

LAFAYETTE FEDERATED CHURCH
VOICES OF THE KINGDOM
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

presents

"Somewhere Between Heaven & Earth" EASTER CONCERT



Saturday, April 8th, at 7:00 pm
Palm Sunday, April 9th, at 6:00 pm

LAFAYETTE FEDERATED CHURCH

180 ROUTE 15 · LAFAYETTE · NJ · 07848 · 973-383-4461 · WWW.LFC.ORG



Help us name our church newsletter. Please submit suggestions to ollerena@lfc.org or call the church office.



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...

There is a beautiful irony that we call the day Jesus died "Good Friday." As horrible as the death of Jesus was, His crucifixion is our hope for salvation. Without the death of Jesus for our sin, we would be forever lost and forever condemned. So, in a very real sense, what happened on this day on a hill called Calvary could be called the greatest good that ever took place.

As you consider the "goodness" of this day, focus a moment on Jesus' dying words as recorded in Luke 24:46: **"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last."** As Jesus committed Himself to the Father's hands, we can't help but to consider the other hands that were involved in that day of sacrifice— the hands of sinners to which He was betrayed by Judas, (Matthew 26:45), the hands into which Jesus was delivered to be tortured and crucified (Matthew 17:22-23). With "the hands of lawless men" (Acts 2:23ESV) they crucified Him.

In the final moments before His death, what a sense of relief and triumph Jesus must have felt being able to fully commit Himself into the faithful hands of the Father! What hope do we find in these final words of our Savior? In this prayer of our Lord, we are reminded that when all else seems lost, our hope, too, is firmly in the loving hands of our Heavenly Father.

This prayer, a quote from Psalm 31, has for centuries formed a part of the Jewish evening prayer, and probably did so for Jesus' prayers, as well. Jesus had heard and likely recited this prayer all His life. Even more than reciting this prayer of hope, Jesus had constantly experienced first-hand the trustworthiness of the Father's hands. J.C. Ryle, an Anglican pastor in the late 1800s, writes that these final words of Jesus give us ...an example which every believer should strive to follow. Like our Master, we should not be afraid to confront the king of terrors. We should regard him as a vanquished enemy, whose sting has been taken away by Christ's death. We should think of him as a foe who can hurt the body for a little season, but after that has no more that he can do. We should await his approaches with calmness and patience, and believe that when flesh fails our soul will be in good keeping.

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Okay, I don't know about you, but I can't wait for Spring! Trees begin to bud, flowers begin to sprout, birds begin to sing, and the air becomes warm! What a wonderful reminder of the new life we get in Christ. As we gear up for Easter here at LFC, I can't help but get excited for the Hope we have in Jesus, our Risen Savior!! As I think about that Hope we have in Jesus, I am reminded of the verse **"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give a reason for the Hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."** (1 Peter 3:15). Are you prepared to give the reason for your Hope? Are you looking for opportunities to tell others about Jesus? Not quite sure how? Well, we want to give you a great way to start. Starting in mid-March we will have invite cards available for our upcoming Easter Concert and Services. Why not start now thinking about who you would like to invite, and then start praying for that person even before you hand them the invite card.

There is always so many great programs to invite folks out to: Wednesday Night Youth Programs, Saturday Night Youth Group, Our Winter Youth Soccer Clinic, Women's Tuesday Morning and Wednesday Night Bible Study, Men's Monday Night Bible Study, Man Food Night on March 24th at 6:30 pm, and the Men's Good Friday Breakfast on April 14th at 7:00am.

Looking for an area to serve? We will be hosting the Family Promise Ministry for the homeless here April 4th – 11th. We will need folks to staff both the evening and overnight shifts at church, as well as provide supper on the evenings they are here. For more information, you can contact Carolyn Malone or stop by the Family Promise signup table at the Welcome Center on March 19th and 26th.

I want to offer a big THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make our Valentine's Date Night such a great success. There are so many people to thank that I can't list them all, but I would like to thank the two main coordinators for the event, Jason Nyman for all the leadership in the kitchen and Kyla Mitchell for all the leadership with the decorations. The teams you put together were awesome and so appreciated by all who enjoyed the evening.

I also want to take a moment to thank Todd Deming for all the years of his work with the Building and Grounds Committee. Todd has put in countless hours keeping our building and grounds looking great. I also want to thank Ben Miglin and his brother, Andy for all their work on clearing out the tree line on the east side of the church. It looks great and has made the church so much more visible from the road.

As you can see, we are busy here at LFC, so I would like to remind everyone to be good stewards of all God has provided for us, by cleaning up the rooms after you are done and by turning off lights. Most rooms in our church are used multiple times every week by various ministries, so by leaving your room in good shape you are helping the next ministry that comes in.

