

# The LCF Connection

March 2026



## 77th Pastors Conference: The Power of the Gospel

BY KATIE WENGER

Rosedale Network's annual Pastors Conference was hosted by the RNOC churches around Apple Creek, OH and was held from February 16th to 19th at Fairlawn Mennonite Church. In attendance from our congregation were Rob and Doris Swartz, Reuben and Vicki Sairs, Steve and Phyllis Swartz, Abraham Ndungu, Mike Baker, and Corin and I. Mike presented the RI budget, and Reuben taught a breakout session.

The first evening session was a time of worship and communion. To worship God and remember Christ's broken body and shed blood together was a joyful, freeing experience. The days at Pastors Conference were filled with

*(Continued on page 4)*

---

### Inside this Issue

---

77th Pastors Conference	1
Rage Bait	1
Elders Notes	2
Growing in Fellowship	3
Fellowship Team Update	3
Council Update	4

---



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.*

## Rage Bait

*A Message from the Pastor*

BY REUBEN SAIRS

Rage bait is Oxford's word of the year 2025: *"online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social media content."*

Probably almost everybody at LCF is affected by this. If I can push out the fishing analogy for society at large, we have taken it hook, line and sinker. We're being caught, eaten, or mounted and hung on someone's wall.

When we're doing anything online, we are studied, and content that appeals to us takes over. The twisted part is that much of that content will be designed to make us mad, furious really. It gives us an enemy—the cause of all our troubles. This enemy is everywhere all around us, and we must respond in anger, and for some, with violence. At least we had better stay tuned in and keep an eye on things! What are they up to now? The rage bait gives us an enemy, but it also gives us an identity, a group, a team, a tribe.

I'll suggest I already have a tribe—they're called Christians. And I know who the real enemy is—spiritual powers that can work on my own

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Rage Bait... continued from page 1)*

sinful inclinations. Those two things are only played dishonestly when they are wrapped in rage bait.

The real goal of rage bait is to keep us scrolling to see ads or recruit us to a cause, a side, a person, or a product. Calm and moderate positions won't work, so an ever-escalating level of hype with ever more extreme and outlandish claims is the only thing that will keep our attention. In short, we're being played.

I'm trying to break free. I'm not reaching for my phone first thing in the morning or last thing in the evening. I sing hymns part of the way to work and leave the radio off. I have plenty of time to check in, but on MY terms.

I wonder what we would be like if we ran an experiment and picked up our Bible a few times during the day when we're ready to reach for our phones? I wonder what we would be like if the litany of radio and streaming media weren't on while we were doing other things. What if we filled our minds with music or something neutral, or maybe even silence, or anything other than a human voice getting us revved up?

I find it hard to pinpoint Paul's context in 1st Corinthians 6. It seems he had several topics in mind. Some suggest he quoted a statement that the Corinthian Christians used as a slogan, "All things are lawful for me," but then turned it around for them in verse 12.

***All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.***

I am determined that I will not let rage bait dominate me. I am as susceptible as anyone, but I know it is not helpful. Does anyone care to join me?

---

## Elders Notes

BY BRANDON WENGERD

On February 11th, we met for our monthly elders meeting at the home of Rob and Doris. We started with a time of reflecting on what is happening within the church and lifting up praises and prayer requests to God.

As the church has to navigate the world we live in, we shared ideas of how we as leadership can best lead the church. We are committed to continuing to preach and teach from the Bible as the source of truth. We want to care for each individual within the church as best as we can by the power and wisdom of God. We also want to be a witness of the gospel of Jesus to the community beyond where our church body is involved. A verse that came to us is Galatians 1:10, "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."

After a final conversation, we will be incorporating a prayer for the children of our church into the service before the children go to Sunday School this week (February 15th) and in each week following. Corin volunteered to introduce it during the service. It is wonderful to have a wide range of children at our church. We are thankful for the Sunday School teachers as they are an integral part of the children's ministry.

To support the efforts of our youth leaders, Mike and Karen Baker, we discussed the possibility of some financial compensation. We are grateful for the spiritual investment they make into the youth of our church and beyond.

Due to our varied schedules and the limited availability of a gathering place, we have decided to wait to have an elder's retreat until this fall.

We closed our time with prayer and set our next meeting for March 17th. As always, we welcome you to share your thoughts and concerns with us.

