



Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789



September 2026

Worship Information

August 30, 2026

Sermon: *Beyond the Wilderness*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 3:1-14

New Testament Reading: Mark 10:17-27

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

September 6, 2026

Two Service Worship Schedule Begins Again

Sermon: *Laboring to Love*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

New Testament Reading: Romans 13:10

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

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

September 13, 2026

Sermon: *The Stories We Tell Ourselves*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament: Luke 15:11-32

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Phillip Blackburn

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

Flowers: **Still Needed**

September 20, 2026

Sermon: *The Parable of the Prodigal Son*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:11-32

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Mike Gilmore

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant:

Flowers: **Still Needed**

September 27, 2026

Sermon: *The Parable of the Loving Father*
Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel
New Testament Reading: Luke 15:11-32
8:45 am Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)
11:00 am Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)
Flowers: [Still Needed](#)

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

Life of the Church

Celebration of Life for Henny Dorsman this Saturday

For those who have not heard, we lost a beloved member of our Lex Pres family last week as Henny Dorsman died at age 98. A celebration of life will be held this Saturday (tomorrow) at 3 p.m. in Kendal Hall (160 Kendal Dr). All are welcome to come and grieve, remember, and celebrate Henny. Kendal Hall is immediately to the right upon entering the main building of Kendal.

New Sunday Coffee Hour Starts September 6

As many of you are aware, the “temporary” AC unit in Dunlap Auditorium finally died a few months ago. The Property Committee has been hard at work to find the best replacement unit and a contractor to install it. Through that process, it was discovered that the ceiling in Dunlap contains asbestos. While this has not posed any danger to us, installing a new HVAC would disturb it; therefore, it needs to be remediated. All this means Dunlap will not be available to us for congregation meals in the near future.

Yet, as is so often the case, challenge breeds creativity, and Skip Hess, our Director of Culinary Ministry, has leaned into that truth.

Beginning **September 6th** and continuing until Dunlap is back operational, the Culinary Ministry will set up a Coffee Hour in Westfel from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Juice, coffee, and light food will be available for anyone who comes early or stays late, drops in, or lingers.

This is not meant to replace or tempt people away from Sunday School – in fact, we encourage you to stop in before or after your class! We value being together over food and drink, and we don’t want to let go of that simply because we can’t do it in our normal way. Plus, we see this as a wonderful opportunity for our church family to connect with one another across our two worship services. Even if you do not attend Sunday School, we hope this provides encouragement for everyone to spend a little extra time enjoying being the Church together.

Sunday School for Children and Youth begins September 13

Kids from preschool to eighth grade are invited to come (and bring a friend) to our 9:45 a.m. Sunday classes. Beginning September 13, we’ll explore what it means to ‘do justly’ as we learn about Jesus’s teachings about loving and just community.



Interested in knowing how you could help? We have opportunities for people who want to help set-up, people who'd like to help choose game and questions, and people who want to lead Bible storytelling and activities. Email Sandra at shayslette@lexpres.org for more information.

Field Trip to the African American History Museum

Please join us for a bus trip to the African American History Smithsonian Museum on **Thursday, September 17**. This one-day trip will leave from the Tractor Supply parking lot at 8:00 a.m., and we will return at approximately 6:30 p.m. The bus will make a stop halfway to Washington D.C. at the Pilot Station in Tom's Brook and also stop there on the return trip.



We plan to arrive at the museum at 11:45 a.m. and tour until 3:00 p.m. Tickets for the museum are free, and we have reserved 56 tickets for this visit. Each passenger is asked to pay \$20 for the cost of the bus. (A person who wishes to remain anonymous is underwriting the total remaining cost for the bus.)

You may bring food and drink on the bus, but the museum does not permit outside food to be brought in. The Sweet Home Cafe inside the museum is open from 11:00 until 3:00. Please see the Museum website for more information.

If you are interested in taking what will be an interesting and exciting trip, please text Mike Gilmore at 540-460-4681 or email Mike at likegilmore@gmail.com

Welcome Washington and Lee Students to Lexington

Washington and Lee University students return to campus for the opening of classes in the first week of September. On **Tuesday, September 1**, first-year students go on a 'walkabout' downtown, passing by our front gates as they tour Lexington on foot in small groups. We are looking for some friendly folks to help us greet them and hand out candy-grams between 4:00-6:45 p.m.

Then on **Thursday, September 3**, the University hosts its Religious Life Fair in Elrod Commons from 5:30-7:30 p.m. , inviting local faith communities to greet students, both newcomers and returning students. Join us for either activity by clicking this link to sign up [Washington and Lee Greeting Events SignUp](#) or emailing Sandra at shayslette@lexpres.org.



Men's Bible Study Returns from Summer Hiatus

September marks the return of the bi-weekly men's bible study. We will return to meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 8 a.m. in Brady Chapel. Our first gathering will be on **September 10th**. This is a study that continually welcomes newcomers and regulars and requires no prep. All men are welcome to join at any time for casual conversation and reflection on God's word. We will kick off the Fall by looking at the book of Proverbs. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, email Drew at drditzel@lexpres.org.

Last Chance to Nominate Elders

During the month of August, 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 2027. **You can do so by filling out this Google form.**

In the Presbyterian tradition, 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 church's current and upcoming needs. 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 at a congregational meeting, where any member can also put forth a name for inclusion. 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 not everyone has time to give important decisions the full attention they deserve. It is 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 **August 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.



From the Director of Music

Dear friends,
As we move from summer into the routine of the academic year, there is much to remember and to anticipate about music in the work and worship of Lexington Presbyterian Church.