In Christ Service,
Glenn

As we have started preparing for the Easter season, I have been spending a lot of time listening to choral anthems, praise songs and hymns. With Pastor Aaron's series in 1 Corinthians focusing these past few weeks on chapter 13, the combination has overwhelmed me with how great a love our God has for us.

I keep focusing on how His eternal plan unfolded as He reached down to an ungrateful people who time and time again turned their backs on Him. I think of my own heart, how I easily forget to honor Him as I walk through my daily life, acting just like the people of ancient Israel. Yet He loved them and us so much that God the Son was willing to leave Heaven and all the rights of His position to take the weight of our sin upon Himself. The moment that continually leaves me flummoxed is that point upon the cross recorded in both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark when our Savior cried out "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me". In that lonely instant, the consequence of my sin, your sin, all the sin of mankind, was placed upon Him. There on that cross, suspended between heaven and earth, the Sinless became sin so that mankind could be redeemed.

That is the focus of our Easter musical, "Somewhere Between Heaven and Earth". We are going to look at the story of redemption as it played out historically, but also how it plays out today in your life and mine. We are going to celebrate the love of our Savior. We are going to look ahead to His return. We are going to worship Him together.

I hope, as we enter this season, you will take the time to not only join us but invite others that need to either be reminded of the hope we have or perhaps need to hear it for the first time. The performances of the musical will be Saturday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. I also hope you take advantage of our other Easter remembrances on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and of course Easter itself. Most of all, I hope you experience the unfathomable love of our God throughout this season!

"Somewhere between heaven and earth stood a symbol of grace, not based on our worth. It was there He endured what we deserved, for a cross held the Hope of the world somewhere between heaven and earth."

Somewhere Between Heaven and Earth
Words and Music by Marty Funderburk, Twila LaBar & John Lemonis

Art with the Brit Lady
Paint, Pizza & Prayer

Women's Event:
Saturday
March 18th
6-9:30pm
\$20 per person

- Everyone will leave with a 16x20 canvas painting
- Devotional during instruction by Sally Stansfield with Dana Robb
- Supplies & Pizza Dinner Included in the cost
- Register at the Welcome Center, seating is limited

Acrylic paint will stain your clothes, please dress appropriately and/or bring your apron.

"Man Food Night"
Friday, March 24th, at 6:30pm.

Guest Speaker:
Our Kingdom Expansion Pastor,
Brian Ingraham

So start thinking about what type of "Man Food" you are going to bring to share with the rest of the guys!

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

The following nominations were all approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting held Monday, February 27, 2017

Elders: Scott DiSarno - 1st Term; Jerry Ambrosi - 1st Term; Bob Mitchell - 2nd Term; Lee Oberg - 2nd Term; Tom Post - 2nd Term

Deacons: Ted Cosgrove - 1st Term; Grace Carroll - 1st Term; Jan Schneider - 1st Term; Bill Byrd - 1st Term; Vince Fagan - 1st Term; Ruth Byrd - 1st Term

Nominating Committee: Erik Carlson - 1st Term; Janice Mitchell-2nd Term

Trustees: Nathan Drew - 1st Term; Justin Garris - 1st Term; Patrick Kaelblein-- 2nd Term

Missions Team: Janet Neidhardt - 1st Term

Worship Support Team: David Somma - 1st Term

I think we also find hope in these final words of Jesus because of what He didn't say. If we take a close look at Psalm 31, we see that Jesus stops short of quoting the entirety of verse 5: **"Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth."** Why would Jesus not finish the verse? Because, of course, it didn't apply to Him! This verse from the Psalms is actually about Him, not directed toward Him! When all seems hopeless, we remember that in Jesus, we have a powerful Redeemer. In Jesus, we have a triumphant Savior. In Jesus we have a relationship with the Living God Himself! Jesus' final cry from the cross was not the cry of a defeated man, but instead was the victorious cry of triumph. Jesus had declared to His disciples in John 10:17-18: **"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."**

During this season leading up to Easter, be reminded that because Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinners, we have a reason for hope—that we, too, can entrust our lives and eternity into the hands of the loving Heavenly Father.

