

# The LCF Connection

February 2026



## DNA (Daily Needs Assistance)

(Ministry Spotlight)  
BY JODI TRAVERSE

**About:** DNA is a faith-based ministry that cares for various food and education needs in the community. It currently operates out of two local churches in Plain City—Journey Community Church and Sharon Mennonite Church. While it works for them to operate out of these churches, they are really hopeful that they will have a building of their own eventually.

**Services:** DNA serves a hot breakfast every Saturday at Journey. They also operate a food pantry there on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings as well as a personal needs pantry and a diaper day once a month. They host their ESL classes and their summer camp at Sharon. They also have a mentorship program that connects kids and adults in the community.

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

## Remembering the Good Part

*A Message from the Pastor*  
BY CORIN WENGER

A couple years ago someone I know sent me a link to a news article about a hospital putting up a big monolith engraved with the Ten Commandments. They were excited about it. I read the article, but for some reason, I was less excited about it. I could understand why someone would be excited—here was a big institution that was unabashedly publishing scripture for all to see, here the hospital hoped to share a piece of their Judeo-Christian ethics—but part of me wondered: were they hoping to share a message of healing and salvation? And if they were, why did they choose that Bible passage? I don't possess a perfect theory of common morality and secular law as influenced by religious principles, and my point today isn't to expound one. But I do want to consider the message that we can so often give, both to those within the church and without. Look at what 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 says:

*"But if the ministry of death, engraved in letters on stones, came with glory so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness excel in glory. For indeed what had glory in this case has no glory, because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory."*

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Paul calls the law, quite specifically harkening to the Ten Commandments, “the ministry of death.” Now we know both here and elsewhere that the New Testament confirms the glory and goodness of the Law. But it also explains what the Law means for humans, and contrasts it with the life we have in Christ. I don’t look at the Ten Commandments and see a message of hope. Where in it is there hope for the adulterer, the murderer, the liar, or the thief? Where in it is there hope for any of us? The Law condemns us, it is Christ who sets us free. In my personal conversations with people outside the church, they are usually all too aware of the sad state of humanity, the message of condemnation from Christians upon the world, and sometimes of their own need for aid. And inside the church, I speak with many people who can’t help but think that they aren’t good enough, that if they could just follow the rules better they would more fully belong to the body of Christ.

Certainly, I think that to go against any of the particulars of the Ten Commandments is to go against both the Spirit and the law of Christ, and I don’t want to minimize the righteousness to which we are called in our new life. But have we accidentally given believers and unbelievers alike a preamble of condemnation and rule-following and left out the good part of the message? The Greek word for “gospel” literally means “good news,” and I think we need a renewed emphasis on just that. Is your spirit in need of a physician? Jesus came to bring healing. Are you tired and weighed down? Jesus came to bring rest. Are you poor in spirit? Jesus came to bring blessing. Are you suffering under your own pride? Jesus came to bring humility.

We should share the gospel with people who are lost, and we should continually encourage each other in the body of Christ. In our sharing and encouraging, let us not forget that we are free from the Law, and that we live under grace. How can we share Jesus with others and invite them to accept His mercy and forgiveness if we ourselves are holding onto the law which condemns us instead of accepting all that which is offered to us in Christ? I’m sure that at one point I memorized the Ten Commandments, but I couldn’t list them off today. Recently, though, I memorized the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30. I encourage you to consider memorizing it as well, and share it with a friend

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

## C4 Update

BY ROB DEVLIN

Hello everyone! We wanted to share a brief update on what’s been happening with our youth group. Over the past few months, our students have been meeting regularly for fellowship, Bible study, and activities. Our focus has been on how we can use scripture to guide us in every walk of life. Attendance has been encouraging, and it’s been great to see the youth engaging thoughtfully in discussions, supporting one another, and growing more comfortable sharing their faith.

We recently finished the book of Philippians, and the group responded with honest questions and great conversation.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our youth ministry. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like to get involved.

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## Elders Notes

BY BRANDON WENGERD

On January 14th, we gathered for our monthly elders meeting at the home of Rob and Doris. We began with a time of reflecting on what is happening within the church and lifting up praises and prayer requests to our loving Father.

We welcomed Joel and Lara Swain and look forward to having them be a part of the elders team.

We talked through how we can continue to encourage individuals in the church. We want to support and build a community that values the various gifts and roles within our faith body.

We look forward to our annual Celebrate the Church Sunday on January 18th as we bring in new members, renew memberships, and have a potluck after the service.

Danielle Fredette and Marti George have provided some prayers for children that we plan to incorporate into the church service before the children go to Sunday School each week.

We discussed possible dates in April to meet for an elders’ retreat this spring and will explore potential locations that might be available.

We closed our time with prayer and set our next meeting for February 11th. We welcome you to share your thoughts and concerns with us.

# *Getting to Know Steve and Phyllis Swartz*

BY JODI TRAVERSE

## **Where are you from?**

Phyllis lived half her childhood on a small farm in Grantsville, Maryland, and the other half in the city of Flint, Michigan. Steve grew up in Mt. Morris, Michigan, a small town outside Flint.

