



*And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you:
When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."
Exodus 3:12*

When I read the story of Moses and the burning bush, often I wonder what it must've been like for Moses. It must've been so strange, terrifying, unsettling, exciting... I imagine the full range of emotion can wash over a person in the presence of the divine.

When told by God via a bush that this disgraced former member of Egypt's royal court will go back and face that oppressive regime and demand their entire labor force be freed, Moses asks then a series of relatively reasonable questions. "Why me? Who do I say sent me? What authority do I have to do this?"

God then says something of a comforting phrase: "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you."

I'm sure Moses thought, "Yes! I get a sign! How cool! When I march into Egypt, I'll get some fireworks, and I'll know that everything's going to be fine!"

But God says, "Your sign will be that once you've led the people out of Egypt, you'll come back here and worship me on this mountain!"

What good is a sign like that?! I'll get the sign *after* I do the thing? But isn't that often the truth for us? The sign comes after you've done the thing; after you've taken that step in faith; after you've left the job or started the business or asked the question you've been terrified to ask. The sign comes after you've put your life on the line...

This has been the case - for me at least - a number of times in my life, and I wonder if it has been for you? What faithful next steps are you discerning in your life right now? Do you have conversation partners and support in that process?

There will come a time in the years ahead for us at Lake Forest to discern our next faithful steps together... and I have no idea what that might be for us (a new mission opportunity? a new educational focus? a new outreach program or local service partnership?). But as we pray and discern our way forward together, I pray we are also comforted that the steps we will take together in faith will not be steps we take alone.

God comforts Moses in his distress and resistance - not by saying it won't be hard, or that he won't face obstacles and opposition - but by promising this: I will be with you.

God be with us,
- Chad

At Lake Forest Presbyterian Church
We Gather for our Worship
each Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m.



We continue to offer a variety of options for joining in worship with us:

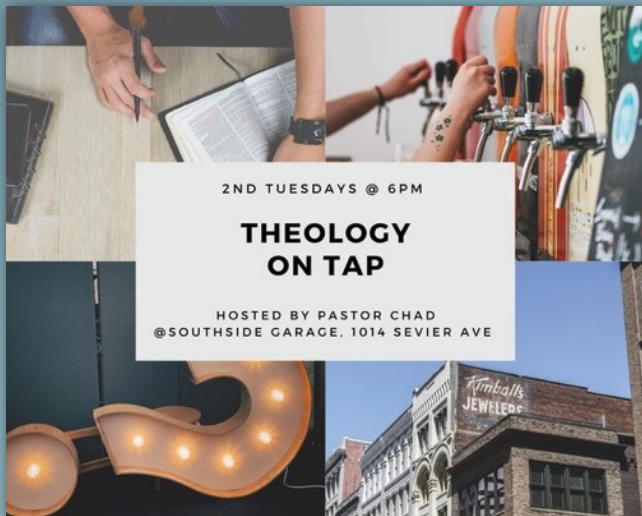
- Participating in person at our 10:45 a.m. worship service
- Participating in our live streamed service during the regular 10:45 a.m. worship time through our Facebook page.
- Viewing an archived video of our worship service, found on our Facebook page.

At this time, wearing masks is optional at all our church gatherings.



On Sunday, November 5,
we will observe
All Saints Sunday during our
10:45 a.m. worship service.

If you have an upright or handheld vacuum
with strong suction, please bring it with you.



Thirsty for thought-provoking
discussions?

Join us for

Theology on Tap

**Tuesday, November 14 at 6 p.m.
at Southside Garage**

Engage in vibrant conversation about
faith, life, and everything in between, all
while enjoying good company and your
beverage of choice. Rick McIntee will
be leading our discussion.

See you there!



If you can't join us in person, we invite
you to participate with us in worship as
our 10:45 a.m. worship service streams
live on the church's Facebook page. In our
Sunday Worship Email, we send a link to
our Facebook page where our live
video feed is available. You will also find
a .pdf of the bulletin in the
weekly email, so that
you can fully participate in the liturgy.
If you miss viewing the worship service
as it streams live at 10:45 a.m., an
archive of the service will be available
for viewing at your convenience almost
immediately after our 10:45 a.m. service
ends on our Facebook page.

(The link to our Facebook page as well as the audio of
each week's sermon and anthem can be found on our
church's website as well.)



**Our Next Family Promise Host
Week Begins on Sunday,
December 3**



FRIENDSGIVING *Potluck* LUNCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR
10:45 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

What better way to celebrate the Thanksgiving Season than to join together with our Lake Forest friends! Please bring a couple of your favorite dishes to share as we gather around the tables in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some fun, fellowship, and delicious food.

