

# The LCF Connection

October 2022



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## LCF Ushers in Fall with Outdoor Service

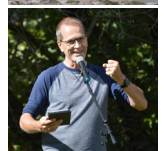
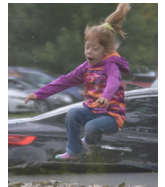
by Jeff Gates

On September 25th, LCF took its Sunday service on the road and gathered along Big Darby Creek, near the home of Dale and Sharon Headings. There were around 100 people who gathered there (including some 1st-time guests who found their way there after seeing the sign on the church door) for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship, using the background of God's beautiful creation. It was a cool fall-like day, but we were very thankful that the thunder and rain that we awoke to passed by quickly, allowing us to meet outside as planned.

Vicki Sairs opened the service with words of inspiration. With a backdrop of newly-changing trees and flowing water, Keith Scheffel led the musical portion of the service with such songs as "Your Name," "Let the Morning Bring Me Word," "This is My Father's World," and concluded with "10,000 Reasons."

Children enjoyed the activity bulletins. Mandy Hisey read from 1 Thessalonians, transitioning the service smoothly into Pastor Rob's message of hope titled, "The Dead in Christ Shall Rise." At the conclusion of his message the scenic surroundings were the ideal background as Rob picked up his guitar, and led us all to sing "Lift Your Glad Voices."

Following meaningful moments of reflection, prayer, and a benediction by Vicki, it was time for some great food and fellowship. From kids bouncing on the trampoline to a plentiful smorgasbord of food and unhurried time to spend with our church family, it was a refreshing and much-needed time together. Thanks so much to all who made it possible—especially Dale and Sharon for allowing us to use the property and for persevering with grilling the hamburgers on a windy day! ■



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London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

## Building Community Over Brunch

by Elisabeth Yoder

In a setting like church, it's easy to stick close to the people we know well and forgo the opportunity to stretch our circle. I've noticed this tendency in myself, so I was glad for the opportunity to attend the ladies' brunch on September 17th to continue building relationships with the other ladies of LCF.



The brunch was well-planned and executed by Shannon and Lara and graciously hosted by Doris. While the donuts provided and the delicious dishes everyone contributed could warrant their own paragraph, the highlight was getting to sit and have conversations with people I barely know as well as those I know well. We got to make new connections

such as meeting Doris's neighbor who is an artist and building upon existing ones. If not for this brunch, I may never have known that Angie Stukey minored in and speaks Russian or gotten to hear a bit about Maggie Gates's life as a history teacher.

I would encourage us all to be proactive in getting to know the members of our LCF family, and if you get to do so over hot coffee and good food, so much the better. ■





# What About the Apocrypha?

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

When I was on vacation this summer, I also took a little detour in our Read the Bible in a Year plan. You are still reading, aren't you? ;- ) I was a little ahead, so I decided to read the Apocrypha. That word is a little tricky.

Apocrypha has several senses. There are Old Testament and New Testament apocryphal writings based on when they were written. Generally these are works that aren't part of the accepted canon of Biblical books. The canon is the measure by which we decide what writings are in the Bible and which aren't. Bible. Many apocryphal works are clearly bogus, pretending to be written by Biblical authors when they clearly aren't. Many of them are full of heretical beliefs. In most cases, it is easy to see why they weren't accepted.

That's not always true, though. If you have a Catholic background, you might have noticed that the Catholic Bible is slightly different, and this has to do with the canon. The same can be said of the Orthodox Churches. Catholic Bibles contain writings you will not see in your Protestant Bible. For instance, Tobit, Judith, Sirach, and the Maccabees to name a few. What's up with this?

These extra books aren't considered by Catholics to be extra. They are a regular part of the Bible carrying every bit as much authority as the rest of scripture. They may refer to them as deuterocanonical (second canon). Mostly, they are works that first appeared in the time between the Old and New Testaments, and they were, for the most part, written in Greek. Remember the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, but translated into Greek around 200 years before the time of Jesus. The early church used that Greek version of the scriptures almost exclusively. It was the foundation of the Old Testament of the Bible as it came down to us through the Middle Ages. The Jews, on the other hand, rejected this Greek version early on—right after the time of Jesus. They accepted only those works that were in their Hebrew scriptures. In part, this was a reaction to the Christians.

In the Reformation, some 500 years ago, the Protestants decided to take the same position as the Jewish Rabbis, and rejected those Greek writings from their canon of the Old Testament. The Roman Catholics soon doubled down on them and declared them the Deuterocanonicals. I would guess this was in reaction to the Protestants.

The Protestants agreed with one another that these writings were not to be considered Holy Scripture, but they didn't say that all of them were worthless. In many cases, they deemed them useful. The early church had used them, and the Reformers had grown up with them. Menno Simons, one of our founders, quoted from them with some regularity.

