrow will bring — only He does — so we continue to say,

If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. — James 4:15

Don't hold too tightly to attempts to control life and daily plans, because it can rob you from living in the peace that comes with trusting God. Instead, know that day by day, piece by piece, God's good plans will be accomplished in your life. He is in control, working behind the scenes. He is leading you as He intentionally fits each puzzle piece of your life

together, designing it all out of His faithfulness and love.

Lord,

In Your hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind (Job 12:10). Your ways of governing life are perfect. My very breath is in Your hands — how can I not trust You with everything, Lord?

Day by day, I seek Your will and wisdom, guidance and grace. Lead me as I make plans, and help me hold them loosely.

Although I do not see the whole picture, I am at peace knowing that You work all things together for good. I rely on You as You work behind the scenes, not only fitting together the puzzle of my life but also fitting all of our lives together into a much grander picture to display Your glory. Amen.

¹John Piper, "God Is Always Doing 10,000 Things in Your Life," *Desiring God*, January 1, 2013, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-is-always-doing-10000-things-in-your-life>.

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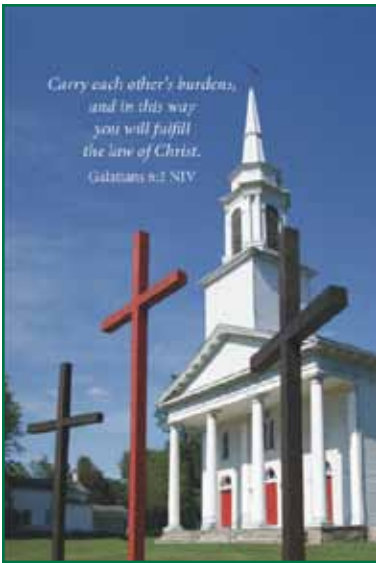
Submitted by Carole Missel

A Prayer for Today:

Lord, I admit that I have not trusted in your sovereign hand over every aspect of my life. I have allowed my own desires and wants to get in the way of believing in your good plan for me, and that has directly impacted the way I communicate. God, by faith, I ask you to help me pay attention to what you have called me to do, and help me to live and speak in a way that brings you glory.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

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EPCConnection

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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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Genesee River is running high after May rains at Letchworth Park.

