




Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789



June 2026

Worship Information

May 31, 2026

Sermon: *Trinitarian Vision*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading 1: Matthew 28:16-20

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Worship Assistant 8:45 a.m.: Bob James

Worship Assistant 11:00 a.m.: **Still Needed**

Flowers: **Still Needed**

Worship Bulletin PDF and **Worship Hymns PDF**

June 7, 2026

10 a.m. Summer Worship Schedule Begins

Sermon: *Listening, Seeing, Speaking Boldly*

Preacher: Asheville Mission Trip Participants

Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 2: 2-8 and

New Testament Reading: Acts 3:1-10

Flowers: **Still Needed**

June 14, 2026

Sermon: *First Step: Turn*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

New Testament Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Flowers: **Still Needed**

June 21, 2026

Sermon: *Is it ok to whine about full life?*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading 1: Genesis 21:8-21

Old Testament Reading 2: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Old Testament Reading 3: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Flowers: **Still Needed**

June 28, 2026

Sermon: *A Steadfast God Produces Tested Faith*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading 1: Genesis 22:1-14

Old Testament Reading 2: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Flowers: **Still Needed**

Please check our weekly newsletter for more information on worship services.

Summer Worship - A New Season

We have two services this Sunday (May 31) but read below to see what's up for Summer worship that begins June 6.

Dear friends,

During June, July, and August, Lex Pres moves to a summer worship schedule with a single service at **10 a.m.** in the sanctuary. I have been told this began for purely logistical reasons. The Sanctuary lacked air conditioning, and the church tried to beat the heat by starting earlier. In the past, because we have two services during the year with very unique styles, we have sought to give everyone "a taste" of their preferred service by rotating week to week between an 8:45 a.m. style and 11:00 a.m. style.

Taken together, our summer worship schedule arose out of logistics and was shaped by preference. Neither of these things is bad, and the worship they produced was surely good, but a few months ago, I spoke to the Worship Committee about the idea of engaging summer worship through a more theological lens. It seemed to me that the three months we worship all together are far too great an opportunity to let only logistics and preferences drive our decisions. Since the gift of summer worship is that we are all together, I suggested we focus our worship on being a community together. The worship committee enthusiastically agreed to move forward with this idea.

Therefore, during the months of June, July, and August, we will continue our normal summer tradition of one service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, but we will put aside our old rotation routine and instead, use this time to lean into being a community as we worship together. The worship service will feature more communal elements and unique liturgies to encourage us to engage one another and enjoy being together.

Fear not! While I hope some of what we do is out of everyone's comfort zone, we are not reinventing the wheel. We will still read scripture, offer prayers, and sing hymns. Most of the service will feel very familiar, but it might be done in a slightly new or different way.

Practically speaking, here are a few of the worship elements that will be the most routine:

Summer Choir

If you've ever considered joining the choir, summer is the perfect time to try it out. There are no mid-week (Thursday) rehearsals, and, beyond leading congregational singing, choir repertoire is usually limited to an anthem sung at offering time. We'll dispense with choir robes, so you can come in your comfortable Sunday attire to a warm-up choir preparation at **9:30 a.m.** in Brady Chapel. Summer anthems are accessible, uncomplicated, usually hymn-based, affirming the basic themes and beliefs of our Christian faith.

Hymn Sing Start

After a brief welcome, Bill McCorkle will begin each worship service by taking three or four requests from the congregation. Christmas hymn? You got it! That amazing oldie you are mad we never sing? Shout it out! For each request, we will typically sing the first verse.

Encouragement to sit downstairs and not in the balcony.

I know people love their balcony seats. Many of you love them for reasons that go far beyond habit, important things like comfort with kids and hearing. Please know, no one is going to make anyone sit somewhere they don't want to, but when it comes to community and feeling connected, proximity matters. I feel more connected to people I see and interact with on Sunday than those I do not. This summer is a chance to see and interact with people you might not normally get to. If you are willing to give it a try, I think you will be surprised by the new connections you make through this simple gesture.

Shorter sermons

Keep your rejoicing to yourself, thank you. Sermons will be about 10 to 12 minutes during the summer. In part, to allow for more creative elements and community-led liturgies, but mostly because....

Lemonade Fellowship will be considered part of the worship service.

We have long enjoyed lemonade and cookies after the summer worship service. With shorter sermons, we hope people use the extra ten minutes to embrace this time together as the final act of worship. It is a living embodiment of the belief that all faithful worship draws us deeper into a relationship with both God and our neighbor.

All of this is flexible and might change from week to week. Feedback is encouraged, and I am always happy to answer any questions. I fully understand, for some, change, even temporary change, raises alarm bells, but I appreciate your trust as we continue to discern and lean into what it means to be the Church together. I am excited and hopeful for what God will do in our midst.

Grace and peace,
Drew

Life of the Church



2026 Confirmands

On May 24, Lexington Presbyterian Church confirmed four new members.

Left to right: Will Ditzel, Henry Cline, William Keesee, and Avery Woody.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to all, and special thanks to their confirmation mentors Paul Humke, Joe Irby, Zeke Ellington, and Mary Dugan (and Bill Klein who stood in for Paul, who had to be away on the 24th).



