



Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789



Worship Information

September 28, 2025

Sermon: *Loving Environment*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:15-20

New Testament Reading: Mark 1:12

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Liz Shupe

11 a.m. Worship Assistant: Maurine Hauser

Worship Bulletin PDF and ***Worship Hymns PDF***

October 5, 2025

Sermon: *The Messy Art of Generosity*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: John 3:16

New Testament Reading: Matthew 6:19-21

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Community Prayers

11 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

Flowers: [Still Needed](#)

October 12, 2025

Sermon: *The Good News About Having Enemies*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Mark 10:21-22

New Testament Reading: Matthew 16:21-26

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Doug Chase

11 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

Flowers: [Still Needed](#)

October 19, 2025

Sermon: *All Love Leads to the Margins*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 1:17
New Testament Reading: Luke 4:17-21
8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Lad Sessions
11 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)
Flowers: [Still Needed](#)

October 26, 2025

Sermon: *Learning to Love Inside the Sausage Factory*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 4:1-7

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

11 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

Flowers: [Still Needed](#)

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

Life of the Church



Cutthroat Competition at 50s-60s Game Night

Philip Coulling, Sherry Chapin, Cindy Irby, Joe Irby, and Susan LeMert deep in concentration at a pivotal moment in the thrilling game "Pass the Pigs."

If you missed the fellowship and the competition, fear not: we will repeat again soon!

Elder Nominations are Now Open

During the month of October, the Nominations Committee is asking you to prayerfully discern who you think might be a faithful addition to the next class of six session members who will begin serving their three year term in January 2026. We are also looking for one person to fill the final year of an unexpired term. [You can do so by filling out this google form.](#)

In the Presbyterian tradition, each year anyone from the congregation can put forth a person's name for the Nominations Committee to consider. The Nominations committee then discusses, discerns, and prays over both the list of names and the

current/upcoming needs of the church. By majority vote, the committee puts forth six people they feel God is calling to this role and who have expressed a willingness to serve. Those names are then presented in a congregational meeting where any member can put forth a name to be included. Once all nominations have been made, the members of Lex Pres vote for the next class of elders.

I confess I find many presbyterian processes overbearing and sometimes unnecessary, but electing ruling elders is not one of them. I love how it begins and ends with the voice of the whole church, yet the process is honest about the fact that everyone does not have time to give important decisions the full attention they deserve. It checks and balances at its best.

That said friends, this process only works when people actually engage it, and the process is far more meaningful the more people are engaged. So I encourage you to give this some thought. Who do you think God is calling to steward and guide our church? Is the Lord inviting you into this role? Again, if a certain name comes to mind, please fill out [this google form](#) or email it to Drew (drditzel@lexpres.org) by October 31st and, if possible, include your reason for suggesting them. Drew will then send the compiled list to the nominating committee when they begin meeting in November.



Registration Open for Youth Retreat

There's still time to register students in grades 6-12 for the Shenandoah Presbytery annual Youth Retreat at Massanetta Springs conference center in Harrisonburg on October 17-19, 2025.

It's a different kind of worship that is energized, centered around play, directed to youth concerns, organized around speakers and a project to support disaster relief in North Carolina one year after Hurricane Helene (Asheville trip alums, you will have much to contribute and find much to think about!).

Partial participation (arriving early Saturday morning rather than Friday night OR early departure) is possible depending on chaperone transportation. Registration numbers must be confirmed by **September 30**. Contact Sandra right away if you are interested in participating this year (shayslette@lexpres.org).

LexPres Habitat Build Opportunity on Saturday, October 4

We're looking for 12-15 volunteers to help with a Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity build on Saturday, **October 4**, from 1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We'll be working on various tasks to help build a home for a family in need.

This is a great chance to give back to our community. No prior experience or tools are needed. Just show up ready to work. A few important things to note before you sign up:

- Age Requirement: Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Teenagers 16-17 can volunteer with their parent or guardian.
- Waiver: All volunteers must complete a waiver before the build.

- Dress Code: Please wear clothes that can get dirty and closed-toed shoes for safety.
- Child Care: Since children under 16 cannot be present on the job site, we will offer child care at LexPres during the build so that parents can help. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet that this is important to your participation.

Sign up by clicking this link: [LexPres 10/4/25 Habitat Build Signup](#), or by contacting Quinn Ramsey at 804-503-0377 or quinnjamin@gmail.com

LexPres's Got Talent!

Mark your calendars for the Annual LexPres Talent Show on **Sunday, October 5**, following the inaugural first-Sunday supper of the fall. Free meal starts at 5:30 in Dunlap Auditorium, with entertainment starting around 6:15. People of all ages are welcome to attend and/or perform and we define "talent" broadly.



