

The Steeple



December 2025



devotionals
daily from a faith gateway

Jesus in the Margins

Inspiration comes from:

Look Again

by Tim Tebow

In 2015 I was playing for the Philadelphia Eagles. Scratch that — I was trying to play for the Eagles (I say trying because I ended up getting cut later in the year, before the season officially began). In between training, lifting, and practices, the team often went through different kinds of tests. It was a way for the coaches and trainers to try to make us football players even just 1 percent better. I appreciated their dedication to our performance. During one eye exam, I noticed the doctor was unusually expressive, despite the protocol to keep findings under wraps until the assessment was complete. Every few seconds, he let out a thoughtful “hmm,” each one growing longer and closer together. Finally, he looked up from his notes and asked, “So Timmy, how long have you known you’re colorblind?” My forehead wrinkled. “I’m sorry, what?”

“You didn’t know?”

“That I was colorblind?” I’ve been told I was a lot of things over the years, but being colorblind was definitely not one of them.

“Oh yes,” the doctor stated with a firm nod. “You’re definitely colorblind.”

The reality of this new diagnosis didn’t really hit in the moment, but looking back it makes a pretty good excuse for all the interceptions I threw.

Colorblind? I had spent almost three decades on this earth without an inkling that I struggled to tell some colors apart, especially red and green, thanks to the way my eyes’ cone cells process color. Most people don’t even know they are colorblind until a doctor figures it out for them. Like me, they adapt without realizing it. What they see is what they see — until they get a chance to look again and realize what they’ve been missing.

A New Lens

I watched a video on YouTube of a man who was colorblind whose family recorded a video of him opening their birthday gift to him. He was in his mid-sixties and had a no-nonsense vibe, looking like the kind of guy who despised a birthday fuss and especially being filmed. True to form, he took his time opening the present. After he unwrapped his new pair of “sunglasses,” someone behind the camera encouraged him to put them on. The man rolled his eyes and slipped on the glasses, unaware that they were meant to help illuminate certain colors he struggled to see. Suddenly, he froze. Then, gripping the sides of his new shades, he looked up. Then down. And real slow, side to side.

“How does it look?” the woman

recording the video asked.

Barely above a whisper, the man replied, “Oh, that’s weird.”

“Do you see colors now?”

Lost in his new visual world, the man began to murmur to himself, lips barely moving. “The trees are green.” His trembling hands clapped together as he continued to take in the world around him.

“Oh my. Oh wow. I’ve never seen this before,” he said, his voice cracking.

Behind the camera, the woman began to sob, saying, “Now you can see with our eyes!”

Overwhelmed and speechless, the man fumbled with his pockets, like a four-year-old forced to wear a suit for the first time. The man’s gaze darted in every direction, pausing every now and then to rest on vibrant green grass that once looked grayish and a rich blue sky he’d seen only in pale hues. Words failed him. Choked by sobs, he stood awestruck in the middle of a world he’d only just discovered. The man began to repeatedly slide the glasses down his nose and back up, over and over, switching from his view of the familiar muted world he knew to the vivid reality the new lenses introduced.

“Oh my goodness,” he blurted. “Nothing looks like mud... The trees don’t even look real. Seriously, they look 3D. I’ve never seen colors like that!” Gasping at every object revived in true colors for the first time, the man’s fists clenched. He began pumping his arms, reminding me of

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Pastor David Missel

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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	382-3038
Patty Gregg	245-1311
Carol Griffen	382-3681
Shirley Matthews	382-3171
Cathy Mlyniec	322-6669
Leo Richardson	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
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From the Pastor's Heart...

If you're like me, there have been many times in life's journey that I've wondered what God was up to. Through those times, I've come to learn, because God's thoughts and ways are often beyond my finding out the best way to resolve my doubts and questions, is to fully trust God's plans, instead of worrying or wondering about the unknown, but be prepared for what God has in store.

Such was the case on Veterans Day last month. Carole and I had five very different plans for the day which included Doctor appointments, bowling and checking out an art exhibit, in which Carole had an exhibit along with several other artists.

When we started the day, with our customary time of prayer, we asked God to bless, guide and keep us mindful of the opportunities we might have to be a blessing to those we would meet. This is where our meal with the Veterans comes in. We arrived early for the free steak dinner, offered yearly to Veterans, and had an open choice for finding a seat. We chose to sit near the kitchen entrance where the wonderful smell of steaks being cooked wet our appetites. Knowing the wait wouldn't be too long, we decided to check out the dessert tables and found an abundance of goodies to choose from and brought a few of them back to our table.