## **How did you meet?**

Our families were friends, and so we met a number of times as children. As teens, we were part of youth groups that often met jointly. We had our first date at age 16.

## **What is something you like about the other person?**

Phyllis: Steve steadies my world. And since I'm a person who needs steadying, this works well. Steve is a person of sterling character, who lives what he believes. And he often invites me to have fun instead of work, which is not what I was taught to do as a child. Plus, he's a handsome guy!

Steve: Phyllis is highly intelligent, a discerner of character, and is passionate about ideas. She is a wordsmith and gives great advice to me. I consult with her regularly on big and small issues. She's little. And mighty.



## **How many children/grandchildren do you have?**

We have two children. They each have four children—giving us eight grandchildren—one granddaughter and seven grandsons. We're in love with all of them.

## **Tell us about a favorite job you've had and what was so special about it.**

Steve: I love working with people. Currently, I run a small counseling service. After forty-one years of counseling, I've seen and heard pretty much everything. But I'm still intrigued.

Phyllis: I love working with people's minds. I've taught in lots of venues—middle school, a gifted program, a state prison, a college, an art museum, and worked in parent education. And in teacher training.

## **Who has been a big influence in your life and why?**

After being married for over five decades, we each consider each other the biggest influence in our lives.

## **What is a hobby or pastime you enjoy?**

Steve: Reading. I average a book a week—fiction, counseling, theology.

Phyllis: Reading. I read as a writer, constantly looking for style and technique.

## **If you could change one thing about your personality, what would that be?**

Phyllis: I wish I could relax like Steve. Steve: I'd like to be alert like Phyllis.

## **What is something you do not regret doing with your life?**

Steve: One thing I don't regret is growing up poor. And I don't regret being poor the first decade of our married life. We learned so much about good financial management during that time. And what we learned has stayed with us. And helped us.

Phyllis: I don't regret pursuing an education against great odds and sacrifice. We did things in a different order—got married, became parents, and then started college. For eighteen of the first twenty years of our married life, one or both of us was in college or graduate school full-time or part-time. We're glad we sharpened our axes before chopping away at the forest.

## **What are some of your favorite traditions (weekly, monthly, or annually)?**

For the last twenty years, we've pulled off Cousin Week. Our grandchildren, without their parents, come to our house. We fill our basement with cots, our freezers with food, and our schedules with fun and Bible school. We started when they were in diapers—one year, four of them at a time. And this year, four of them are in college, three in high school, and one in middle school. These eight kids make us rich.

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**Annual Events:** There are several annual events/services that DNA is involved with. They have a Back-to-School Shop at the end of summer and a Remembered Child Christmas Store the beginning of December. Another fun thing they started doing more recently is an annual 2K/5K walk in partnership with Coldest Night of the Year. This year's walk is coming up on February 28th.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The food pantry and Saturday breakfast can always use volunteers. The food pantry could specifically use more volunteers to help on Monday and Wednesday mornings. DNA is planning to have some conversational English classes in March and could use volunteers to help with the classes and childcare. They always welcome volunteers to be mentors for the LIFT mentoring program or to help in various ways with their annual summer camp.

**Paid Opportunities:** Every summer, DNA puts a ton of work into having a fabulous summer camp for the local kids. They offer paid internship positions for those 17 and older who are interested in helping out with such a powerful program.

You can find more information about the ministry of DNA and sign up to get involved at their website [dnaplaincity.org](http://dnaplaincity.org).

## Caught in the Act!



Having a nice selection of hot coffee available at church every week takes a fair amount of work. Thank you to each one of you who volunteers to come early and make coffee so that it's ready for everyone to enjoy!

## Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Google Meet video conference.

December income was \$17,284 which was more than our expenses of \$13,111 by \$4,173. Our 2025 YTD income is \$232,223 compared to our YTD expenses of \$205,465, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$26,758. We thank God for His faithful provision and each of you for your generous giving!

Sarah continues to stay busy on multiple fronts. She has been working with Brotherhood Works to resolve a past tax credit of \$437. She is also making progress with Merchants Bank to switch from debit cards to credit cards for those individuals making church related purchases.

Russ reached out to the Somerford Fire Department related to obtaining AED and CPR training for church members that may be interested. Fire department contact information was forwarded to Dave King for further discussion and scheduling.

We will be having an informal Q&A/feedback session after church on February 1st soliciting feedback on potential playground usage and equipment at that time. Please plan on staying after church for that discussion if interested.

After receiving two different quotes for LCF parking lot lights, we are following up to receive updated quotes and move forward with the installation of parking lot lights. If anyone is interested in assisting with this project, please contact any LCF council member.

With the acceptance of the 2026 Budget, we will be working on installing a remote keypad entrance to the church. This will assist in eliminating assignment of keys and streamline the process of members without a key using the church. In addition, we are in initial discussion on what it will take to install security cameras outside the four sides of the church.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7 pm by video 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).  
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