Our Friendsgiving Dinner will be immediately following our 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 12.

On this day we will also be collecting canned soups, chili, stew, and fruit, for the FISH Hospitality Pantries.

Collection bins will be conveniently located in the Fellowship Hall so that you bring the items you wish to donate with you to the Friendsgiving Potluck Lunch.



NURSERY CARE
IS PROVIDED DURING
OUR
IN-PERSON
WORSHIP SERVICE
EACH SUNDAY
AT 10:45 A.M.





During Advent the front of our church will be adorned with vibrant poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone you love, you can reserve those by filling out the information on the Christmas Poinsettia Sign Up Sheet located in the narthex and the gallery or by emailing your poinsettia request to the church office. These poinsettias will be available for you to take with you after the Christmas Eve service. The cost is \$12.
The deadline for reserving your poinsettia(s) is Sunday, November 19.





Join us for the

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 26
Immediately following our
10:45 a.m. worship service



MUSIC NOTES

Our Choirs Rehearse Each Wednesday Night

- Handbell choir rehearses at 6 p.m.
- Chancel choir rehearsal follows at 7 p.m.

Planned childcare is provided during our chancel choir rehearsal.

There will be no choir rehearsals on
Wednesday, November 22.



Feeding Families
Creating Community



Our 5th Sunday Offering was collected on Sunday, October 29, to benefit FISH Hospitality Pantries.

If you were unable to give on that day, you can still participate in this giving ministry to feed our neighbors in need. Simply place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Be sure to indicate that your gift is for the FISH Hospitality Pantries by writing "5th Sunday Offering"

in the memo of your check or on the outside of your offering envelope.



Did you know our Lake Forest nursery has a wish list of items needed for our growing congregation? If you'd like to purchase something we can use as we care for our littlest ones, you may do so through our amazon wish list and your purchase will be shipped directly to the church.

LFPC Nursery Amazon Wish List



SEPTEMBER 2023	Operating
Giving	11,604.37
Expenses	22,152.61
Surplus (Deficit)	(10,548.24)
YEAR-TO-DATE 2023	Operating
Giving	130,569.16
Expenses	151,431.38
Surplus (Deficit)	(20,862.22)



Our Youth Group is a Wednesday night program filled with fun, games, music and listening for God's Word. Our youth meet at 6:00 p.m. in the youth room on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday night of each month throughout the school year. We also look for opportunities throughout the school year to get outside the walls of the church to have fun as a group at some exciting events.

Youth Sunday School classes meet each Sunday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

- Middle School students are taught by Taylor Baker and Molly McGill.
- High School students meet with Michael Kelley and Penny Babelay.

There will be no Wednesday Night Activities on Wednesday, November 22, so that all of us can prepare to spend Thanksgiving with our families.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer to be a part of the team that leads our youth on Wednesday nights throughout the school year, please email the church office at office@lakeforestpc.org.



Lake Forest's Children's Worship Group is a fantastic way to teach our kids about God and have a blast doing it. We gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights of each month from 6-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will invite your friends to join us for this awesome part of our Wednesday night lineup of activities.

We offer Sunday School classes for children in every grade. These classes meet from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in the educational wing of our church.

- Pre-K and Kindergarten children are taught by Debbi Potts and Karen Talley.
- Elementary school-age children are taught by Matt and Megan Talley.

There will be no Wednesday Night Activities on Wednesday, November 22, so that all of us can prepare to spend Thanksgiving with our families.

If you would like more information on our Children's ministry or have any questions concerning our children's program, you can contact our Christian Education & Discipleship Committee Chairperson - Bethany Maples or email us in the church office (office@lakeforestpc.org).



&Prayers *PRAISES*

Our Lake Forest Church family considers it a joy and privilege to pray for each other and watch to see how God answers our prayers. If you have a need - if you are facing a healthcare concern or crisis, have experienced the loss of a job, are grieving the loss of a loved one, or are asking God to work in a specific situation in your life that needs His powerful touch, please let us know by emailing the church office at office@lakeforestpc.org so that we can pray for you. We send out a Prayers & Praises email each Thursday morning. And don't forget to send us updates as we walk this faith journey together.