Faithfully, William McCorkle

Summer Recap

Summer worship saw the highly successful introduction of a hymn sing to open each service, featuring single stanzas of five hymns chosen by people from the

congregation, a veritable 'taster's choice' running the gamut from 'golden oldies' to some of our engaging newer songs.

Several of you expanded the choir ranks by adding your voices to the choir's in leadership of the congregational singing. Joining, or alternating with, the choir over the summer were a number of vocal and instrumental soloists further enriching our music in worship.

Our musical outreach beyond worship included summer Music at Noon concerts by three outstanding vocalists, and a dazzling piano recital by the young pianist, Willam Hsieh.

September: Choir Routine Resumes

Our choirs will resume their normal rehearsal schedules in early September.

The Lam Handbell Choir rehearses on **Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m.** (beginning September 8).

If you've ever thought about ringing and if you have some experience reading music, now is a perfect time to try it out. We can always use more ringers. A larger pool of participants allows us to mentor beginning ringers, to explore different sized bells, and to cover occasional absences.

The Lam Choir establishes a schedule of ringing in worship about once a month. There are additional opportunities for small-group ringing [a quartet met over the summer for fun and music fellowship] and for handbell enhancement of congregational singing. Please contact Mayumi Smitka at mayumi_smitka@yahoo.com or 540-460-3371 if you're interested or would like more information.

The Lexington Presbyterian Choir has a long tradition of enriching the music of our worship. We rehearse on **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.** (beginning September 10). Our repertoire includes good (but not overly difficult) music from throughout the rich history of the church, focusing on texts which support and engage the themes of our worship and scriptures. If you have an inclination to lift up your voice in song, do come join us. Please contact me at mccorklew@wlu.edu or 540-460-8110 (or any Choir member you might know) for more information.

September Concert at LPC

Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Bach: Magnificence!

Rockbridge Chamber Singers with orchestra and soloists

J. S. Bach: Magnificat; Cantatas 34 and 51, reclaiming the performance lost to horrendous weather last February

RARA Item of the Month: Canned meat, fish and stews

For the month of September, we will be collecting canned meat, fish and stews for our friends at the RARA Neighborhood Grocery. Think tuna, chicken or prepared foods such as Dinty Moore Beef Stew or Chef Boyardee spaghetti and meatballs.



Just put your donations in the bins in the front of the sanctuary and the Outreach Committee will deliver them to RARA to provide hearty meals for fall.

The Community Table

LexPres members have supported The Community Table in numerous ways since it was established 15 years ago, including serving as waiters, dishwashers and dessert-makers. This "restaurant without a cash register" is a community gathering place where folks enjoy meals in a comfortable and dignified atmosphere, thereby avoiding the stigma sometimes associated with traditional soup kitchens.

If you would like to get involved in this effort, The Community Table is looking for a few additional volunteers to join its Monday Afternoon Kitchen Team. This is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare meals that serve our community while working alongside a friendly and supportive group of volunteers.

The team typically meets Mondays from 3:00–5:00 p.m. at 350 Spotswood Drive, with occasional earlier start times when additional meal preparation is needed. Duties include preparing salads, setting up serving equipment, receiving catered meals and desserts, helping prepare side dishes when needed, and cleaning the kitchen after meal preparation. No prior commercial kitchen experience is required.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, contact Gus Kasper, Volunteer Coordinator, at communitytablerockbridge.org or (804) 238-1338.



Parker Belle Fogle Documents the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

Cadet Fogle, VMI class of '28, has worshipped with us consistently since she was a 'rat,' helping with Sunday school classes and participating in the life of the church. Many of you heard her speak about the impact LexPres has had on her college life in the worship service on August 23. This summer she participated in the VMI Alumni Association's pilgrimage in honor of alum Jonathan Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian who was murdered in 1965 in Haynesville, AL, while shielding a fellow civil rights movement worker from a bullet.

Parker Belle helped document the pilgrimage, interviewing alumni participants about their reactions to the visit to the site of Daniels' work and death. Find her short video narrative of the journey linked to the Lexington Presbyterian facebook page.

Calendar of Events

Recurring Events

Lectio - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.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.

Sunday school classes for children ages 2.5-8th grade (Sundays a 9:45 a.m.) will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Lam Handbell Choir rehearsals (Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m.) will resume on Tuesday, September 15.

Adult Choir rehearsals (Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Brady Chapel) will resume on Thursday, September 17.

August

30 Last Sunday of summer worship (10:00 a.m.) schedule

September

1 Washington and Lee University first-year students downtown walkabout, 4:00-6:45 p.m.

6 Resume worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

7 Labor Day

8 Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel

9 Leah/Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m., Room 111

-Outreach Committee, 4:00 p.m., Room 113

10 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel

-Peace Wagers, 10:30 a.m., Room 111

13 Start of Kids Club/Middle Grades Youth classes, 9:45 a.m.

-Youth picnic for grades 6-12 and their families, 5:00-7:00 p.m., location TBA

15 Campus Ministry, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel

-Property Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 113

16 Outreach Committee, 4:00 p.m., Room 111

17 Adult Discipleship Committee, 6:00 p.m., Room 111

21 Brittigan Committee, 3:00 p.m., Room 111

22 Administrative Committee, 1:00 p.m., Room 113

23 Children, Youth and Family Ministry Committee, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel

24 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel



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Lexington Presbyterian Church

120 South Main Street

Lexington, VA 24450

Phone: 540-463-3873

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