I kept wondering who would be sitting next to us when, before too long, four men entered the room and chose to sit beside us; two next to Carole and the other two next to me. That's when I realized this wouldn't be a "normal" Veterans gathering. The man who sat next to Carole and facing me didn't look like anyone else in the room.

He had piercings in his ears, lips and other places that caused me to feel a bit uncomfortable at first. One of those piercings contained a two foot long chain that was attached to one of his lip piercings on one end and his right ear piercing on the other end. I thought, God, what is this about and was quickly reminded that God looks on the heart while we often look at the outward appearance.

Listening to their conversations, we quickly learned this man was the son of the gentleman sitting on his left. We never learned what their relationship was with the other two men sitting next to me but it didn't matter. Soon something was said that offered the opportunity for Carole and I to engage in the conversation that was taking place. The son, who had the piercings, quickly joined in and for the next twenty minutes or so, the son, Carole and I had our own conversations concerning several matters we shared in common. It was a beautiful heartfelt time of listening and sharing that silenced the other three men, although they could certainly hear what was being said. Eventually it was time for Carole and I to leave for our next commitment and we warmly said our goodbyes. With a genuine smile on his face, the son's father thanked us for spending so much time talking with his son because most people try to ignore him. I told him it was a joy to have the opportunity and we graciously departed.

Carole and I sincerely cherished the time and gave thanks for the opportunity to spend our God appointed time with this 40 year old man. You see, what we experienced is what Jesus experienced to a far greater measure. He was pierced for our sins because of His love for us. He was willing to suffer the rejection, grief, pain from others because of His love for us.

As His witnesses in the world, may we always be mindful of the opportunities God gives us to see others through His eyes and respond to them as Jesus would. Let's keep looking for the ways we can love others even as God loves us, so they too can be part of His family.

Thank you for looking,
Pastor David

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another picture of a little kid, this time of one who just unwrapped the birthday present they'd always wanted but never believed they'd actually get. I can't help but tear up every time I watch that five-minute video.¹

Over time, I processed what it meant to be colorblind. I wondered how often I have missed seeing something for what it really looked like. But the more I thought about it, the more another revelation came to light. This one deeper than seeing just color. How many times, I wondered, have I not seen people the way I should?

It's one thing to confuse my red and greens. It's another to make an unfair or unnecessary judgment about someone. There have been many times I've missed the mark in seeing people rightly because I'd seen them only through the lens of what they could do for me — by their talents, abilities, or how they might fit on a team — rather than valuing them simply for who they are.

Seeing ourselves as God sees us matters. But seeing others the same way God sees them matters too. Experiencing life with Jesus is like putting on glasses that transform how we see the world. Just as colorblind goggles may allow people to see the vivid beauty of colors they never knew existed, knowing Jesus and grounding ourselves in the truth that we are created as God's image should change how we see people.

Jesus has a profound ability to see beyond appearances and into the soul.

God's Heartbeat

Jesus has a profound ability to see beyond appearances and into the soul.

Unlike us, He doesn't need to

look again; He sees clearly the first time. It's no coincidence our Savior arrived on earth quietly, defying expectations as the opposite of the warrior king that some of the Jewish people anticipated. Over and over, He shattered people's assumptions and biases.

Jesus wasn't born in a palace with gold floors but in a room with animals and their feed and excrement. Jesus didn't enter the world with fanfare but through scandal and the womb of an unknown and seemingly unremarkable teenage girl. Ancient scholars weren't present at His birth; common shepherds accepted the invitation.

When Jesus began His public ministry, He didn't announce his identity to the religious experts of the day or the Jerusalem morning show but to a woman from a different culture who had a checkered marital history. Jesus didn't surround Himself with an elite leadership team of sought-after speakers who had written multiple New York Times bestsellers but with a scrappy crew of men and women whose names had never made an A-list. Jesus' habit of regularly drawing near to lepers, dining with people of questionable company, standing up for the poor, and treating social pariahs with dignity was shocking to the customs of that time.

You could say that Jesus lived in the margins, what's defined as being "among the least typical or least important parts of" society or a group.²

You know who occupies space in the margins? The MVP.

