

The Leighton News
Week of April 17, 2016

On The Calendar This Week:

Sunday, April 17:

Sunday's Message – New Sermon Series: *“Better Than Happiness!”* Part I of this series is titled *“Firing Blanks.”* Scripture passage is Philippians 1:1-7

Children ages 4-7 are dismissed while the offering is 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. See below for a list of items being collected throughout March.

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 the Getter's home. All 6th-12th grade students are invited from 5:45-8:00 p.m. The theme of youth group for the month of April is missions.

Monday, April 18:

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

7:00 p.m. Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship (Lounge)

Wednesday, April 20:

6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Library) FINAL MEETING

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 23:

8:00 a.m. Church Yard/Facility Spring Clean-up

5:00 p.m. Parents Night Out until 10:30 p.m.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

Looking for a beautiful hanging basket or patio pot for Mom for Mother's Day? The Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship will be selling a variety of flowers in hanging baskets or patio pots throughout the month of April. Choose from geraniums, petunias, begonias, impatiens, or mixed flowers. Prices range from \$5.00-\$15.00. The profit from the sale will support missionaries around the world and the ministries of the Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship such as providing diaper bags for newborn babies.

Orders can be placed in the Lobby now thru April 24th.
Payment is due April 24th. Flowers will be available for pick-up Thursday, May 5th.
Questions can be directed to [Jean Bender](#)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

G.L.U.E. YOUTH GROUP

will meet at Scott & Misty Getter's home each Sunday night throughout the month of April.

All 6th-12th grade students are invited to come, enjoy dinner together, and focus on the theme of Missions throughout the month.

Friends are welcome!

Contact [Misty Getter](#) for details or directions to their home.

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.

CIRCLE OF JOY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

All women are welcome to come.

The evening's program features a teaching called
"Heaven: What Awaits for Those Who Believe"

Refreshments served afterward.

Contact [Jean Bender](#) if you have questions.

CHURCH YARD SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Trustees Committee is hosting a Spring Clean-up Day on
Saturday, April 23rd beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Come and help clean-up the church yard, spread bark, dirt, and grass seed, clean the flower beds, wash windows and screens, dust the pews, and do spring cleaning in the church.

There are projects for all abilities and ages.

Wear your work clothes, bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, and help spruce up the church and grounds.

Refreshments will be served.

Contact [Bill Aman](#) for more information. Rain date is April 30th.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Parents! Would you like a night out without the kids? Have some errands to run, but have a hard time finding a babysitter?

The Youth Puerto Rico Mission Team is hosting a

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

On Saturday, April 23rd at the church.

Drop the kids off any time after 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served around 6:00 p.m. Pick up by 10:30 p.m. Bring their p.j.'s if you'd like.

No set cost, but donations appreciated to support the mission team.

Contact [Misty Getter](#) or [Tina Peck](#) for more info.

GREETER MINISTRY SESSION

On Sunday, May 1st, all those who are currently involved in greeter ministry and those interested in becoming part of the greeter ministry are asked to meet in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. to go over expectations and learn some new ideas on how to enable people to become a part of the Leighton Church Family rather than a guest.

Can't make it that day? Contact [Judy Terpstra](#) to make arrangements to meet at another time.

50+ POTLUCK LUNCHEONS

A new season of 50+ Potluck Luncheons is coming!
The luncheons are held the first Wednesday of each month
At 11:30 a.m. in the Family Center.

Everyone age 50 on up is welcome to come.

Bring a dish to pass and your table service.

Beverages provided.

After lunch there is a program featuring entertainment or guest speaker.

May 4th will feature the group *THORNAPPLE VALLEY STRINGS*.

Questions? Contact [Jean McCaul](#)

CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE SIGN UP

BATTER UP! It's time to sign up for softball!

Looking for men and women at least 13 years of age (must be 13 by May 1st) to be part of Leighton Church's co-ed softball team.

Games are played Mondays and Thursday evenings on our Dennis Brinks Memorial Field beginning the middle of May and running through the middle of July.

Cost is \$5.00 per person. Registration forms are attached or available in the Lobby or on the church website. Register by April 21st.

Questions can be directed to Pastor Dave.
(616) 891-8028 or office@leightonchurch.org

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

On Sunday, May 22nd, high school and college graduates will be recognized during the worship service. High school graduates will receive a gift in honor of their accomplishment. In an effort to recognize each graduate, please fill out the information below and place it in the offering plate or e-mail the information to the church office at office@leightonchurch.org. Photos of the graduate will be included in a special bulletin insert on May 22nd. Please submit graduates' information and photo to the church office by April 29th.

Name: _____

Yes, I am graduating from:

HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE (Circle one)

Name of School Graduating From: _____

If graduating from college, please list the degree you will be receiving (Associates, Bachelors of science/arts, Masters, etc.)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

Vacation Bible School 2016 is coming!

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

This year's theme is:

Ocean Commotion Diving into Noah's Flood

Throughout the week, kids age 2 on up through 6th grade will learn to stand for God, obey God, trust God, thank God, and fear God.

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)

3—2x4's at least 5' in length (See Cindy Herring)

Green streamers (variety of shades)

Blue streamers (variety of shades)

75 small white flameless LED tea light "candles"

4 or 5 cans of spray paint (any shade of blue and/or green)

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

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS) COMING THIS FALL!

A new ministry coming this fall for mothers of preschoolers (infants thru Kindergarten). Need experienced moms to be Mentor Moms and adults to help with nursery care or to lead classes for toddlers and preschoolers.

Contact [Sarah Geers](#) or [Amanda Athearn](#) for info.

www.mops.org

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST FOR APRIL

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 April, the following items will be collected to stock the pantry:

- ◇ Toilet Paper
- ◇ Laundry Detergent
- ◇ Boxed Potatoes, Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper
- ◇ Cereal, Oatmeal
- ◇ Macaroni & Cheese
- ◇ Spaghetti & Sauce

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

IT'S A GIRL!