Pastor Aaron

**LAFAYETTE FEDERATED CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

As of: January 31, 2017

Total Income: \$103,200.26

Total Expenses: \$ 77,959.21

In response to our church family taking a step of faith with this year's budget, we want to faithfully keep the congregation informed to the status of where we stand in giving compared to budget and expenses. Please prayerfully consider remaining faithful in your regular giving commitment.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Date	8:15 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School	General Offering	Missions Offering	Building Fund
01/01/2017	160	217	89	\$29,667.52	\$650.00	\$210.00
01/08/2017	235	240	196	\$19,906.28	\$675.00	\$185.00
01/15/2017	270	205	208	\$17,684.38	\$822.00	\$195.00
01/22/2017	230	219	185	\$26,434.38	\$220.00	\$60.00
01/29/2017	200	231	177	\$16,174.63	\$50.00	\$188.00
02/05/2017	255	212	173	\$23,398.39	\$1,205.00	\$145.00
02/12/2017	155	83	87	\$12,258.25	\$2,261.00	-
02/19/2017	240	207	161	\$25,568.78	\$2,035.00	\$110.00
02/26/2017	233	219	175	\$18,592.36	\$2,515.00	\$50.00

MISSIONS AT LFC:

What Is a Missionary?

A Christian missionary is commissioned by the Lord to make disciples, followers of Christ. Jesus commands all Christians to share the Gospel, the message of His death and resurrection that conquered the penalty and power of sin.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

There are many different avenues in which Christians can do mission work. African Christians reach out to Muslims in the Middle East. College students spend their summer teaching English in Asia. A family in America befriends and witnesses to international students. A truck driver responds to an international disaster, meeting both physical and spiritual needs. All these are missionaries.

Although missionaries cannot be stereotyped, they each have a call. God calls them to set aside personal ambitions in order to be witnesses of the Gospel. Like Isaiah, a missionary gladly responds, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8b). Often God sends a missionary to a particular people group as Paul was sent to the unreached Gentiles and Peter to the Jews (Galatians 2:8). Although technically a Christian missionary is one specifically called by God and sent out by the local church, every Christian has a mission to make disciples.

Missionaries do more than evangelism. The commission was to make disciples, not just believers. Thus, a Christian missionary's outreach involves evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. These main goals are accomplished in a variety of ways: street preaching, tract hand-outs, church building, Bible studies, teaching English as a second language, relief projects, children's clubs, mountain trekking, literacy teaching, radio broadcasting, etc.

Two common classifications of missionaries are "career" and "short-term." What is the difference?

Historically, Christians who believed God was calling them to make disciples in other countries considered it a long-term commitment. It was their career. They expected to spend many years in one or more countries. They learned the language and customs of the country. They developed long range plans and methods to achieve their goals. When communication and transportation took long periods of time, missionaries stayed away from family and home country for long periods of time. However, during the last few decades it has become more common to spend short periods of time travelling and working in foreign countries. Hence, "short-term missions" has become popular and more common.

Today "short-term missions" can mean one or a few weeks, or a summer, or a one or two year commitment to work as a missionary. These shorter mission opportunities often lead to longer commitments and help people learn whether God is calling them to a particular field or type of work.

Lafayette Federated Church currently sponsors over 25 "career" missionaries and has supported several young people for one or two- year commitments. We also offer numerous opportunities for short-term missions. Our young people are encouraged to experience a one-week trip in the states or overseas, usually a work project or evangelism/VBS project. Such short-term opportunities not only give students an understanding of other cultures, but also help them develop teaching, working, and leadership skills as well as envisioning types of ministry work for which God may preparing them.

Adults also have opportunities to participate in work projects, specifically the annual trip to Kentucky in February where they rehabilitate one or two homes for disabled or otherwise needy families in cooperation with local churches.

How many missionaries do you know? (Are you a missionary?)

Ryan Drew, Pastor of Students

In last month's newsletter we were able to highlight our Jr. and Sr. High Winter Retreats and the ways that God has been faithful to use these weekends away to draw students closer to Him. This year was certainly no exception as many students walked away from these weekends with a new, or renewed commitment to follow and obey Jesus in all they do. As a youth pastor though, my greatest desire is to see our students use weekends like these as a launching point for daily obedience to Jesus, and we have been truly blessed to see that very thing happening.

The impact of the Winter Retreats has stretched well beyond the few weeks in mid-February that we were gone. Students have been sharing about how they have changed their interactions with friends at school, recommitted to their efforts to be in the Word daily, and how they have been sharing with friends the ways that God has been working within them. In the near future I'm looking forward to sharing with you more of how God is using these weekend trips to impact our students!

Looking ahead, we will soon be completing our study series titled "We Believe" as we have been going through our churches belief statement. It has sparked some great discussion and will naturally lead to having a discussion on an individual level, but also with regard to how each of us fits into the greater church body. It is always exciting to help students find ways to plug in to the church family and use their time and gifts to glorify God!

As we complete this series we will begin our healthy relationship series dealing with how we can maintain healthy relationships with friends, parents, teachers, boyfriend/girlfriend, enemies, and of course God. Each year this series seems to help students build a healthy view of how all of these relationships should function, ultimately for the glory of God.