Jesus sees the marginalized; He sees their value. Isaiah 61 records a prophecy of the coming Messiah.

Read the first verses:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to

proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion. — Isaiah 61:1–3

Have you ever noticed who Jesus brought the good news to? While the obvious answer might be everyone — and that's true — this scripture in Isaiah specifically highlights vulnerable groups.

Did you catch who's being described?

"the poor"

"the brokenhearted"

"the captives"

"the prisoners"

"all who mourn"

"those who grieve"

When I look at these descriptors, I don't think of the strong, powerful, and successful — at least not by society's standards. I think of people who live in the margins. The ones who struggle to fit in, to be seen, to be known. While a few cultures have esteemed people with disabilities — like the Dahomeans of West Africa, who believed that some babies born with special needs were seen as a sign of good luck or the Chagga of East Africa, who thought that children with disabilities appeased evil spirits, which would then protect the community from bad luck — most are looked down on.³

While Darwinism celebrates the strong as the ones who not only survive but also succeed, the Bible, through Jesus as God's ultimate image, shows up for the one who's alone, on the run, crushed, in darkness, chained, and in tears. If we want to know the heart of the Father, we look at the life of Jesus.

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Birthday Card Shower for Shirley Siniapkin!

Long time member Shirley Siniapkin will be celebrating her birthday on December 3rd. Let's shower her with Happy Birthday wishes and blessings! Her new address is:

Shirley Siniapkin
Premier Genesee Center for
Nursing and Rehabilitation
278 Bank Street
Batavia, NY 14020



Monthly Celebrations December Birthdays

- 3 Shirley Siniapkin
- 9 Patricia Gregg
- 30 Pastor David Missel
- 31 Robert Richardson

Anniversaries: (none listed)

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What did Jesus do? He served, protected, and taught. He gave and helped. His attention was not just for the fancy or the fortunate.

Yes, Jesus actively sought the MVP.

And He still does.

1. "Man Sees Color for the First Time," posted September 16, 2017, by Poke My Heart, YouTube, 1 min., 18 sec., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=1ZcK-Eima-w>.
2. Collins Dictionary, "margin," accessed May 2, 2025, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/margin#>.
3. Irmo Marini, "The History of Treatment Toward People with Disabilities," in *Psychosocial Aspects of Disability*, 2nd ed., ed. Irmo Marini et al. (Springer, 2017), <https://connect.springerpub.com/content/book/978-0-8261-8063-6/part/part01/chapter/ch01>.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

To Light The Way

Inspiration comes from: **Let in the Light**

by Proverbs 31 Ministries

The Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, so that they could travel day or night. — Exodus 13:21



Sometimes the darkness threatens to swallow me whole. Thoughts that swirl or an illness that lingers too long turn my "What if?" questions into a growing, overwhelming fear. Can anyone see me stuck here? What is to become of my countless worries that try to keep me struggling in the dark?

Have you also wrestled in the night without a straightforward way through? You're in good company.

When God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, He knew the temptations of their hearts to turn back when things got tough:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them along the road to the land of the Philistines, even though it was nearby; for God said, "The people will change their minds and return to Egypt if they face war." So he led the people around toward the Red Sea along the road of the wilderness.

— Exodus 13:17–18

God longs for intimacy with us and is interested in developing our character.

He took the Israelites into a place where they would be completely dependent on Him, and along the way, they experienced something miraculous:

The LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, so that they could travel day or night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night never left its place in front of the people. — Exodus 13:21–22

Look to the Lord to light the way.

The Lord went before them in a pillar of fire, illuminating the deep dark of the wilderness as they traveled unknown lands. He did not leave them alone there; He made His presence known, and day by day and night by night, He led them.

When we don't know what to do, we can turn toward the One who does.

God goes before us, lighting our paths like a pillar of fire that brings us closer to His heart, even if we don't have all the information or a situation lingers unresolved. Our comfort is closeness with the God of the Israelites, with the God of our hearts.

Look to the Lord to light the way. Do you see His miraculous presence? When you are tempted to despair, stand in the strength of the Lord and His marvelous light. He is the one you can lean on, the one who leads you forward.

