

The Leighton News
Week of February 21, 2016

On The Calendar This Week:

Sunday, February 21 – Second Sunday of Lent:

Pastor Dave continues his sermon series, ***“Challenging the World.”*** This Sunday’s sermon title is *“Christians Are Not All That Nice!”* Matthew 7:1-5, Matthew 23:27-28, Romans 12:3-21

Sign up to help with Vacation Bible School continues today. Check out the available positions listed inside and visit the display table in the Lobby to sign up. VBS is June 26-30 6:00-8:40 p.m.

Children ages 4-7 are dismissed while the offering is being collected to go to Children’s Church which is held down the Children’s Wing.

Non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning items are collected during the offering time by kids and the ushers. Your donations of these items stock our food pantry. Items being collected in March are: toilet paper, laundry detergent, cereal, soup, canned fish & meats (tuna, chicken breast, etc.), and canned fruit.

Refreshments are available in the Lobby immediately after the worship service.

Sunday School classes for all ages are held each Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-Noon.

G.L.U.E. Youth Group Sunday night at Getter’s from 5:45-8:00 p.m. All 6th-12th grade students are welcome. Getter’s home is located at 4084 Schad Road, Middleville (269) 795-7728

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Monday, February 22:

7:00 p.m. Adult Basketball (Family Center)

Wednesday, February 24:

5:30 p.m. Family Dinner (Family Center)
6:15 p.m. Pioneer Clubs for kids age 4 thru 6th Grade
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting (Lounge)
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Library)
6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 25:

7:00 p.m. Adult Archery (Family Center)

Saturday, February 27:

8:30 a.m. Breakfast until 10:00 a.m. (Family Center)

9:00 a.m. Youth Archery until 10:30 a.m. (Family Center)

LAST BREAKFAST & YOUTH ARCHERY FOR THE SEASON

9:00 a.m. Youth depart for Winter Retreat (see below for details)

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS ACCEPTED FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 13

Orders for Easter flowers are being taken starting this Sunday, February 21st and are due March 13th. Flowers may be ordered in memory and/or in honor of your loved ones. The flowers will be displayed around the Sanctuary on Easter morning. Order forms are in the bulletin and also attached.

MISSIONS T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH FEB 22ND.

One of our missions here at Leighton is to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus. When we do, people wonder who we are and what we are doing. Let people around know by ordering a t-shirt and wearing it when you participate in church or missions projects. Use the attached t-shirt order form, pick one up at the Faith Promise table in the Lobby near the entrance to the Children's Wing, or contact Connie Blain (616) 304-1399.

T-shirts cost \$10.00 each (2X-5X are \$1 per X)

Place your order by February 22nd.

ADULT BASKETBALL MONDAY NIGHTS!

All adults are welcome to come Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center for pick-up games. Contact [Doug Thaler](#) for more information.

YOUTH & ADULT ARCHERY

YOUTH ARCHERY

Youth Archery and Saturday breakfasts come to an end on February 27th.

Bring the kids to learn to shoot archery or to fine tune the skills they already have.

Equipment is provided or bring your own.

Enjoy breakfast from 8:30-10:00 and shoot archery from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Family Center. No cost to participate, but donations appreciated to help cover the cost of breakfast and archery equipment. For info, contact [Eddy Landon](#)

A participation form is attached.

ADULT ARCHERY

Adults are invited to come and shoot archery on Thursday nights in the Family Center at 7:00 p.m. thru March 17th.

Bring your own equipment. High school students (9th grade on up) are welcome to come, but must have an adult with them. For more information, contact [Steve McBride](#)

POTS OF SOUP NEEDED FOR SOUP SUPPER WED., FEBRUARY 24TH

Since the Wednesday Night Family Dinner Soup Supper was cancelled January 27th due to bad weather, it has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 24th. Additional pots of soup are needed yet. Please sign up in the Lobby or contact [Renee Seeley](#) if interested.

G.L.U.E. YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREAT

**SATURDAY, FEB. 27-SUNDAY, FEB. 28
COST IS \$15.00 PER STUDENT
MONEY & RESERVATION DUE FEB. 24**

For all 6th-12th grade students

A winter retreat helping others and having fun.

Depart Leighton Church at 9:00 a.m. February 27th to do local service projects that help kids in the foster care system.

Go to Surfari Joe's waterpark in Watervliet, MI, to stay and play. There is a waterpark and arcade (bring your own money for arcade). Bring clothes appropriate for outdoor work and also your swim suit and towel.

Return Sunday, February 28th for church at 9:00 a.m.

Permission slips and money due February 24th to Misty Getter. Permission slips available from [Misty Getter](#).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

Vacation Bible School 2016 is coming!

Sunday, June 26-Thursday, June 30 from 6:00-8:40 p.m.