Noah & Liz Kamper are celebrating the birth of their daughter,
Lucia Joy Kamper

Born April 6th weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Baby Lucia was not breathing when she was born. Doctors say she is a miracle and the cesarean section was done at just the right time. Mom and baby are all home and doing well.

Lucia was welcomed at home by her 3 big brothers, Forrest, Elliot & Quinn.

Noah & Liz are missionaries in Costa Rica and supported through your gifts to Faith Promise.

THANK YOU!

We want to thank the church family for such a warm welcome, for the wonderful meals and gifts when Kenderlyn was born. We are blessed by you all!

Thank you,
Brad & Jordan Hubbert

BIBLE STUDY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

A new Bible study is starting at Thornapple-Kellogg Middle School for all 6th-8th grade girls.

Come Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. to Room 1616 (end of the exploratory hall) for this student led study. All middle school girls are welcome!

For questions, contact [Melissa Miller](#)

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.

SNACKS FOR LOWER ELEMENTARY CHILDREN'S CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL

The lower elementary aged children receive a snack during Children's Church/Sunday School. If you'd be willing to bring a healthy snack for about 20 kids some Sunday, please sign up outside Room 3 or contact [Terri Farmer](#).

CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Church Cookbooks are available now for just \$5.00!

Cookbooks make great 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.

SERVICE IN ACTION

COFFEE SERVERS:

April 17—Kate Webb & Phyllis Jaworowski
April 24—Brad & Lori Cramer
May 1—Open

PROVIDING TREATS FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

April 17—Lynn Hilton & Robbin Hilton
April 24—Linda Horton & Jan Geukes
May 1—Ronda Kaechele & Jean McCaul

GREETERS:

April 17—Mike & Christine Syswerda
April 24—Doug & Judy Hanlon
May 1—To Be Announced

NURSERY:

April 17—Eric & Tina Peck, Gabby Nicholson
April 24—Michael & Christine Syswerda
May 1—Cindy & Rebecka Thaler

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS:

April 17—Sam Farmer, Bonnie McBride
April 24—Jonathan & Amanda Athearn
May 1—Mike & Christine Syswerda

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS:

April 17—Kaylie & Nathan Taylor
April 24—Gabby Nicholson & Emeline Seeley
May 1—Sam Farmer, Robbin Hilton

SHOPPING AT MEIJER 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 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.

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.

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 Dietrich 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT PROJECT HOPE

Project Hope located in Dorr, operates a food pantry for those in need in the Northeast section of Allegan County. They also have a thrift store that helps fund the ministries of Project Hope. Volunteers are needed to cashier in the thrift store. Also needed are volunteers to help sort items that are donated to stock the thrift store. If you are interested, please contact Jean Bodo (616) 681-4673

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES SEEKING HOMES

Bethany Christian Services Refugee Foster Care Program is seeking a home for a 17 year old young man from Central America with significant medical needs. These medical needs require a strict diet as well as medical appointments three afternoons per week which a foster parent would need to attend with him at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. He will be provided with health insurance and once he turns 18 in August a foster parent would no longer have to sit with him through the appointments. This young man has adjusted exceptionally well to his current difficult circumstances. He does not exhibit behavioral concerns and does not have any current mental health concerns. He understands English at about a 90% capacity and can speak English at about 80% capacity. He is very bright academically and now needs a stable family environment. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in learning more, please contact Ana Jose at (616) 965-8027 or ajose@bethany.org.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREATS

Grace Adventures, a non-profit Christian Training Center located near Silver Lake, is hosting women's retreats 4 different weekends this fall.

September 23-25 features guest speaker, Lina Abujamra, author of *Thrive: The Single Life as God Intended*, and *Stripped: When God's Call Turns from Yes to Why Me?* In 2012 she started a ministry called Living with Power. Lina is single and was born in Lebanon, but now calls Chicago home.

September 30-October 2 features guest speaker Karen Ehman, who is a Proverbs 31 Ministries speaker and New York Times Best-selling author. Karen writes for Encouragement for Today online devotions. She has been a guest on national television radio programs including The 700 Club, At Home Live, FamilyLife, and more.

October 7-9 features guest speaker Cindy Bultema. Cindy has been in ministry over 15 years and has trained leaders and created programs within a variety of settings. Cindy is now a popular women's speaker, author, blogger, and Bible teacher. She is a member of Carol Kent's national speaking team and Proverbs 31 Speaker Coach.

October 14-16 features guest speaker Jennifer Shaw, a Telly Award winning speaker, author, singer, songwriter, and five-time Top 40 Billboard artist. Her ministry has been featured on Focus on the Family, Insight for Living, FamilyLife Today, and many more. Her new book *Life Not Typical: How Special Needs Parenting Changed My Faith* has brought national attention to the issue of Sensory Processing Disorder.

Cost for the retreats is \$89 (if commuting-no lodging needed), \$149 if staying at a local hotel, or \$124 if staying on-site at Grace Adventures Retreat Center.

There are a variety of activities to do.

Register online at graceadventures.org/adult-retreats/womens-retreat

AWAKENING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12

If you're a high school student going into grades 10-12 and would like to grow in your skills and passion about worship and the arts, this is the week for you.

Are you a musician, an actor, an artist, a dancer, a sound technician or a philosopher?

Take this opportunity to develop your gifts-and perhaps discover gifts you never realized.

Join us on the beautiful campus of Hope College in Holland, Michigan to work with nationally known pastors, ministry leaders, professors, church musicians, artists, dancers, and technical arts specialists.

June 12-17, 2016

Hope.edu/awakening

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