~ Sarah Freymuth

JOURNAL PROMPT

Where do you need God to help you through the dark? Look for His presence with you even now, and thank Him for leading the way.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

Session Meeting Highlights of November 13, 2025

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church: Session discussed the needs of our family of faith and the condition of our country and the world. Session members offered prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

Pastor's Report: Cathy Mlyniec found that Shirley Siniapkin is now at the Premier Genesee Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 278 Bank Street, Batavia, NY 14020. Christine Drew will be giving piano lessons in the sanctuary on Mondays and Fridays starting on Monday, November 17, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Fridays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Pastor reported on his recent Study Leave pursuits: He read the book, *God's Amazing Grace* by Alistair Begg, listened to online sermons, and went to a Family Life Network event for pastors.

Worship Report: York UPC will not be joining with us for worship on Christmas Eve 2025. Advent begins on November 30, 2025. Christmas Poinsettias will be purchased from the Genesee Country Christian School or one of the usual sources. Christmas decorating will be done as people find the time, and the remainder of the decorating being scheduled for November 29th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Witness Report: Session approved a donation to Our Daily Bread Ministries and in turn, requested 25 ODB Christmas devotionals.

Food Pantry: There were 2 families supplied in October with food and 5 families in November.

Missions: Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes collected at LEPC totaled 9 plus 3 boxes were purchased online by individuals. Session approved to pay for shipping costs for Christmas Shoe Boxes. A thank you was received from Samaritan's Purse for LEPC's donation on 10/9/2025. Session approved to assist a Leicester resident in paying for his car repairs. The Village Gathering Report (EduNations) was sent out to Session. Session approved a donation for the Open Door Mission's Thanksgiving Appeal. Session approved a donation to Celebrate Family Church of Leicester in support of their Thanksgiving-To-Go outreach. WO (EPC's World Outreach) missionaries that LEPC supports, is having online prayer meetings that are going well.

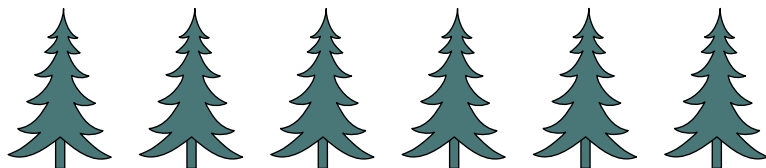
Stewardship: Session approved the 2026 LEPC Operating Budget.

Christian Ed: Bereans will soon be watching a series entitled, "Eyewitness Bible: Christmas" produced by RedeemedTV.

Property: Session approved the contract with D&D Contracting LLC, Piffard, NY, to replace the church gutters. Work scheduled to begin on November 24th.

Next Regular Session Meeting Date was scheduled for 12/11/2025.

Have a very Merry Christmas!



Wednesday's Word: A Weekly Devotional

From Paul Tripp

**There's no denying it:
today I turn 75 years old.**

I'll quote an excerpt from my New Morning Mercies entry from today: "I have walked with the Lord and studied his Word for many, many years; longer than I would like to admit. Over the years, I have gained a high level of biblical literacy and a solid understanding of the theology of the Word of God. I have surely grown in my faith. I have an understanding of the glories of redeeming grace that I did not have for many of my years as God's child. I have been involved in many ministry enterprises in many locations."

But I must admit that I have also gotten lost in the middle of my story many times—more times than I would like to admit. There have been moments when, despite all that I know and have seen, I have lost my gospel mind. I lost my sense of direction, I lost my sense of identity, and I lost my remembrance of him.

So today, I want to remind myself and you of God's Story. It's a rather lengthy poetic meditation, but it's a needed and timely reminder.

Since God has already granted me and you a place in his Eternal Story, then he has also granted us all the grace we need along the way for our Right Here, Right Now Story—otherwise, we'd never get there.

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31–32).

Since he paid the ultimate price, we can rest assured he will expend his divine power and grace to

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protect, mature, provide for, and keep us until we are with him in a place where the dangers of sin and death are no more.

Yes, we will get temporarily lost in the middle of that story today and tomorrow, but God will keep and protect us until we are with him forever—whenever that day may come.

Everyone builds their life on a story, a grand narrative that interprets and explains history identity future family purpose God meaning morality work desire need hope and every other thing the mind can conceive.

Everyone's life is shaped by a story: the story our parents told us the story we tell ourselves the story of our culture the story we learn from philosophers poets

preachers
writers
directors
theologians
politicians
bosses
protestors
painters
grandmothers.