I am truly grateful for how God has been working this school year and can't wait to see what the next few months bring. Please continue to pray for these students as they search the scriptures and look to live in deeper obedience to Jesus.

In Him,

Ryan

All for Jesus,



2017 Sr. High Retreat
at Camp Spofford



2017 Jr. High Retreat
at Camp Orchard Hill



Senior Adult Ministry

J.O.Y. Club: (Just Older Youth)

Seniors 55+ are welcome to join us every 1st Monday of the month at 11:00 am in the church gym for fellowship, potluck luncheon and a variety of programs.

March 6th:

Guest Speaker: Tina Nyakundi on signing for the deaf

April 3rd:

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Malone, Family Promise Homeless Ministry

May 1st:

Guest Speaker: Steve Morris, Technology for Seniors

Please bring a dish to share, and remember to invite a friend!

Senior Adult Celebration

Sunday, April 30th, 12:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Scott & Mary Ellen Garrett

Seniors 55+ are welcome to join us for our annual celebration luncheon. We will be discussing senior events for 2017 and listening to a great message by Scott and Mary Ellen Garrett.

We look forward to seeing you for a great time of fellowship! Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

Holy Week Preparations:

Pray & Invite!

We would like to encourage you to pray about who you can invite to our Easter Concert and Holy Week Events. Please pick up invitation cards available at the Welcome Center and the Church Office. **Start praying and inviting!**

Holy Week Devotionals

We are glad to provide our Church Family with Holy Week devotionals. You can pick up a copy at the Welcome Center on Sunday, April 9th, or view them on our website, www.lfc.org. We will also be emailing each devotional daily.

Calling Sunday School Children

The Sunday School children, PreK - 4th Grades, will be processing on Palm Sunday, April 9th, during both Worship Services. An informational handout will be distributed over the next few weeks in their Sunday School classes, with the lyrics to the songs and detailed instructions.

Easter Flowers:

Each year at Easter time, spring plants are given by members and friends of LFC in memory of loved ones or to honor someone dear. If you would like to participate, please fill out an order form available at the Welcome Center.

One Body, Many Parts

MINISTERING TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY DISABILITIES



Pastor Aaron has asked me to introduce you to a new and exciting ministry starting here at Lafayette Federated Church. What a joy it is to be serving in a church with such a heart for those with special needs.

Here, we celebrate that every person, regardless of their abilities, are valued and loved by God and us.

As many of you may know at the end of the New Members Class, Pastor asks you where you will be serving at LFC. Having raised many special needs children, I know how challenging the task can be. As I pondered Pastor's question, my thoughts went to how I could serve the families here who were raising these children.

Not knowing where to start, Dana put me in touch with two women in our church with special needs kids. Two fellow caregivers and I met over the summer working to develop a Bible Study support group. After receiving permission from the Elders, the Women's Ministry here graciously agreed to include our little group into their Tuesday morning gathering.

We call ourselves, the 4C's: **C**aregivers **C**aring for **C**hallenging **C**hildren. God added several more moms to our Bible Study. Meeting together we began to see God calling us to reach out to other families outside of our group.

Seeing almost immediately how great this task would be, with permission we formed an advisory committee. There are currently six committee members serving.

We are working in four areas:

1. 4C's Bible Study/Support Group
2. Developing and building a Sensory Room
3. A Buddy Program
4. A signer for one Sunday Service a month

Won't you join us as we seek God's will for this ministry? How can you help?

1. Pray:
 - ◆ Wisdom for the committee
 - ◆ For families in our church walking this challenging journey
 - ◆ How can you be involved? We need buddies for children attending programs here.
2. Family members with special needs children, please contact us and share your stories, wisdom and needs. We would love to hear from you!

Daralyn Sybesma



Please join us in welcoming...

**Our new Pastor of Kingdom
Expansion Ministries,**

Brian Ingraham

&

His family:

Wife, Bonnie

Children: Aiden (13),

Savannah (10), Ellie (7),

Leah (4), and Silas (8 months)

Please pray for Pastor Brian and his family as they join us in worship and service to the Lord.

*"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 8th: "Somewhere Between Heaven & Earth", Easter Concert @ 7 pm

April 9th: Palm Sunday: 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

"Somewhere Between Heaven & Earth", Easter Concert @ 6 pm

April 13th: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm, Communion Service

April 14th: Good Friday, 7:00 am, Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm

April 16th: Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service, 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast, 7:00 am

Triumphant Resurrection Service, 8:15 & 11:00 am

Sunday School, 9:45 am

Have A Blessed Easter!

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe in this?"

John 11:25-26

