



Mt Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Making and Growing Followers of Jesus

October 8, 2026

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I hope you all are enjoying the beginnings of Fall. I spent last week in New England, and I am grateful we live in such a beautiful part of the world. It always reminds me just how creative God is. He did not have to make dying leaves anything interesting at all, but He chose to throw a cacophony of colors our way. What are your favorite Fall activities? I did get to have a hot and fresh apple cider donut at an apple orchard last week, so I've already hit my must-have Fall treat!

As we dive into Fall, we are going to be doing a study on a book that will lead us straight into Advent. This Sunday, we are starting to look into the Book of Malachi, the last Old Testament book, just one page turn before the book of Matthew. But that one page turn represents 400 years of silence. Malachi points to the coming Messiah, "risen with healing in his wings," as we sing in "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." It also foretells of John the Baptist who will prepare the way for the Lord. And then nothing for 400 years.

If you were going to give instructions that would have to last 400 years, what would you say? Malachi is a prophetic message from the Lord with both promises and warnings. The book was written after the return of the exiles, so after Ezra rebuilt the temple and Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. Even though the people had seen the consequences of their disobedience that led them into exile, still they were quick to stray away from God. In Malachi, we learn that the Lord wants to call them back to Himself, to love, to faithful devotion, to generosity, to justice, and to righteousness. We will be using a RightNow Media study from British pastor Dave Cornes to dig deep into each of these themes and see how they can speak to our faith journey today. Many of the issues the Israelites faced then can be seen in our own church and culture now.

This Sunday, we will be studying Malachi 1:1-5, all about God's desire for His people to know that He loves them. There is nothing they can do to shake that. He chose them, as He chose Jacob all those years ago. He made a covenant with His people, and He won't let go. Malachi 1:2 starts off with this statement from the Lord: "'I have loved you,' says the Lord. 'But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'" As you prepare your hearts for worship this Sunday, pray about that question. Do you ever have moments when you wonder if God actually loves you? I certainly have! Take some time to reflect on the times when you have seen God's love clearly and the times when it seems like His love has been far away. Pray that the Lord will open your eyes to see His love for you, and pray for the grace to show others His love as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Carolyn