(NOTE: This is earlier than we normally hold VBS. Mark your calendar!)

This year's theme is:

Ocean Commotion

Diving into Noah's Flood

Throughout the week, kids age 4 on up through 6th grade will learn to stand for God, obey God, trust God, thank God, and fear God.

Many volunteers are needed to make Vacation Bible School happen. Thanks to everyone who signed up to help. There are only 7 positions available as listed below. Stop by the display table in the Lobby or contact [Cindy Herring](#) if interested.

Photographer and Photographer Assistant
1 Craft Assistant
1 Music Assistant
Teacher for 4 year olds-1st Grade
1 Group Guide for 2nd & 3rd Grade
1 Group Guide for 4th-6th Grade

Teens (at least 12 years of age) and adults, please sign up!
All volunteers must take the Child Protection Class if not already approved as a Child/Youth Care Provider. Upcoming classes will be announced soon.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR VBS

Supplies are beginning to be collected for Vacation Bible School decorations and crafts. See the list below for items needed. Items can be placed in the basket marked VBS Supplies which is located in the Lobby.

Pool Noodles (all colors)
Green streamers (variety of shades)
Blue streamers (variety of shades)
200 white Styrofoam cups (16 oz. size)
100 small white flameless LED tea light "candles"
50 sheets of sand paper, any grit (not expensive paper)
100 fishing swivels (Google fishing swivels for photo)
75 empty cube size Kleenex boxes
30 glue sticks
5 bottles of glue
2 big boxes of fruit loops cereal
2 boxes of small shell pasta

1 box of food coloring
5 rolls of Scotch tape

Contact [Stacey Aman](#) if you have any questions about these items

PUERTO RICO YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

We are so very grateful for all the support you have given us over the past few months prayerfully and financially to get our mission team to Puerto Rico in July. In raising funds, we are over halfway there with just about \$9,000 left to raise. We have decided however that we are pretty tired of always raising money instead of just being a part of the church family. So our plan is this; we are going to discontinue fundraising for the next 6 weeks and just love on our church family, serving them without having to worry about payment due. If you would like to support us in these weeks, we have a wall of envelopes on the youth group bulletin board located outside of the youth room (down the hallway toward the Family Center). Grab one that represents the amount you would like to support us and place it in the offering.

Thank you!

Scott & Misty Getter and the Youth Puerto Rico Mission Team

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Did you know that Leighton Church operates a small food pantry with non-perishable food items that services between 12 and 15 families? Throughout the month of March, the following items will be collected to stock the pantry:

- ◇ Toilet Paper
- ◇ Laundry Detergent
- ◇ Soup
- ◇ Cereal
- ◇ Canned Fish & Meats (tuna, chicken breast, etc.)
- ◇ Canned Fruit

Items will be collected by the children each Sunday during the offering time. Questions can be directed to [Stacey Aman](#).

OFFICE HOURS

With Josh Webb's new class schedule this semester, his office hours have changed.
His office hours are as follows:

Josh Webb, Director of Music Ministries
(616) 891-8028 or worship@leightonchurch.org

Mondays 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Praise Team Practice remains on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Just a reminder the church office is open
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(616) 891-8028

office@leightonchurch.org or
stacey.aman@leightonchurch.org

THANK YOU!

Dear Leighton Church,

We wish to say thank you for your powerful prayers and cards and notes of encouragement during PRay's recent surgery. After experiencing shortness of breath, they discovered clotting in the heart and lungs. On January 23rd, they performed emergency open heart surgery and removed a clot from one of the upper heart chambers and from each of the lungs. Each clot was 1 to 1 1/2" in diameter. The doctor reported that most people do not survive this experience. What a miracle! By the grace of God and love and support of family and Christian community, we are here to continue to share the love of Jesus. He is truly wonderful. Now gaining strength day by day.

Love and Peace to all of you,
Pastor Ray & Joyce Townsend

NEED A BULLETIN FROM A PREVIOUS SUNDAY?

Did you miss a Sunday or two or misplaced your bulletin from the previous Sunday? Extra copies of bulletins from the previous two Sundays are available in the literature rack on the table right outside the main entrance to the Sanctuary.

You can also receive an e-bulletin each week. Contact [Stacey](#) in the church office if you'd like to receive e-bulletins.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

With severe winter weather in the forecast for the coming week, here's a reminder of Leighton's Inclement Weather Policy.

If Thornapple-Kellogg schools is closed or cancels evening sporting events, church events are cancelled.

The church voicemail will have a message stating closure information, an e-mail will be sent out, and cancellation notice will be posted on the following TV and radio stations:

WWMT Channel 3, WZZM Channel 13, WOTV 41, WOOD TV 8, and WXSP
WCSG 91.3 on the radio or wcsq.org

If bad weather occurs on Saturdays during archery season or Sunday mornings causing worship service to be cancelled, the same media formats will be used for notification.

CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Church Cookbooks are available now for just **\$5.00!**

Cookbooks make great Christmas gifts!

Contact [Stacey Aman](#) or [Jean Bender](#) if interested in purchasing one.

NEED PRAYER? PRAYER ROOM OPEN SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP.

The Prayer Room is staffed on Sunday mornings following the worship service. If you would like to be prayed for or have a need you would like prayer for, feel free to stop in the Prayer Room which is located across from the Coffee Bar. Questions can be directed to Nancy Geertman.

TRANSPORTATION TO YOUTH GROUP NEEDED

Looking for a couple to transport teens to youth group on Sunday nights. Teens live within a mile or two radius of the church. If you are able to help each Sunday night, or even just once or twice a month, please contact [Misty Getter](#).

SERVICE IN ACTION

COFFEE SERVERS:

February 21—Jim & Bonnie Ciluffo
February 28—Doug & Judy Hanlon
March 6—Open

PROVIDING TREATS FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

February 21—Jim & Bonnie Ciluffo, Jackie Corwin
February 28—Lori Cramer & Allison Draaisma
March 6—Shawn Eaton & Connie Hooker

GREETERS:

February 21—Tom & Ora Lou Smith
February 28—Mike & Linda Horton
March 6—Gary & Jean McCaul

NURSERY:

February 21—Eric & Tina Peck, Gabby Nicholson
February 28—Mike & Christine Syswerda
March 6—Cindy & Rebecka Thaler

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS:

February 21—Sam Farmer, Matt & Stephanie Haan
February 28—Mike & Christine Syswerda
March 6—Josh & Robbi Hilton

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS:

February 21—Kaylie & Nathan Taylor
February 28—Sam Farmer & Stephanie Aman
March 6—Gabby Nicholson & Emeline Seeley

SHOPPING FOR MISSIONS

You can help support the ministries of Red Bird Mission in Kentucky just by shopping at Meijer through the Meijer Rewards program. Just sign up by going to [Meijer.com/rewards](https://www.meijer.com/rewards) or to the customer service counter at any Meijer store with the Leighton United Methodist Church code 415811. Then use your rewards card whenever you purchase gas, pharmaceuticals, general merchandise, and groceries. Payment for purchases to count for rewards must be cash, debit, or Meijer credit card (no checks). Another \$100 has been received through Meijer Rewards and it has been

sent to Red Bird Mission to be used where they need it most. For more information, contact Luann Lewis Snyder 616-891-8348.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COLLECTION

Did you know that many pastors, Christians, missionaries around the world do not have access to materials to prepare sermons, Bible studies, or for their own personal devotions?

An organization called Christian Resources International collects Bibles, devotional books, curriculum, and more to send to pastors, evangelists, Bible colleges, and missionaries around the world. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate, bring them and drop them in the box in the Lounge. Dave & Sharon Kaechele will deliver them to CRI.

43rd ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS JURIED SPIRITUAL ART SHOW

Take in the art starting tomorrow (February 12th) through February 24th at Grand Rapids First Church located at 227 Fulton St. East, Grand Rapids.

Celebration of the Arts began in 1972 as part of the Music and Arts Ministry of First Church. In its 43rd year, Celebration has grown to represent one of the largest juried sacred art shows in the country. It features artists from throughout the Midwest in a variety of media including oils, acrylic, watercolor, sculpture, fiber, photography, and more. During the 13 day festival, there are many individual events including concerts, drama, and art activities.

This year's juror is Mark Mehaffey, a nationally recognized artist and signature member of the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society.

For more information go to www.thecelebrationofthearts.com.

FRANKLIN GRAHAM'S PRAYER TOUR OF AMERICA

Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, to preach the Gospel, and to challenge believers to take a stand and take action. He'll be urging Christians to vote, to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation just as Nehemiah cried out to God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore hope to His people.

Follow Franklin Graham's journey or even join Michigan's prayer team.

Go to www.decisionamericatour.com for complete information and locations.

RETREAT FOR LAY SERVANTS & LAY SPEAKERS

Do you feel the Lord calling you to serve Him by becoming a certified Lay Speaker, which is someone who can fill the pulpit while a pastor is away on vacation or off on extended leave?

The West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church is hosting a weekend retreat which includes 3 courses needed to become a certified lay servant or lay speaker.

April 22 & 23 at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater, MI

Cost is \$100 for overnights which covers class material, food & lodging
Or \$75 for those who would commute (this cost covers meals & class materials).