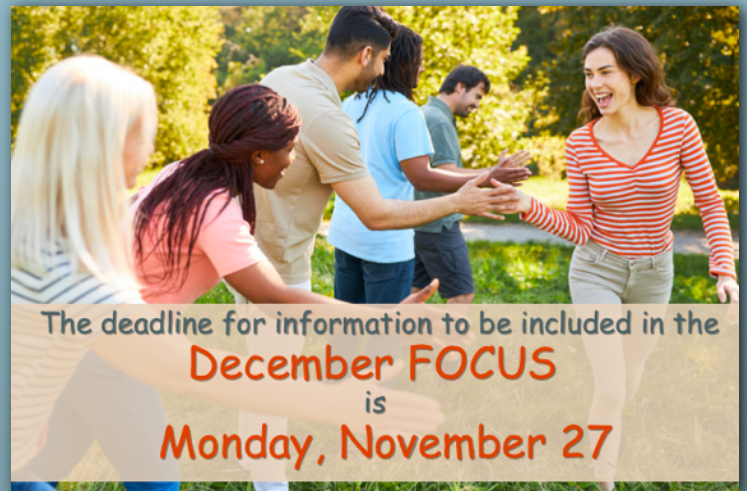
Thanks for being a praying church family!

Would you like to hear the stories of the Bible come alive to our Lake Forest kids?

Why not consider becoming one member of our rotating team of Children's Time Speakers?

Children's Time is a special moment during our Sunday morning worship service. During Children's Time we teach the truth of God's Word in ways specifically designed to touch the hearts of our children.

If you would be open to learning more about leading our Children's Time, or participating in training so that you can join the team of volunteers that serve our children in this way, please contact the church office at office@lakeforestpc.org.



We're in this together!

If you have an announcement about an upcoming event, a volunteer list, a committee meeting date and time, or any other information that needs to be included in the December 2023 issue of the Lake Forest FOCUS, please take a few minutes, as soon as you know the details, to email that information to: office@lakeforestpc.org



November 2 – Audra Compton
 November 5 – Melinda Kelley
 November 9 – Mary Elizabeth Thomas
 November 10 – Lisa Griffith
 Mason Talley
 November 11 – Oscar Maples
 November 14 – Joanna Gasperson
 November 16 – Allen Cardwell
 November 20 – Natalie Baker
 AnnaGrace Maples
 November 25 – Laura Buckner
 November 26 – Tim Griffith
 November 30 – Brian Buckner

Did we miss wishing a
"Happy Birthday" to someone
 who is a part of our church family?
 If so, please help us keep our
 birthday list up-to-date
 by emailing us at
office@lakeforestpc.org.



We are currently
 collecting items for the
 FISH Hospitality Pantries.
 Here are some of the
 items that are needed at
 this time:

- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Stew
- Chili
- Tuna
- Cereal
- Pasta

There is also a need for all kinds of
 toiletries, such as toothpaste,
 toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, etc.

Collection bins are located in the narthex
 and gallery areas. Please continue to be in
 prayer for this organization, their volunteers,
 and the families they serve.

Our Session Meets on the third Sunday
 of each month immediately following
 our 10:45 a.m. service in the YAYF classroom.



OUR COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Building & Grounds
Brad Johnson
 Christian Education
 & Discipleship
Bethany Maples
 Finance
Josh McGill
 Personnel
Josh McGill
 Spiritual Care
Cathy Maples
 Worship
Seth Maples

The Session Will Meet:
Sunday, November 19
 Our Elders of the Month for
 November is:
Lindsay Johnson

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Handbell Choir 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Planned Childcare for Chancel Choir	2	3	4
5 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. In-person Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Livestream of our 10:45 a.m. service on Facebook  All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends	6 Lake Forest Neighborhood Association 7 p.m. 	7  AA Meeting 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	8 Handbell Choir 6:00 p.m. Children's Worship Group 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Planned Childcare for Chancel Choir	9	10	11
12 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. In-person Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Livestream of our 10:45 a.m. service on Facebook Friendsgiving Potluck Lunch Can collection for FISH Pantries 	13	14 Theology on Tap - 6 p.m. Southside Garage  AA Meeting 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	15 Handbell Choir 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Planned Childcare for Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. In-person Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Livestream of our 10:45 a.m. service on Facebook  The Session meets at noon in the YAYF  Deadline to Reserve Poinsettias	20	21 AA Meeting 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	22 No Regular Wednesday Night Activities	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24	25
26 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. In-person Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Livestream of our 10:45 a.m. service on Facebook  immediately following our 10:45 a.m. worship service	27 Deadline for the December FOCUS 	28 AA Meeting 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	29 Handbell Choir 6:00 p.m. Children's Worship Group/ Youth Group TBD Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Planned Childcare for Chancel Choir	30		



*Coming in
December*



Celebrate the Season
of Advent!

Christmas Eve at Lake Forest

Our Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship Service
will be
Sunday,
December 24,
at 5:30 p.m.





LAKE FOREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

714 Lake Forest Drive
Knoxville, TN 37920
(865) 577-2800



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