

# The LCF Connection

December 2024



## A New Home

BY ANGIE STUKEY

The Stukeys are currently going through some big changes! Our youngest son, David, is thriving at UTMartin, and our granddaughter is a happy, healthy, three-year-old who doesn't need grandma and grandpa as much, so we are feeling a tad lonely and in need of a change.

Two Septembers ago, we found a little over an acre in a small subdivision near the Champaign County line. We fell in love with the property and bought it. We then found a builder and began the process of building our next-stage home. One without stairs and fewer bedrooms to clean. The building process began and then screeched to a halt when we violated the mysterious Covenants and Restrictions. A Covenants and Restrictions is a legal document that is similar to an HOA, but does not have a governing body. The company that began the subdivision went bankrupt, yet the document survived. After meeting all of our neighbors (and I mean all of them, because we had to have them sign off on another legal document), we were able to continue with the building process.

Three months later, the hammers sounded again. We are very present in the building process, and it has almost consumed all of our free time. We should be in the new home around Thanksgiving. That is something to be thankful for. The process has taught us patience and a willingness to lean into God when the process stopped. We have trusted Him to continue to guide us and even teach us how to embrace this change. Once we have grass, furniture, water, and electricity, we will have an open house. The property and the neighbors are fantastic. We will still see the same sunsets and sunrises, but from a different angle.

## Inside This Issue

A New Home	1
Christmas Traditions	1
Gratitude Sunday	2
A Journey through Acts	2
Getting to Know Lizzi Yoder	3
C4 Happenings	3
Bible Reading 2025	4
Elders Notes & Council Update	4



## Christmas Traditions

BY MEGAN WENGERD

As we enter this Christmas season and begin thinking of Christmas traditions, we may have many that are similar: Christmas music, decorations, baking, seeing the lights, parties with friends and family. But some of mine that may vary from yours would be visiting the Christmas display at the alpaca farm close to my parents, having a BINGO night with friends, and biscuits and gravy for Christmas breakfast.

Each year I look forward to the Christmas traditions I grew up with and those that Brandon and I are making with our family. Some of these things have changed over the years and some things we do for a few years, take a break and come back to. There is a sense of comfort and predictability in traditions that come around each year. We can look back on past years with fondness of good memories associated with traditions.



255 US 42 NE London, OH 43140  
(740) 490-2121 [LCFweb.org](http://LCFweb.org)

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

*continued on Page 4...*



## Gratitude Sunday

BY JANA E NEWSWANGER

"O give thanks to the Lord for he is good!" Gratitude Sunday on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was a chance for us all to take some time and do just that. First, the worship team reminded us of "Amazing Grace" then challenged us to be like an "Alabaster Jar." We were then challenged to worship God through giving, while listening to Reuben, Cody and Sammy's guitar instrumental. The children told us to praise God "Seven Times a Day," and the choir told us that "It Is Well with My Soul." Ella sang about trusting in God, and Linda about how great God is.

And finally, Reuben challenged us to take the time to determine what we are truly grateful for and to thank God for those things instead of just going through the formalities.



But what is true gratitude, and how can we take that gratitude with us into the new year? Maybe by:

- Seeking to have it "be well with our souls"
- Choosing to "trust in You" in the little moments of life
- Making a practice of praising God "Seven times a day."

Psalms 84:4 says, "Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you." Let's take the words of Psalms 107:1-2 to heart, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story"



## A Journey through Acts

BY PAM STANFORTH

The book of Acts has been both a source of inspiration and a struggle for me at different times in my life. Though it is a book overflowing with hope and promise, my misunderstandings and influences—both external and internal—shaped my perspective in ways that brought confusion. I was deeply influenced by well-meaning men and women of faith, as well as by my own earnest desire to be a woman wholly devoted to God and His power.

It wasn't out of pride or a desire to mislead others that I longed for these things. Rather, it came from a genuine yearning to be all I could be in Christ: to do mighty works in His name, to be a person whose prayers brought healing, freedom from evil spirits, and transformation. I dreamed of standing before multitudes like Paul, preaching words so powerful they would lead others to Jesus, free them from addictions, and break the chains of the enemy.