Some stories are incomplete
some stories are a lie
some stories are a fantasy
some stories are true
some stories give wisdom
some stories attract fools.

Staories have the power to captivate and control us
deceive and destroy us
enthrall and motivate us
rescue and restore us
define and identify us
humble and humanize us
guide and direct us
confront and warn us
frighten and paralyze us
enlighten and instruct us
help or harm us.

You have a grand influential story you tell it to yourself again and again in search of answers in moments of celebration

in the darkness of grief
when you're lost and lonely
when life is hard
in failure's darkness
in a quest for hope
to reconcile the past
to understand the future
when decisions loom
when lost in the middle.

We are all very good story tellers but there is one Story that stands above every other story that has been written or told:

Drama of sin and redemption

This is the one complete Story spanning from before origins to beyond destiny. It is the old, old Story told by saints and sinners kings and scoundrels giving life to the weak and strong rich and poor young and old to those celebrating and those grieving sinners and slaves religious and agnostics hopeful ones and those who've given up hope.

It is the only Story that has the power to rescue and redeem to save and sanctify to crush death and give life
to renew and restore to make the blind see to put humility where pride once lived to replace idolatry with worship to reconcile the past and secure the future to replace selfishness with gratitude to join sinners with God.

The great transcendent Story begins in the annals of eternity the Trinity laying down the great eternal plan:

Drama of sin and redemption

This Story bursts into reality as God creates everything out of nothing placing perfect image bearers in a perfect Garden in perfect relationship with him every need supplied every duty and boundary clear serpentine temptation came spewing lies distorting God's

character and will man and woman eat what was forbidden sin shatters shalom nakedness apparent fearful hiding accusations fly divine judgment curses on the earth pain toil thorns death human rebellion met with divine grace promise of a Redeemer seed of the woman to crush the tempter's head:

Drama of sin and redemption

Sin increases God grieves waters of judgment flood the earth covenant with Noah and with Abram blessing the whole earth God takes a people for himself:

Drama of sin and redemption

Slavery in Egypt plagues liberate Passover mercy law revealed waters part clouds and fire guide manna feeds
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tabernacle presence
priests and sacrifices
walls crumble
giants defeated
whales obey
dreams revealed
judges, prophets,
priests, and
kings
temple built
unfaithful people
faithful God
idolatry mars his
nation
prophet's warning
Jerusalem crumbles
Babylonian discipline
no final condemnation
God faithful to the
redeeming
plan
remnant preserved
temple rebuilt
years of silence
God's plan unfinished:

Drama of sin and redemption

Out of the remnant
of his people
comes a Son to
sit on the throne of
David
forever
Mary conceives
angels announce
shepherds worship
Messiah
Son of God
Son of Man
Bread of Life
Immanuel
Final Prophet
Great High Priest
King of Kings
Righteous One
Sacrificial Lamb

he who knew no sin
bears
the sin of his
own
thorns of the curse
pressed down on his
head
bears sin's penalty
separated from the
Father
dies in sinners' place
darkness falls
veil torn
graves open
"It is finished":

Drama of sin and redemption

Human kings cannot
stop
Him
death's tomb cannot
hold
him
sin's curse cannot
defeat
him
the firstfruit of life
eternal
new body on
display
appears to many
ascends to royal
throne.



Sends the Spirit
establishes his church
unleashes
rescuing
forgiving
justifying
reconciling
indwelling
transforming
empowering
providing
guiding
protecting
keeping
grace
opens blind eyes
enlivens dead souls
recaptures wondering
hearts
illumines darken
minds:

Drama of sin and redemption.

Life now and forever
good gifts to the
church
commissions
ambassadors
marches his own
toward the
final kingdom
new heavens, new
earth

peace and
righteousness
forever
final feast
songs of the redeemed
echo
forever
Lamb on the Throne
every tongue and
nation
bow in
adoration
awe
submission
celebration
gratitude
worship
praise.

Redemption
accomplished
redemption complete
eternal sabbath of the
redeemed.

The moral sweep of
the divine Story:
Creation
Fall
Redemption.

The one time
encompassing
timeless Story:

Drama of sin and redemption

The only Story to
make
sense
out of every human
story
the most
shockingly honest and
gloriously hopeful
Story that has ever
been
told

written by the Author
of Authors
who makes himself
known
so that in knowing him
we might have
life
right here, right now
and
forever:

Drama of sin and redemption.