# Growing in Fellowship

BY DORIS SWARTZ



If you've been part of LCF for any length of time, you've likely noticed several faithful people on the fellowship team. Sharon Headings and Pam Shay have been helping with and/or leading it for many years. They, along with their dear and incredibly helpful husbands and those who assist them on the fellowship team, spend lots of time planning for, setting up, and cleaning up after many of our social events—countless potlucks, special celebrations, church campouts, outdoor services at the Headings' property along Big Darby Creek, funeral meals, and more. Their service in doing so helps to create meaningful opportunities for connection and fellowship within our church family.

Pam has not been able to help out recently due to the challenges she and Tim have been dealing with. Sharon, who has given leadership to the team since 2013, wants to continue to serve on the team but was feeling the need to have someone else give leadership to it. We are thankful for Megan Wengerd's willingness to agree to do so. As with all our teams, we value having younger and older members serving side by side—combining wisdom and experience with energy and fresh creativity.

The fellowship team met on February 8th to plan the next upcoming events. We encourage you to express your appreciation to them for all they do—from cooking and deboning turkeys for our Thanksgiving potlucks, to preparing communion elements, to ensuring that the food is hot and ready to serve whenever we have a potluck, and so much more. We are deeply grateful for each one of them and all the work they do!

---

## Fellowship Team Update

BY MEGAN WENGERD

As the fellowship team looks ahead to this year, we are excited to provide opportunities for connection and fellowship with our church family. We will once again have our yearly holiday meals such as Easter and Christmas continental breakfasts, Pastor Appreciation Sunday, and Gratitude Sunday fellowship meals, and look forward to a few new fun ideas. Coming up on March 15th, we will be having a "favorites" fellowship meal. You are invited to make a favorite dish or two to share. It could be a current favorite, a childhood favorite, the favorite dish your grandma made, favorite potluck dish, etc. So dust off those old recipes and have some fun as you think ahead to this fellowship meal.

Parents of small children, we are excited to say we have a couple new high chairs available for you to use!

As we go throughout this year, we hope these times of fellowship can provide space for deeper connections and conversations within our church family. *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* Acts 2:42

plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and good food. Before each plenary session, one of the older pastors in the conference shared a Mentoring Moment in which he taught from his personal wealth of wisdom and experience. The plenary sessions were led by Greg Stier, author of *Radical Like Jesus*. He spoke on the transforming power of the Gospel, the urgency of our calling to spread the Gospel, and the tools we can use in our churches to be equipped to spread the Gospel in our communities. The breakout sessions covered everything from Anabaptist living today to family dynamics and various areas of pastoring. Reuben led the "Preaching: The Skill of Communicating" breakout session. Wednesday evening was an appreciation banquet catered by a local Greek restaurant, and entertainment was provided by John Schmid. The conference wrapped up on Thursday with a ministers' business meeting and a special time of fellowship for the women.

The Pastors Conference was a new experience for me and Corin. Though we did not know exactly what to expect, we were excited about the possibilities it presented. The first evening was particularly impactful for me. Being in a room full of men and women who have spent so much of their lives in dedicated service to God through their service to His people was a powerful, enriching experience. I was also struck by the amount of pastoral wisdom held in one building and the massive spread of experience ranging from our few months to those with decades of experience and those who are a few months from retirement. Our whole time at Pastors Conference was marked by impactful connections and teaching, and we felt blessed to be able to be there and to participate in it.

---

## Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

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

January income was \$17,805 which was more than our expenses of \$10,700 by \$7,105. Our YTD income is \$17,805 compared to our YTD expenses of \$10,700, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$7,105.

Sarah continues to stay busy on multiple fronts. She has recently worked with our law firm to have the LCF Certificate of Continued Existence filed with the Ohio Secretary of State. While working with Merchants Bank to switch from debit cards to credit cards for those individuals making church related purchases, she has continued to hit one road block after another. After a change of direction, she was quickly approved for a business credit card by Capital One (the online bank used by LCF) and will have additional individuals registered for cards once she receives her card.

Thank you to all that attended the informal Q&A/feedback session about new playground equipment after church on February 1st. We are using that feedback and reaching out to multiple manufacturers in the Columbus area for options and pricing. If you have any additional comments, feedback, or would like to volunteer your time to assist, please contact Zach Freer.

We have received the final quote from All-Phase for parking lot lights thanks to the efforts of Justin Scheffel. The LCF tax exemption number has been provided to Jeremy Troyer who will be coordinating the order and installation on behalf of LCF.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21st, at 7 pm by video conference. There will be no meeting in March.



## 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, Jessica Gingerich, Doris Swartz