

The Back Pew
THE NEWSLETTER OF
LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Leesburg, Virginia

Serving God and Neighbor in the Heart of Leesburg since 1804
April 2017



**Immigrant and Refugee Voices—
A Loudoun Response**

I left the Immigrant/Refugee Voices Event held on Sunday evening, March 12, with such a full heart.

My heart was full of gratitude for the vibrant inter-faith leadership that we have in Loudoun County that envisioned, planned and implemented this event - Muslims, Jews, Christians, Unitarians, Hindus, Bahai - all working together for several years now. My heart was filled with renewed pride in our country and its promises of opportunity and freedom so compelling to men and women around the world, that they leave everything to share in the beautiful dream of American possibility. My heart was filled with humility at hearing stories of hard work, tenacity, love of family and culture, and never-give-up attitude that was shared by all the immigrants. My heart was filled with sadness to hear their expressions of disbelief and fear over the current conversation, mood, and legal actions in our country regarding immigrants and refugees. Yet my heart was full of joy to see the smiles and hugs between friends and strangers from so many cultures that communicated one affirmation "You and I belong here together!"

Here are some thoughts from some other attendees from LPC:

What really touched me was the courage shown by the speakers. It was not easy for them to share their stories, and they knew they represented other immigrants who were too scared to tell their stories. It was really an act of patriotism for the participants to talk about their love of the United States and their hopes for the future. Heidi Renner (djembe player)

The greatest impression was the feeling of camaraderie that existed throughout a full church of likeminded persons. That was also highlighted by all the government and law enforcement officials happily in attendance. The experience made me glad that I chose a caring community such as Leesburg to make my home. The greatest surprise was when one of the immigrants listed a huge number of lifetime achievements made by an immigrant who then modestly concluded that these were his personal achievements. Esther Wood

I'm glad that I attended because of the speakers' stories, particularly those of successful entrepreneurs among the group. They reminded me of why most immigrants come to the United States: to make their lives, and those of their children, better. Paul Fraker

I'm so glad I attended the event, and that Isabelle attended with me. One thing that really touched me (or more like kicked me) was the remark of the Syrian man, a former refugee himself who has been active in the Washington-area refugee community, that he searched high and low for a more newly-arrived refugee to speak at the event. He said that he could not find a single willing soul, because "they are all scared to death." Another thing I found striking was the poise of the young hijab-clad woman who stood up in front of the very large congregation, in all its diversity and openness, and sang a Muslim prayer to God. Jennifer Marsh

Debbie

Holy Week

Sunday, April 9 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Thursday, April 13 - Maundy Thursday

*Remembering Jesus as he gathered in the Upper Room
to share the Passover meal with his disciples.*

A service of scripture, prayer, hymns, message, and gathering around the Table
to share The Lord's Supper.

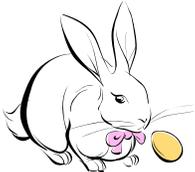


Easter Sunday, April 16

8:00 am 9:30 am 11:00 am

Come & Go Continental Breakfast

Enjoy anytime between 9:00 am – 11:15 am
Breakfast breads, sweet rolls, deviled eggs, oatmeal,
ham biscuits, fruit, juice & coffee.



Easter Continental Breakfast

**A Come-and-Go Affair
Sunday, April 16**

**Hop in any time between
9:00 AM- 11:15 AM**

Can you bring something to the
Easter Continental Breakfast Table?

If so, please sign up on the poster
next to the church office.

We are asking folks to bring
breakfast breads, sweet rolls, deviled eggs,
chicken salad on rolls, or sliced fruit.

The Deacons will provide a big
pot of oatmeal, ham biscuits, and beverages.

Let the sign-up begin!

**One Great Hour of Sharing
Easter Sunday, April 16**

Join us in a new kind of fast -
To share our bread, to fight injustice, and to care
for the afflicted

Tens of thousands of Presbyterians are already
answering God's call. Will you?

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are
supporting ministries working in direct response to the
ways God has called us to share in Isaiah 58. You are
helping to provide access to sustainable food systems,
aid and shelter for those who are impacted by disaster,
and resources for communities working to loose the
bonds of oppression and injustice.



A Message of Thanks to the Congregation from Havana, Cuba!

Rev. Yoelkis Sierra Gonzales, Pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada in Guanabacoa, La Habana wrote the following letter to the LPC Congregation and all who supported the 2016 Alternative Christmas Faire.

The Mission & Witness Committee was pleased to see the support the Guanabacoa Senior Lunch Program received at the Faire. Every week, several members of the Guanabacoa congregation shop the markets for fresh food and then every Sunday morning cook over 25 healthy lunch meals to provide to the seniors in his church as well as in his neighborhood community.

In our package we also sent him copy of the 2016 Cuba Mission Team Power Point Presentation which was shown at LPC in December. Yoelkis is inviting us to return to Havana and we hope some of you will join us on the next Cuba Mission Team!

Dear Debbie,

We wish that the Lord's Blessing be with you all.