A Prayer for Today:

Author of authors,
thank you for mak-
ing yourself known to
me. By your grace, life
has been extended to
me, and I have hope
in the midst of hope-
less circumstances
because of your great
love and power. You
have included me in
your Story, so please
give me the humil-
ity to know my place
and recognize that
the story isn't about
me, but you. You paid
the ultimate price to
make me a part of
your story, and I am
eternally grateful that
I have been included.
Your grace is amazing!
In Jesus' name, amen.

Submitted by
Leo Richardson



EduNations

On November 6th EduNations held a Live Update at the Village Gathering via Zoom. Information quoted from U.S. Director Dana Kaltenberger is as follows. “Over the past 60 days we have taken significant steps to strengthen integrity, accountability and care across every area of our ministry.” “A new communication platform now allows our board, teachers and staff to connect directly fostering improved collaboration, clarity and unity.” **“We are grateful for your continued prayers and encouragement as EduNations walks through this important season of evaluation, rebuilding and renewal.”**

World Outreach - EPC

LEPC's Missions supports a missionary family working for World Outreach in the Middle East. They recently held a prayer meeting via Zoom. The couple shared updates on their mission work and family life. Their ministries in their church and community include discipleship with youth, men's and women's groups, Bible studies, prayer meetings and more. Their prayer focus included praying for movements of new disciples, economic development and peace in the Middle East, growth in the groups mentioned above, as well as family and personal concerns.

Please lift up our missionaries in prayer.

Submitted by Cathy Mlyniec



Women of Encouragement

Our group meets almost every Wednesday afternoon at LEPC's Fellowship Hall. We enjoy time spent together quilting, sewing, fellowship and encouraging one another.

This year's community service project came about through a quilting friend who set a goal to make fifty quilts to be donated to a women's shelter for women and children who suffer domestic abuse. My friend said “50 quilts is a lot of quilts!” as her deadline drew near. Our women gladly said they would help out with this project. These are some of the quilts our group created and donated.

Submitted by Cathy Mlyniec



Voice of the Martyr's:

icommittoprayer.com

October 16, 2025 | Burkina Faso

Christians Persevere Amid Frequent Attacks

Islamist militias attacked three different villages in eastern Burkina Faso on and shortly after July 19, 2025. "Eleven Christians have been killed, and others have been taken hostage or are missing," said a front-line worker. He added that many Christians in the area have fled their homes, and one pastor was evacuated to another city to receive medical care after suffering a serious injury. The incidents occurred near the Mali border, where numerous jihadi groups are based. "Please pray for the church in Burkina Faso as they continue to face attacks on nearly a weekly basis," said the front-line worker. Another Christian leader said, "Thousands of believers are being displaced; hundreds are being killed. There's a lot of pain but also a lot of perseverance."

October 23, 2025 | Laos

Ostracized Christians Patient But Weary

In a village in northern Laos, five Christian families have faced increasing persecution because they will not return to spirit worship. The village head confiscated their family registration books, which contain vital records including birth and marriage certificates, residence permits and education and professional records. This village head has refused to register births, issue marriage licenses and legally register a motorbike. Without registration books, some members have had difficulty getting medical care. The village head also decreed that Christians must be excluded from

all village activities. Front-line workers encouraged these brothers and sisters to stay strong in God's grace and to be patient for his provision. They said, "We are patient, but we are discouraged at times. We are treated very differently in the village. Please keep praying for us to solve this situation."

October 30, 2025 | Laos

Christian Families Attacked, Deprived for Faithfulness to Christ

On Oct. 12, 2025, three families in a remote area of Laos were driven from their homes while villagers demolished their houses and confiscated their land and livestock. This attack followed weeks of growing aggression that included the chaining of a local Christian leader, Lom, to a house post for four days; Lom's family was among those driven from their home. Since the attack, the families have been forced to live under a lean-to in the center of the village, closely watched and prohibited from seeking help. These Christians have been given only small amounts of rice for survival. District church leaders have attempted to provide relief but have been refused entry to the village. Front-line workers report that this is not an isolated incident as Christians in three nearby villages are facing similar threats.