The courses offered at the retreat include:

Basic Lay Speaking, Wesleyan Heritage, & Worship Design

To register and make a class selection, contact Jody Pratt at prattgji@hughes.net or 269-792-0481. Individuals are welcome to take classes even if not seeking Lay Servant or Lay Speaking certification. Participants must register.

GULL LAKE MINISTRIES SCRAPBOOK RETREAT

Gull Lake Ministries is hosting a scrapbook retreat March 11-13.

The weekend includes two relaxing nights in comfortable accommodations, six sensational meals, snacks, table space, and activities.

Bring your scrapbook/crafting supplies, Bible & notebook, comfortable shoes & clothing for a variety of weather and activities, spending money, and laptop computer and extension cord.

You'll have an opportunity to update online albums, design cards/work on craft projects, take a walk or relax by the lake, get a massage (extra charge), spend time in the prayer room, enjoy engaging worship, create, design & be inspired!

Cost is \$188/person for condo housing

\$168/person for lodge housing

\$160/person for cottage housing

\$50 non-refundable deposit per person.

Register by calling 800-350-2442 ext. 205 or online at gulllake.org.

Gull Lake Ministries is located at 1800 Burlington Drive, Hickory Corners, MI.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for these upcoming events to support Pregnancy Resource Center.

WALK FOR LIFE – Saturday, June 18th. Walk for Life is a family-friendly fundraising event to support the life-saving work for the Pregnancy Resource Center. There are various walk locations throughout our area.

GOLF FOR LIFE – Friday, September 16th.

15th Annual Golf for Life is sponsored by Dan Vos Construction Company. Enjoy a round of golf at Boulder Creek Golf Club while supporting life.

GALA – Thursday, November 10th

Gala is their premier fundraising event held at the JW Marriott, with guest speaker Abby Johnson.

For more information on these events, call 616-259-1522 or visit prcforlife.org/how-you-can-help/events.

“THE BEAMS ARE CREAKING” COMING TO MASTER ARTS THEATER

Master Arts Theater presents “*The Beams are Creaking*,” the inspiring true story of Deitrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who defied the Nazi’s and ultimately led an assassination attempt against Adolf Hitler.

This compelling drama captures the Bonhoeffer story and paints it on a theatrical canvas without ever sacrificing the very human drama at the base of it. Part political thriller leavened with moments of humor, it is a show filled with compassion that reaffirms one’s faith in man and God.

“*The Beams are Creaking*” opens April 14th and runs through May 7th. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and a matinee show Saturdays only at 2:00 p.m.

Cost is \$16.00/adult, \$14.00/senior citizens and students.

Groups of 20 or more receive \$1.00 off per ticket.

Group sales begin February 15th and general public sales begin March 14th.

Call (616) 455-1001 to reserve your tickets.

Master Arts Theater is located at 75 77th Street SW, Grand Rapids.

www.masterarts.org

MARTIN UMC 5TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Bring your friends and family on Friday, February 26th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for the Chili Cook-off at Martin UMC located at 969 E. Allegan Street, Martin. Vote for your favorite chili with a monetary donation and the chili receiving the most funds wins a prize!

Proceeds will benefit the Food Pantry at Martin UMC. Questions or want to enter your pot of chili? Call the church office at (269) 672-7097

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AT CALEDONIA UMC

Caledonia UMC located at 250 Vine Street in Caledonia is offering Lenten Soup Suppers every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. during Lent (February 16-March 22). Soup, salad, bread, dessert and beverages will be provided at no charge. Free will donations will be accepted.

“IRON SHARPENS IRON” MEN’S CONFERENCE COMING TO GRAND RAPIDS

CSB Ministries in Byron Center (Christian Service Brigade) presents “*Iron Sharpens Iron*” Men’s Conference Saturday, April 16th at Brookside Christian Reformed Church located at 3600 Kalamazoo Ave., Grand Rapids.

Keynote speakers include Don Davis, who played 11 seasons in the NFL and retired from the New England Patriots in 2007. Don became ordained in 2007 and in 2008 entered full-time sports ministry.

Also speaking is Chuck Stecker, president and founder of A Chosen Generation, who recently wrote a book called *“Men of Honor, Women of Virtue, Raising Kids to Keep the Faith.”*

The conference features a number of seminars for men of all ages and some tailored for men at certain stages in life. Seminar titles include:

Be the Dad: 26 things kids needs from a dad
Compassion without Compromise (seminar presenter is Adam Barr from Peace Church in Middleville)

Creating MoMEntum for Every Man
Every Man a Warrior: Helping Men Win the Battles of Life
Family Devotions that Blow up the Box
Grandfathering that Changes Lives
Leave Your Baggage at the Door
Making a Difference
Raising a Modern Day Knight
And much more!

For details see ironsharpensiron.net

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