



Liberty Road Faith Fellowship

The CURRENT



Rev. Lisa Wood
Senior Pastor

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Who We Are

Liberty Road Faith Fellowship is a multi-denominational fellowship of Christian believers who enjoy traditional worship services.

This Week

Sunday, November 19,
2023

10:45 a.m. – Sunday
Worship at Liberty Road
Faith Fellowship and online.

Liberty Road
Faith Fellowship
2734 Liberty Road
Lexington, KY 40509

LRFF OFFICE
Phone (859) 277-0420
Hours: Mon-Thurs
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Email:
lrrffoffice2734@gmail.com
Website:
lrrfflex.org

A Word from The Pastor

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still my soul, thy best, thy heav'nly Friend Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be Still, My Soul, Page 712 in the Celebration Hymnal

It was November of 2020. Darker days, colder, longer nights. Covid was still claiming the lives of friends and family members. Churches were seeing the effect of the pandemic in their pews, pastors were feeling the frustration of inability to connect with and be present to their people. Church members, self-sequestered for over half the year, had withdrawn from their “normal” and had become despondent and depressed.

Like so many pastors, I had become angry. And frustrated. And fearful for the well-being of our congregation as a whole, and each member personally. I sat on my couch one night, brooding and grumbling my prayers. After a time, I opened my laptop and began trolling Facebook as a way of seeing faces I wasn't able to see on Sunday mornings. I paused to listen to what a pastor-friend had posted, and there, in that moment, I was enraptured!

The acoustics in Mercer University's chapel resonated with the violin's soulful melody. The sight and sound of young vocalists singing this hymn in perfect pitch while masked amplified the message of the hymn, “Be Still, My Soul.” I hummed in harmony and allowed my heart to pray the words

Traditional Worship ~ Contemporary People

being sung, until my breath caught in that familiar pinch in my throat. Worship, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving all “leaked” out of my eyes and splashed onto the keyboard. Sighing, with renewed peace in my soul, I felt “my heart strangely warmed.”

These words speak hope and peace to the deepest places in my soul. The hymn writer’s words bear witness to God’s steadfastness and providence in our current “grief or pain,” even as he is guiding our future to a bright and blessed, joyful end.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Spirit that goes with us, breathes in us, and reminds us of the blessed peace that is ours in Christ Jesus.

The link below is provided for your consideration and listening pleasure in this season.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/ZbKSFXHAdBFQrEB3/?mibextid=Le6z7H>

(Ctrl+enter to access link)

Rev. Lisa Hoel

Wildcards Gathered for Workshop November 15th



Wild Cards met on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 9:30. They made cards and gift tags, and a special surprise package suitable for gifting to a special someone this Christmas. The warm fellowship and laughter around the tables is always incentive enough for joining in, and sharing our ideas and inspiration makes for plenty of fun and fulfillment.

Friends are always welcome!

Your Help is Needed!

Once again, we will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent. Volunteers are needed to help unpack decorations and set the sanctuary in our traditional Christmas décor. If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday morning, Nov. 25, please let Valda May know she can count on you. A group will be gathering at 10:00 a.m. “Many hands make light work” holds true, so plan to show up and be a part of the group’s festive camaraderie.



Annual Christmas Poinsettias!



The holidays are fast approaching! Our annual poinsettias will be ready by the first Sunday of Advent. We will publish the list of names of those being honored or remembered in the Current on Thursday, Nov. 30. These poinsettias always add such a beautiful splash of color to our sanctuary each Christmas and we appreciate those who choose to honor their loved ones in this way.

Coming Events

November

- 19 – Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 25 – Decorate Church for Christmas
- 26 – Advent Fellowship in Kearns Hall
- 28 – Administrative Board Meeting

December

- 1 – Women of Faith Christmas Party
- 5 – Grief Workshop
- 7 – Kearns Hall Rented
- 11 – Church-wide Cookie Swap
- 12 – Church-wide Caroling
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service **at 10:45 a.m.**



"The last thing I remember is being thrown into the dryer."

Thanksgiving Fellowship Feast



Our Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal will follow the worship service on November 19. In addition to the hearty dinner, there will be a brief devotional and time for those who wish to share what they're thankful for. Cracker Barrel will be catering this meal that will consist of the traditional menu of turkey, dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry salad. Plus we'll have homemade desserts.

Suggested cost per person is \$10.



LRFF FAMILY



17 Pat Host	20 John Arebalo	23 Jim Host
25 Nancy Strassner	29 Patty Layson	30 Tandy Haggard



Stewardship: Living and Giving in Gratitude

We are nearing the end of our stewardship emphasis for 2024 at Liberty Road Faith Fellowship. We have requested that pledge cards be turned in by this Sunday, November 19, and by November 26 at the latest.

You have heard from several team representatives over the past several Sundays – Building and Property, Missions, Safety, Technology, Music, and Fellowship -- and their reports have been impressive. Their ongoing work and many accomplishments during 2023 have enhanced our experiences as church members, and many of the teams have shared exciting visions for the year ahead. This work is possible only because of the generosity of our congregation.

In the Old Testament, God revealed to Moses a plan for giving back a portion of what his people had received. God required gifts of animals and grain representing the first ten percent of His people's agricultural production. Those gifts became the resources needed to sustain the temple. Although we use a different form of currency today, the need to support the work of God's church is just as compelling.

Making a financial commitment to your church is acknowledging that all we have is a gift from God, and returning a portion of that through our tithes and offerings is an act of thanksgiving and faith that God will continue to bless and provide for us. Our stewardship of God's gifts allows us to experience the joy of generosity.

A pledge is a promise to support and participate in the worship and ministry of Liberty Road Faith Fellowship. Making a monetary promise may be frightening, because we do not know what the future holds. A pledge, however, is between the giver and God – it is not a legally binding contract, and it can be increased or decreased as circumstances warrant. Giving is one of the spiritual disciplines God requires of us.

The words of the anthem the choir sang last Sunday seem to say it best:

*Because I have been blessed by thy great love,
dear Lord,
I'll share thy love again according to thy word.
I shall give love to those in need;*

*I'll show that love by word and deed;
Thus shall my thanks be thanks indeed.*

*Because I have been given much, I too must give;
Because of thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live.
I shall divide my gifts from thee with every brother
that I see*

Who has the need of help from me.

*Because I have been sheltered, fed by thy good
care,*

*I cannot see another's lack and I not share
My glowing fire, my loaf of bread, my roof's safe
shelter overhead*

That he too may be comforted.

*Because I have been given much dear Lord
I have been given much.*

Words by Grace Noll Crowell

God's Pantry Food Bank by Mary Anne Pollock

Last week, we learned some general information about God's Pantry. Let's look at some of the work they have done so far in 2023.

- 43,225,840 pounds of food have been distributed.
- 17 million pounds of fresh produce have been distributed.
- 13,118,565 pounds of food have been rescued
- 238,510 individuals have been identified as being food insecure
- 36,021,533 meals have been created.
- 530 food pantries and meal programs have partnered with God's Pantry.

You can see the tremendous impact this agency is having throughout our region, and yet there is so much more work to do! Please take this opportunity to join the Mission Team in donating to help our food insecure neighbors.

You may give by placing your donation into the offering plate or at the table in the lobby over the next two Sundays. If you donate with a check, please make it out to Liberty Road Faith Fellowship, and write Missions: God's Pantry on the check.