Debbie, yesterday we received the envelope that you sent for our community with 660 US Dollars, 2 letters and one memory of the trip. What a most beautiful presentation of your visit to our church!

We really hope and wish that there will be a group of individuals visiting us from your church in the future. Thank you for the gift for our Senior Lunch Program. Soon you should be receiving an official letter from our church thanking you for the gift.

For now please accept our profound gratitude.

With God's Love,

Yoelkis Sierra



Lent Cocoon Tree = Easter Butterflies!



At our March *First Sunday*, our families made Lent Cocoons. Each family member put his or her name on a butterfly, and put it inside the cocoon. On the outside, each family chose a word to describe their Lent journey. On our April *First Sunday* - Sunday, April 2nd - they will prepare their butterflies to emerge at Easter!!

LPC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Leesburg Presbyterian Church provides educational assistance to college students who are active in LPC. Assistance levels up to \$600 are available and are approved based on the merits of an application, which includes a statement of faith.

Applications are available in the church office, or on the church website at www.leesburgpresbyterian.org. Applications must be returned via email to endowment@lpcva.org no later than June 30, 2017 in order to be considered for the 2017-2018 school year.

Members of the Endowment Committee may be contacted if you have any questions:

- Pam Poisson ppoisson@awea.org
- Brad Brown bradleybrown2@gmail.com
- Hong McGill hamcgill@gmail.com

**LOAVES AND FISHES
SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

April 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 5th Sunday in Lent Communion Loaves & Fishes 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9:45 First Sunday 9:45 Lenten Group 9:45 Youth Group 5:30pm	3	4	5 Lenten Groups 10am & 7:00pm Emma/Ruth 7:30 pm	6 Men's Group 7:30am	7	8
9 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9:45 Lenten Group 9:45 No Youth Group	10 Mission & Witness Cmt 7:00 pm	11 Circle One 10am	12 Deacons 7:00 pm	13 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm	14 Good Friday	15
16  Easter Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00—11:15 am No Youth Group	17	18 Session 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Book Club 9:30 am	22
23 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9:45 Middler/Sr. High Dinners 5:30 pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9:45 Youth Group church visit 9am —1:00 pm						

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles
Wednesday, April 5
First Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles will meet Wednesday evening, April 5pm in the Memorial Lounge.

Circle One
Tuesday, April 11
Second Tuesdays @ 10:00 am

Circle One is a daytime Bible study group and all women are welcome to participate. Our study this year explores Jesus through the different theological lenses of the gospels, Hebrews, Paul, Abrahamic Faiths, and cultural interpretations. See you soon!

LPC Book Club
Friday, April 21 * new date*
Second Fridays @ 9:30 am

New members are always welcome to attend. This April, we will discuss *Longbourn* by Jo Baker. Our May selection is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. For more information, contact Laura Renauld at alrenauld@gmail.com.

Monday Morning Stitchers
Third Mondays @ 11:00 AM

The Stitchers are taking a break from their monthly meetings until May. However, members are working on independent projects, including knitting prayer shawls, a cross-stitch Easter Egg and a Valiant Warrior quilt. If you would like to participate, you can contact the church office or Jane Ashbaugh (703) 403-0215 or curlyq583@aol.com



YOUTH SUNDAY—March 12



Jesus died alone and rejected, so that all might be welcomed into the family of faith! No one has to be alone; no one has to feel rejected - Jesus has invited us to be with him, and to be with one another, in the church.

This was the theme of Youth Sunday, 2017. The Youth led us in worship; we had four especially fine sermons; and, a "Performance of the Word" that told the story of a youth who pushes everyone away, but finally is welcomed by a persistent, loving Jesus and his disciples through baptism.

Our Youth did a lot of hard, good prep work for Youth Sunday, and they were supported by our amazing adult



leaders: Wes Rhodes, Courtney Jackson, Abbi Thiel, and Josh Thiel!



Preschool News

Happy Spring!!

We are having so much fun in preschool. *Donuts with Dads* was a huge success and everyone enjoyed their time together. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, St. Patrick's Day and came to school with crazy hair! We are learning about the season of Lent and are practicing for our Spring Music Program in May.

Registration for our 2017-2018 school year is underway and we appreciate your helping us spread the word!

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

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Associate Pastor James Cubie
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E-mail: office@lpcva.org
www.lpcva.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship	8:30 am and 11:00 am
Adult Education	9:45am
Church School	9:45 am
Youth Group	5:30 pm

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

OUR CHURCH ELDERS: Jim Barnes—Clerk of Session, Nancy Burgess, John Burnside, Lynn Colavita, Wayne Helge, Kim Hovda, Randy Jackson, Chris Kopp, Linda Mitchell, Emma Renner, Holly Rhodes, Sheryl Tompkins and Mark Withrow

DEACONS: Rebecca Caprio, Rene Febles, Sandy Gasperini, Karen Hickman, Christian Hoff, William Marsh, John Niccolls, Shirley Pearson, Heidi Renner, Kathi Stone, Susan Sutter, and Sonja Withrow.