I take the Protestant view, but I enjoyed my little detour, and would recommend you try it some time. Tobit, Judith, and Suzanne all read very easily. Although I'm glad it's not considered the equal of the book of Proverbs, I have particularly enjoyed Sirach (aka Ecclesiasticus) which is very similar.

Our Bible is the treasure of the Church. Knowing what's in it is most important, but knowing about it is also necessary and worth our time and effort. Non-believers routinely challenge our faith with the charge that the Bible is unreliable, untrustworthy. Would you be prepared to answer if they raised a question about the canon of scripture? ■

# Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began by sharing prayer needs for ourselves and the church and then prayed for them. Rob read 1 Peter 5:1-4 and reminded us of our responsibility to shepherd the flock of people that God has placed under our care at LCF. He invited us to share updates on those we are shepherding.

We spent some time discussing various details for current and future services at LCF, including:

- The young men Rob has been mentoring who have been preaching at LCF.
- Reuben is planning to teach more preaching classes at a few area churches and welcomes anyone interested from LCF to join those.
- We have a number of current RBC students who have expressed interest in helping out at LCF; some with children's ministries, others with pastoral mentoring/internships.
- LCF Family Christmas has grown into a special event that everyone enjoys; this year, it could be challenging to find people who will be there that day since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. More investigation will be needed to see if it will work to have LCF Family Christmas on Christmas Day or if we should have it the week before.

We spent some time talking about how (and how much) our Anabaptist theology is espoused; from the pulpit, on our church website, in LCF 101 class and normal conversations, in small groups, etc. We want to communicate truth with love and in very tactful ways, as we have congregants who come from non-Anabaptist backgrounds, so that it can be received well.

We talked about the possibility of expanding LCF's RBC scholarship to young people who attend Christian colleges other than RBC. There are a lot of other great Christian colleges out there; however, RBC is the college associated with our conference and we know we can fully stand behind what they believe and teach. Our scholarship is primarily a small way to communicate to our youth that we highly recommend RBC and would love to see them attend there.

We have extended an invitation to Keith and Shannon to serve on the elders team for a 2nd term. They are considering it and will let us know. Jesse's 2nd term will end in December so he is not eligible again for one year. Everyone affirmed continuing with our usual process of asking people to submit names for consideration, and then we will work through that list to find a suitable and willing candidate to take back to the congregation to vote on. We recognize that this process can take a while and hope to ask for names from the congregation soon.

Pam Stanforth has asked us to find someone else to take care of church decor. We are in the process of forming a new team to oversee this area.

Jesse closed our time by praying about the things we talked about. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th. ■



# Getting to Know...Everence

by Lara Swain



I have been serving as LCF's Everence advocate for the past year. As I have learned more about them, I have come to admire their mission, goals, and how they impact the church community.

Their primary business is to provide financial planning, investing, and insurance services to members interested in taking a faith-based approach to their finances. They are based in Goshen, Indiana, but have a local office here in Plain City.

They use a portion of their profits from these services to provide matching grants to churches as they use their benevolence funds (like the one we have here at LCF) to help members of the congregation in need.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Everence, here is an overview of who they are and what they do—in their own words.

What if one organization could...

- help you live a life of biblical stewardship?
- help you integrate your values with your financial decisions?
- help you shelter your family—and your future—in ways that honor God and give you peace of mind?
- help you support your church and other charities in meaningful ways?
- help meet the ministry needs in your congregation?



**Everence** is that one organization!

Since 1945, Everence has served the needs of people like you who want to put their faith and values into action. When you work with Everence, you're making a difference in the lives of others. You can support community investing, grant making, and charitable giving.

**How can Everence help?** They offer unique faith-based financial services designed to help you:

#### Manage your money

- Personal checking and savings, including for youth
- Consumer and home loans
- Credit and debit cards
- Budget and debt counseling
- Financial planning

#### Protect your future

- Life insurance
- Medicare services
- Long-term care insurance
- Disability insurance
- Annuities

#### Help you save and invest

- Retirement accounts
- Investment management
- Trust and estate services

#### Enhance your charitable giving

- Charitable gifts accounts
- Wills and legacy planning
- Charitable trust and gift annuities

#### Support your faith community

- Stewardship ministry support and education
- Church banking and loan services
- Church charitable services and endowments
- Grants to assist people in financial hardship

**Weaving a Legacy:  
Finances God's Way**

Sunday, October 30th  
at Sharon Mennonite Church, 7675 Amity Pike, Plain City

2:30-3 Opening

3-4 Choose one of the following workshops:  
- Starting Early: Helping children learn good money habits  
- Investing for Impact: How your decisions can reflect your faith values  
- What will your final statement be?