November 06, 2025 | Nigeria

Christians "In the Lion's Den"

In northern Nigeria, Christians are cautious with outreach to Muslims as thousands of Christians have been murdered by Islamists. "Many churches in northern Nigeria do not reach out to Muslims and are even reluctant to allow Muslim converts into their churches," said a front-line worker. He added that while this kind of attitude should change, we should not judge them but "seek to understand the great amount of pressure they are under and pray for them. They are truly in the lion's den." For example, Fatima, a Muslim student, approached a Christian teacher, Jonathan, wanting to know more about Christ. Jonathan cautiously shared the gospel with Fatima, and she became a Christian. She later recanted, however, claiming that Jonathan and other Christians had coerced her. Her family and other Muslims reacted violently, threatening to kill Jonathan and his family, so they fled. He is now unemployed and starting over in a new place.



December Steeple Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pray for the LEPC Church	2 Pray for parents who have lost children	3 Pray for children who have lost parents	4 Pray for the Alaskan Inuet villages that were destroyed by the Typhoon Halong, in Oct.	5 Pray for the people of the Caribbean that were affected by Hurricane Melissa.	6 Pray for new believers to remain strong and grow in their faith.
7 Pray for health issues within the LEPC congregation	8 Pray for World Outreach - EPC Missionaries	9 Help us to count our many blessings and praise You LORD.	10 Pray for Doti V. She took a bad fall, has a concussion and brain bleed	11 Pray for LEPC members & friends	12 God, You make known to me the path of life. Ps 16:11	13 Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, drawing us closer to Jesus everyday
14 Pray for Salvation for unbelievers	15 Prayer of thanksgiving for God's love and mercy	16 Pray for the 25 Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped and the VP of the school who was killed	17 Pray that Israel's defensive measures will protect its people.	18 Pray for the protection of our police, firemen and 1st responders	19 Pray for all homeless refugees throughout the world	20 Pray for those who struggle with depression and mental health issues
21 We confess our sins, mainly pride. Please forgive us.	22 Pray for the Ukrainian war to be resolved	23 Pray that Americans would become more forgiving, kind and peacemakers	24 Pray for the people in our community with health issues	25 All praise and thanksgiving! For to us a child is born... Isaiah 9:6-7	26 Pray that the warmth and love between Jews and Christians in Israel will increase.	27 Pray that people would be more patience and considerate to others
28 Pray for the Syrian Christians that are being persecuted	29 Pray for care givers, doctors and nurses	30 Pray for the Holy Spirit to guard our mouths so we speak in love.	31 Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us discernment to guard us against evil.	Prayer of Thanksgiving for Pastor David, Carole and the LEPC Session for their hard work, guidance and wisdom throughout this past year. Let us continue to pray for them in the coming 2026 New Year.		
	Please continue to pray for Fatu Thoronka, our EduNations Sponsored Student, and the rest of the students and teachers at Sierra Leon.			Prayer of Thanksgiving for all the people who have helped take care of the church building, inside and out, throughout this year!		

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Philippians 4:6 nkjv



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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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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24,
7:00 p.m. at
Leicester Evangelical
Presbyterian Church

***Everyone is Welcome!
Bring family, friends and
neighbors!***

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.



2025 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

LEPC collected 9 boxes and 3 online boxes this year for needy children around the world.

Thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile project!

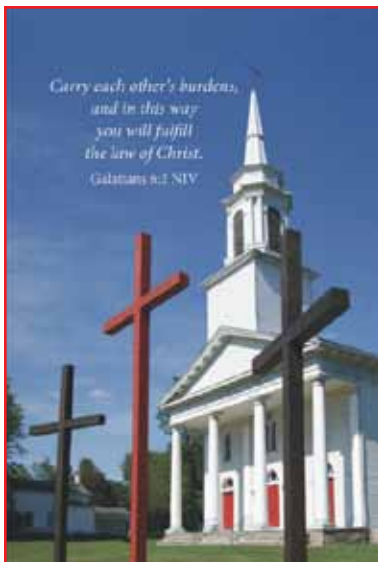
Liturgists Signup for December

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!

Dear friends,

*let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:7-12 niv*





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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***Have a very Merry
and Blessed Christmas!***



A Little Humor to Brighten Your Day!

Only in America...

...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

...do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

...do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counter.

Ever Wonder...

Why you don't ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'broker'?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called 'rush hour'?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe why do they call the airport, the terminal?

Do you know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Submitted by Bob Richardson