I believed, as many do, that the words of Acts should be taken with a pure and simple faith—that if one had even a mustard seed of faith, the power of God would move mightily. Yet, when I prayed and didn't see immediate change, my understanding faltered. I began to believe that God's power depended on me—on whether I was "prayed up" enough or if the person I prayed for was resistant to God's will. I thought the failure to see instant healing or deliverance was due to a lack of faith, either in myself or in the one I prayed for.

This misunderstanding led to a rocky path, one filled with discouragement and self-doubt. I worked tirelessly, striving to pave a way I thought Jesus had laid out for me, only to find that it wasn't His path at all. I failed to see what I now understand so clearly: that miracles, healings, and deliverance are not dependent on my efforts, my declarations, or even my faith alone. They are wholly dependent on God—on His purposes, His plans, and His perfect timing.

Today, my faith remains steadfast in the truth that God still performs miracles, delivers people from bondage, and heals broken lives. But my understanding of Acts has deepened. Acts 1:8 now stands as a cornerstone for me: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

This verse reminds me that the true purpose of the Holy Spirit's power is not about personal achievement or recognition—it's about being a witness. It's about living a life fully surrendered to God, cultivating a personal relationship with Him, and being ready to say, "Here I am, send me."

The power described in Acts is real, but it flows from God's will, not our own striving. It is not about what we can accomplish but about how God works through us for His glory. This truth has brought peace to my soul and clarity to my calling.

To God be the glory for His power, His purpose, and His plan. Amen.

# Getting to Know Lizzi Yoder

BY THERESA HENNIS

Lizzi is a long-time friend of Janae Newswanger. She moved back to the Columbus area earlier this year after spending some time abroad and now works at Rosedale International.

**Where are you from, originally?**

I grew up in Shipshewana, Indiana.

**Are you from a large or small family?**

A small family. I'm an only child.

**Are you in a relationship?**

No

**What is one thing you wish you could do if nothing was keeping you from it?**

I would love to travel more. I spent some time in Europe, but I would love to see even more of the world.

**Have you traveled, and if so, where? Is there someplace in particular that you would like to visit if you could?**

See the above question. I lived in Poland for a few years, and was able to travel around some of eastern Europe.

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

A walk-able city? I really enjoyed visiting Vienna, so maybe I'd like to live there.

**What inspires you the most, in life? In your faith?**

I'm inspired by community. I really find value in a group of people working together to create belonging, working together to make the outsider and stranger feel at home.

**What is your favorite hobby or way to spend a day?**

I really love reading. So, if I could I'd spend my days reading, I'd be happy.

**What is one piece of advice you would give a young woman; something you learned or experienced that you think is important for women to know?**

Young woman, God will lead you if you ask, and you are capable of what He leads you to.

*Thank you for sharing with us, and we look forward to getting to know you better!*



## C4 Happenings

BY MIKE BAKER

In C4, we have had a wonderful last quarter. We continue to grow as a group and are so thankful for the 15 students who call C4 home each Sunday evening. We have a fun group who come from private, public, and home schools around Columbus, London, and Plain City. September was rough with us being on the road, but we are so thankful for those who filled in for us. It has been nice to get back into a rhythm in October.

We had a special event in October at The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek. We had fun walking through the maze, and no one got lost. We also enjoyed some mini-golf, the trampoline, and picking fresh wildflowers. We had four students head to High School Fall Retreat at Bethel Camp. Spending a weekend disconnected and growing closer to God is always a blessing.

We wrapped up November with our second annual C4 Thanksgiving. We had an enjoyable night celebrating all the fixings and family favorites of the group, and then we ended our evening with some glow-in-the-dark Nukem, a form of volleyball that we love to play each week.

We look forward to a Christmas party later this month to finish out our year and some ice skating early in January. We expect more growth next year, and we know we will soon need a junior high program. If anyone is interested in joining the youth team, please do not hesitate to reach out to Karen or myself.



Among all the decorations, baking, gift giving and fun of Christmas, one of the traditions we have started as a family is a daily advent devotional. This has varied over the years based on the kids' ages but it has become an important part of our Christmas season. By taking time each evening to teach our kids why we are celebrating Christmas it has helped me as an adult to slow down and make sure my focus is staying on Christ throughout the season. My hope is that, as my kids get older, they realize for themselves that Jesus coming to the earth as a baby is the most important part of the Christmas season. Without Him we have nothing to be celebrating.