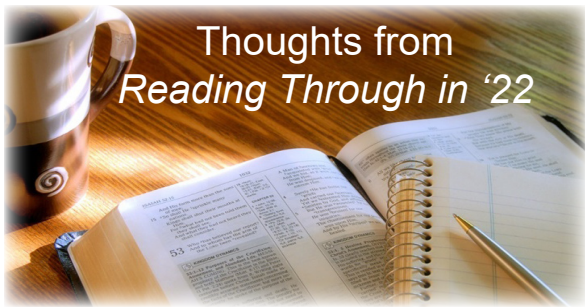
4-5 Stories of Legacy

5:15-7 Fellowship and supper featuring BBQ pork and fixings

Please RSVP by October 23rd to Lara.

I encourage you to consider attending the Weaving a Legacy event that Everence will be having at the end of this month. Bring your children and have fun learning good money habits. The afternoon will include a variety of workshops (including one for parents and their elementary to middle-school age children) along with the sharing of stories about faith and finances, followed by a BBQ pork dinner. Childcare for toddlers through pre-kindergarten will be provided. There is no cost to attend; however, you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to help offset the costs of the dinner. If you would like to attend, please let me know by October 23.

If you have questions or want to know more about the Legacy event or Everence and their services, please feel free to contact me or visit [Everence.com](http://Everence.com). I would be glad to talk with you or put you into contact with our local Everence representative. ■



## Thoughts from Reading Through in '22

### Being Discipled Daily Through God's Word

by Gideon Eichorn

Like many of you, Sarah and I have been doing LCF's Bible reading plan this year. We opted to read through the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. I wish that, like my wife, I could say that I haven't missed a day, but that is not the case. It has been a great blessing in my life—even on the days I'm reading extra to catch up.



Early on, when I came to the Great Commission passage in Matthew 28, I was struck by the phrase "teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you." Jesus is calling us to make disciples, but in order for us to do that, we first need to be discipled. If I want to be a disciple, I must learn to obey the scriptures. How will I obey if I don't know what the Bible says? Using this as my motivation has helped to give purpose as I read through the Bible.

For those of you reading through the Old Testament in addition to the New, I applaud you! Know that there is value in reading through some of the more difficult-to-read passages, and it is all part of learning to obey Jesus.

The simplicity of reading through the Bible in a year helps me get back to the basics of my faith in Christ. Although it can be helpful, I don't need a study guide to take me through God's Word. I am thankful for this opportunity to read through the Bible with my church family. ■

*If you are "Reading Through in '22" along with us, you may want to note that as of October 1st, we are 3/4 of the way through!  
Only 3 more months (13 weeks or 92 days) to go!  
Keep growing strong in God as you are discipled daily through His Word!*

## Kentucky Flood Recovery

by Theresa Hennis

You've most likely heard about the flooding in eastern Kentucky in July that hit 5 counties. One of our members here at LCF, Clete Yoder, has had a first-hand look at the devastation. Clete is the Recovery Committee Coordinator for Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS), who asked him to join them and investigate the losses and damages to the homes in the area.



"We first had to find a camp to set up for long-term recovery housing for the volunteers who will do repairs and rebuild," Clete said. "We are pretty much through with the muck-out and are starting repairs now. We are relocating to Bethel Camp."

The MDS team is working with 5 CMC churches in the area.

MDS provides the volunteers. Many homes were destroyed, so new homes will have to be built and others repaired. A team of twenty volunteers will also build 3 bridges, which is a two-week project, in November. Clete will arrange for the equipment and materials. The important thing about the rebuilding effort is that funds are needed even more than materials. There are specific materials needed that can't be predicted until the job is assessed, and then the materials must be bought at that time. So funding, along with volunteers, are top priorities.

For Clete, the rebuild means rebuilding lives as much as physical buildings. "The stories bring you to tears," he said. "The loss is tremendous. Over 90 percent of families did not have flood insurance, because those areas were not designated as flood zones."

The most heart-wrenching loss is that of the children's peace of mind. When it rains now, they are terrified. They've been displaced and many had to go live with other family members. They can't go to their usual schools, and now that the sites where their homes were located are being labeled as flood zones, they can't go back home. MDS is looking for new properties on which to build homes, and as you can imagine, finding flat land in an area full of hollers will be a challenge.



Thanks for your generous response already. Many of you have donated food, water, cleaning supplies, and finances, while others of you have gone down to volunteer or help in some way. We encourage you to continue to support this recovery process however you can.

- PRAY - Please be praying for Clete and the many volunteers who serve in the rebuilding effort.
- VOLUNTEER - Contact Deanna at MDS (717-929-4172) to inquire about possibilities or schedule a time to volunteer and give of your time to help out.
- GIVE - If you would like to give financially to help fund this flood recovery effort, visit [Rosedaleinternational.org/Kentucky/](http://Rosedaleinternational.org/Kentucky/). ■

## The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

What did you think? If any of the stories in this Connection sparked an idea or opinion you'd like to share, email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org).  
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