Music, dance, storytelling, tumbling, jeketelling, unicycling, magic tricks, recitations, hula hooping, skits . . . all will be prized in this extravaganza of entertainment. No matter if your talent is unpolished, imprecise, or aspirational come perform for one of the most appreciative audiences you'll ever find. Spectators also warmly welcomed.

Please let Sandra know if you will require sound or AV assistance for your act and we will earnestly attempt to make it happen.

RARA Food Pantry Item of the Month

Cereal is the food we are collecting for RARA's Neighborhood Grocery in September. Just leave a box or two of your family favorite in the bins at the front of the sanctuary. Oatmeal and other cooked cereals are welcome, as well as cold varieties such as Cheerios.

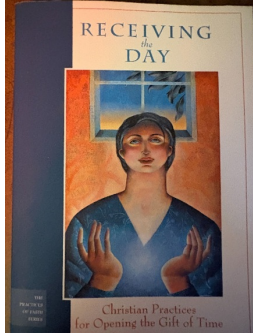
The RARA food item for October will be nuts and dried fruit (for example, raisins, apricots, dates, cranberries). Just deposit your items in the bins in the front of the sanctuary.

Looking ahead to November, we will have a warm-clothing drive focusing on mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These can be for children or adults.

And many thanks for ALL of the cereal contributed so far this month. You may continue to bring in cereal through Tuesday, September 30.

October Adult Lending Library Book of the Month

In Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time, author Dorothy C. Bass invites readers to embrace the "moral and meaning" of our relationship to calendars and



clock. Each chapter is a stand-alone meditation on thoughtful questions driven by God's deep interest in our time and how we use it, as attested in both Old and New Testaments.

Bass doesn't browbeat on this most sensitive of contemporary issues: she acknowledges how much we busy 21st century people grapple with our schedules through gentle observation and creative questions. Her discussions and suggestions may speak differently to each of us, encouraging us to see our lives not as fragmented snippets but a gift of God knit whole by grace, with time for dreaming and enacting God's kingdom.

Check out the book in our adult lending library (Murray Hall room 112) on the brown bookstand.

The Great Clock Stoppage of 2025 has Come to an End

Thanks to the tireless effort and patience of the Property Committee the LexPres steeple clock is finally back working again. The clock stopping and all the work it took to find the right people to fix it is another reminder of the countless acts of service by so many that make our church what it is. We are grateful to the Property Committee and all who give their time and talents to the church. We also count it as a minor miracle that the clock stoppage never made it into an angry letter to the editor in the News Gazette!

Become a Reading Tutor and Help a Child in our Community

The Rockbridge Regional Library is seeking additional volunteers to serve as reading mentors/tutors for children in our Lexington and Rockbridge County elementary schools. The commitment for tutoring is a one-hour, one-on-one session per week, and training is provided. Click [here](#) for additional details.

To sign up or to learn more, please call or email Lenna Ojure, Youth Literacy Program Coordinator (540-463-4324 ext 105; cell: 540-460-0704; lojure@rrlib.net).

Report on our Sunday Brunch from the Director of Culinary Ministry Skip Hess

Our first Sunday Brunch was held on Sunday, September 14, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in Dunlap Auditorium. We had a large turnout. I think that was the largest crowd we had since we started the brunches. Additional tables had to be set in the hallway to accommodate the approximately 150 hungry congregants.

The culinary team started by setting up tables in Dunlap and began cooking on Saturday. There was plenty of work for everyone. We can always use additional help. You may contact Linda Franke to get put on the volunteer list.

Our menu included a salad bar with our own LexPres Dressing, pineapple glazed ham, country green beans, scrambled eggs, bacon, Belgian waffles with fresh strawberries, and our Blueberry Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce. All of our dishes were

homemade.

The bread pudding was a big hit and I had many requests for the recipe. The most frequently heard comment about the pudding was “that tasted like my grandmother's.”

Here is the recipe for the blueberry pudding. I hope you enjoy it.

Blueberry Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce

Ingredients for the Bread Pudding

- 1 - Cup Heavy Cream
 - 1 - Loaf leftover bread (any type will do) Torn up into small pieces
- 2 - Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 4 - Large Eggs
- 1 - Teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 - Teaspoon Ground Cinnamon
- 3 - Cups Fresh or Frozen Blueberries

Ingredients for the Vanilla Sauce

- ¼ - Cup Whole Milk
- ½ - Cup Heavy Cream
- 1 - Tablespoon Pure Vanilla Extract
- ½ - White Sugar
- 1 - Tablespoon Cornstarch
- 1 - Tablespoon Unsalted Butter

Directions for Bread Pudding

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease or spray a 8” square baking dish and add the bread pieces. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the milk, cream, eggs and cinnamon until well combined. Pour this mixture evenly over the bread and then add the blueberries.