The Christmas season can so quickly become overly busy and stressful for some. Are we allowing the need for traditions to overshadow the real reason we should be celebrating Christmas? A challenge for myself and for you would be to look at the traditions and Christmas happenings that you do each year and assess why you do them. Are they bringing joy to this season? Are they helping you remember to celebrate Jesus' coming to earth and share that hope with those around you? As we look forward to Christmas day, let's prayerfully keep the true meaning of this season at the forefront of our minds.

## Bible Reading 2025

BY REUBEN SAIRS

A new year approaches. Consider starting a Bible reading plan starting on January 1st. Try it! Bible reading is not just reading about something. It's not simply getting information. It is a chance to let God speak into your life daily. It can change you; heal you; comfort you; challenge you; correct you.

Many Christians only read their Bibles a little bit, infrequently and piecemeal. A plan helps you to keep on track and cover more ground. This year at LCF, we will emphasize a modest plan that has you read the New Testament in a year—basically a chapter a day, but wait, that's not all! There are 260 chapters in the New Testament, and this plan is a 5-day-a-week plan. If you miss a day, you can easily catch up and keep up.

Our service on December 29th will be dedicated to the role of Bible reading in our lives, and promoting Bible reading for our LCF family. We'll have plans and Bibles ready for you (if you want or need one). If you're already using a plan, then stick with that if you like, but if you're looking for a New Year's resolution that matters more than all the others and won't be too hard to keep, this may be your chance. See Rob or Reuben with questions/comments.

## Elders Notes

BY JEREMY HISEY

The elders held our November meeting on Wednesday, November 20th, at the home of Rob and Doris Swartz. In attendance were Rob and Doris Swartz, Reuben and Vicki Sairs, Abraham and Naomy Ndungu, Gideon Eichorn, and Jeremy Hisey.

As we normally do, we began our time together by discussing prayer requests among the group, as well as those within the congregation, followed by a time of prayer for those concerns. We moved on to discuss the elder nominations and quickly agreed on the top candidates. Rob will begin by reaching out to the first candidate as we continue to pray for God to guide the process.

We would like to see any potential Associate Pastor begin as a Pastoral Intern, so we spent some time discussing the Pastoral Intern job description that Rob prepared for us. We made some minor tweaks before agreeing on the final job description. Another discussion for the evening was the proposed 2025 budget that the council has put together.

Naomy shared some ideas of her desire to see more opportunities for prayer. We scheduled our next meeting for December 13th, which will be a potluck to celebrate Abraham and Naomy's service on the elders team. Reuben closed our time in prayer.

## Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Zoom conference.

October income was \$16,430 which was more than our expenses of \$9,767 by \$6,663. Our YTD income is \$176,006 compared to our YTD expenses of \$142,653, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$33,353.

The quarterly payment to RNOC as well as payments to Rosedale International and Rosedale Bible College were again made in November. With the December payments, we will continue to keep on schedule for the rest of 2024.

Sarah will put a message on BAND asking for input on snow removal options at the church. Any suggestions are welcome. Please send those to Russ Hauge or Sarah Eichorn.

The Premise Use Policy was briefly reviewed/discussed and remains an open topic while the elders team defines the underlying vision on how the church should be used. Once that has been defined, a joint meeting with the elders team and council will be held to discuss potential usage options.

The majority of time was spent reviewing the draft of the 2025 church budget. While establishing the budget, the council follows a high-level process. The last two years of actual income/expenses are reviewed, followed by identifying areas of variation in giving and expenses and then creating a new draft budget. When evaluating salaries or hourly wages, the job description is reviewed combined with weekly tasks and hourly effort estimates. Once all changes have been approved by the council and elders teams, the budget will be shared with the congregation.

Additional topics that were tabled for future discussion: re-investigate the cost impact of installing lights in the church parking lot and the need to develop an investment policy to address how non-budgeted funds are held.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm by Zoom conference.



## The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship.

We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org).

Editors: Jodi Traverse, Theresa Hennis, Doris Swartz