Educational Grants Awarded

On May 24, Dr. Megan Miller presented more than \$14,000 in grant award funds to a total of 11 recipients on behalf of the Campus Ministry subcommittee. We are humbled and grateful for our church's generous support of our college and graduate students as they pursue their passions and purposes.

Pictured above (left to right) are recipients Emma Woody, Issac Schultz, James Johnson, Grace Fure, Kate Holston, Skip Hess who accepted an award for his cousin Austin Doyle, Josh Elrod who accepted an award for his daughter Sierra, and Lee Carter.

Here is the complete list of recipients, their institutional affiliations, and their current plans:

Ellie Baker – Georgia Tech, mechanical engineering major

James Baker – Ithaca College, working toward a career as a music instructor

Lee Carter – Vassar College, education major

Austin Doyle – Marshall University School of Medicine, working toward family medical practice

Sierra Elrod – Eastern Mennonite University, masters program leading to licensure as certified mental health counselor

Grace Fure – Vassar College, theater major

Kate Holston – College of William and Mary, planning a math or science major

James Johnson – Mountain Gateway Community College, interested in nursing

Issac Schultz – Mountain Gateway Community College, majoring in nursing

Ryan Squire – University of Chicago, studying biochemistry

Emma Woody – Radford University, majoring in nursing

The Nelsons visit LexPres

On May 24, Rafiki missionaries Scott and Andrea Nelson, who are based in Ghana, made a special presentation on Rafiki's educational work during our Sunday school hour. We are grateful to the Nelsons (pictured above talking with Susie Hastings at the Pentecost 'birthday party for the church') and to Tammy Shomo, our Rafiki missions representative. We pray for Rafiki's work in multiple African countries.



RARA news from Outreach

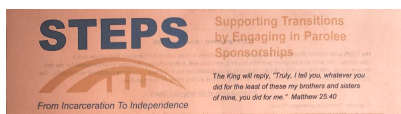
Last June, the Outreach Committee resumed a LexPres practice of collecting food and essential supplies for the RARA Neighborhood Grocery. Your generosity has simply blown us away. Each time we make a delivery to the grocery's Spotswood Drive location, a RARA staff member weighs our contribution. In the past year, we estimate, our congregation has collectively donated more than 1,500 pounds of food and supplies. Wow!

Committee members rotate responsibility for transporting items to RARA and the loads are sometimes so heavy that we had to secure a collapsible wagon to move the donations from the sanctuary to our cars.

Rest assured, these contributions are making a difference. Last year was the busiest on record for the Neighborhood Grocery, according to its manager, Shadrey Sands. And demand continues to rise. As of May, they are 1,000 visits ahead of where they were at the same time last year. "We are deeply grateful for the continued support of Lexington Presbyterian as we work to keep up with this increasing demand," Shadrey said.

Our church also contributes financially to RARA's many good programs, but RARA staff tell us that tangible donations are an important way to augment supplies they receive from local groceries, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in Verona, and area gardeners. "We love the participation that a food drive creates," Shadrey said. RARA provides us with a list of most-needed items and, with Janice Downey's able assistance, we spread the word through church newsletters and bulletins.

For the congregation, this monthly habit of bringing packaged food or back-to-school supplies to church offers a simple way to keep in mind the needs of our neighbors. And the collection point, in the front of our sanctuary, is a visual reminder that helping neighbors is a worshipful act. The Outreach Committee looks forward to coordinating another year of collections for The Neighborhood Grocery. The item we will be collecting for June is **pasta**.



Opportunity to Assist Recent Parolees in Our Community

The LexPres Outreach Committee has accepted an invitation to engage with Grace Episcopal Church on their STEPS (Supporting Transitions by Engaging in Parolee Sponsorships) re-entry program. This program, developed by Grace Episcopal, offers extensive support to selected parolees during their first year of re-entry, including assistance with housing, transportation, and employment, as well as mentoring. Our first step in supporting this program is to offer one or two LexPres liaisons to serve on the STEPS Team. This will give us the

opportunity to experience first-hand how this program works and to discern how our church could more fully engage to support this important mission in meaningful ways.

If you are interested in serving as one of our church's liaisons to the STEPS Team or would like to learn more about the STEPS program, please contact Betsy Lee (betsylee63@gmail.com).

Calendar of Events

Recurring Events

Lectio - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
Lam Handbell Choir - No Tuesday rehearsals until September
Staff Meeting - Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 113
Children/Youth Ministry staging - Every Wednesday at 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Choir - No Thursday rehearsals until September

June

2 Session meeting, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
3 Women's Bible study, 11:15 a.m., Kendal Borden conference room
8 APNC meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 113
9 Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
10 Women's Bible study, 11:15 a.m., Kendal Borden conference room
 -Leah/Ruth Circle luncheon, 12:00 noon, home of Liz Shupe
 -Outreach Committee, 4:00 p.m., Room 113
11 Peace-Wagers, 10:30 a.m., Room 111
15 APNC meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 113
 -Brittigan Fund Committee, 3:00 p.m., Room 111
16 Campus Ministry, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
 -Property Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 113
18 Adult Discipleship Committee, 6:00 p.m., Room 111
21 Father's Day
22 APNC meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 113
24 Children and Family Ministry meeting, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
29 APNC meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 113



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Calendar



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