Press down with a spatula to make sure bread is soaked.

Bake for 45-50 minutes until golden brown. Check doneness by inserting a knife in the center. It should come out clean. Note: when using frozen blueberries, you may have to bake the pudding for an additional 10 minutes.

Directions for Sauce

In a large pan, combine the milk, cream, sugar, butter and cornstarch. Heat until thick and bubbling. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. Pour over bread pudding and allow to sink in.

Let pudding cool for 10 minutes before serving. Top with whipped cream or ice cream and enjoy!

Rafiki Report

Rafiki Newsletter
October 2025

Rafiki Villages are oases of biblical truth, love, and hope in some of Africa’s neediest

countries. Each Rafiki Village provides homes for orphaned children, Pre-K through 12 classical Christian schools for those children as well as needy children from the community, teacher's colleges, Bible study, economic opportunity for widows, and outreach to African church partner denominations with Bibles and other materials for their churches and schools. Rafiki's 40-year presence in Africa and close relationship with the leadership of 25 African church denominations has established 10 Villages in 10 African countries serving as the epicenter supervised by missionaries and equipped with schools, orphan housing, a teacher's college (RICE), a dining hall, missionary homes, libraries, and so much more.

Our local Rafiki chapter would like to thank everyone who visited and supported our Rafiki sales booth at the annual Rockbridge Community Festival. African widows work diligently making crafts including beaded baskets, loom-woven shawls and placemats, carved gourds, Christmas ornaments, and beautiful necklaces and earrings along with gorgeous bags, purses, and assortments of soapstone animals. Our Festival sales totaled over \$1600; thank you for your support helping African widows raise the standard of living for both them and their children. Our next sales event is November 8 from 10am-noon at Grace Presbyterian Church in the Commons areas.

Though you have not met her, Lex Pres has sponsored orphan Metsenanat "Metsy" Tages who entered the Ethiopia Village on May 1, 2010. Metsy has devoted her life to Christ and with much perseverance and dedication, she is attending Hawassa University pursuing a degree in public administration. She continues to show determination and a positive attitude toward her studies and serving God. She looks forward to maintaining communication with our members; she loves to receive mail. Please send letters to PO Box 2871, Nazareth, Ethiopia, East Africa. You may send cards or any other item that fits in a standard size envelope. Please do not send packages, checks or cash to the Village address. Monetary donations to help support Metsy's educational and spiritual life can be made by check, payable to Lexington Presbyterian Church with "Metsy" written on the memo line. Our generosity is making a lasting impact on Metsy's life, and hopefully, we will continue to support her as she pursues her further education. Funds given to her account will go toward her scholarship. Thank you for cultivating godly contributors in Africa.

The next Rafiki Prayer meeting is **October 3 at 9 a.m.** at Grace Presbyterian Church in room 205. Thank you for supporting Rafiki's mission to spread God's Word throughout the world.

Calendar of Events

Recurring Events

Lectio - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Lam Handbell Choir - Every Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

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 - Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Brady Chapel

October

1 Women's Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, 11:00 a.m., Borden conference room Kendal

- 2 Peace-Wagers, 10:30 a.m., Room 111
4 Habitat for Humanity Build, 1:15-5:00 p.m.
5 Dinner/Talent show, 5:30 p.m., Dunlap Auditorium
7 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
8 Women's Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, 11:00 a.m., Borden conference room Kendal
 -Leah/Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
 -Outreach Committee, 4:00 p.m., Room 111
9 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel
12 High School Youth Class, 12:15 p.m., out to lunch
14 Worship Committee, 4:30 p.m., Laura de Maria's home
15 Adult Discipleship Committee, 6:00 p.m., Room 111
17-19 Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Retreat, Massanetta Springs
19 Brunch, 12:00 noon, Dunlap Auditorium
20 Brittigan Fund Committee, 3:00 p.m., Room 111
21 Campus Ministry, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
 -Property Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 113
22 Women's Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, 11:00 a.m., Borden conference room Kendal
 -Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Committee, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
23 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel
26 High School Youth class, 12:15 p.m., out to lunch
28 Administrative Committee, 12:00 noon, Room 113
29 Women's Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, 11:00 a.m., Borden conference room Kendal
30 Peace-Wagers, 10:30 a.m., Room 111
31 Halloween families' pizza party, 5:00 p.m., Dunlap Auditorium



Go to our website at www.lexpres.org and select "Giving" at the top of the page, or click the blue "ONLINE GIVING" button at the bottom of the same page, or click the button below:

Rafiki Online Giving

Lexington Presbyterian Church

120 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: 540-463-3873

Online Giving

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Calendar





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