

Vol. 8, Issue 11, November 2019

# connect

**“BUT THIS MAN...”**

*Seeing Christ for who He is*

**CHEERFUL HOSPITALITY**

*How can we use this spiritual gift today?*

A photograph of a teal door with a stone surround and a doormat that says "Welcome". The door is set in a stone wall. In front of the door is a concrete step and a doormat with a black border and a red center. The word "Welcome" is written in black cursive on the red center of the doormat.

Welcome

# NOVEMBER

## **SUNDAYS** *In the Auditorium (WC) unless announced otherwise*



**5th**  
**Prayer Meeting** | 7 pm  
Renaissance Room (FLC)

**7th & 12th**  
**OCC Packing Party** | 6-8 pm  
Renaissance Room (FLC)

**14th**  
**Caring Hearts Widow's Luncheon** | 12:30 pm  
Renaissance Room (FLC)

**15th**  
**PrimeTime Appreciation Dinner** | 6 pm  
Renaissance Room (FLC)

**20th**  
**Missionary Jason Rice** | 7 pm  
Auditorium (WC)



# BEER

## Calendar Key:

Red = LKC

Orange = Refuel

WC = Worship Center

FLC = Family Life Center

SMB = Student Ministry Building

CHARGE YOUR FAITH.  
PLUG INTO THE WORD.



Follow this month's daily Bible reading plan below to power up your spiritual life.

**1st** Acts 9:1-31

OFF

**4th** Acts 11:19-30 & 13:1-12

**5th** Acts 13:13-52

**6th** Acts 14:1-28

**7th** Acts 15:1-35

**8th** Galatians 1 & 2:1-10

OFF

**11th** Galatians 3:26-29 & 4:1-20

**12th** Galatians 4:21-31 & 5:1-25

**13th** Acts 15:36-41 & 16:1-38

**14th** Philippians 1:1-30

**15th** Philippians 2:1-30

OFF

**18th** Philippians 3 & 4:1-23

**19th** Acts 17:1-34

**20th** 1 Thessalonians 1 & 2

**21st** 1 Thessalonians 3 & 4

**22nd** Acts 18

OFF

**25th** 1 Corinthians 1 & 2

**26th** 1 Corinthians 3 & 4

**27th** 1 Corinthians 5 & 6

**28th** 1 Corinthians 12 & 13

**29th** Acts 19

OFF



## Sundays

JAMZ (kid's choir) Rehearsal  
6 pm | LKC Auditorium (WC)

## Wednesdays

LKC@FLC (ages 3 - 4th  
grade) | 7 pm  
FLC Gym & 2nd Floor

## Wednesdays

Lit (5th-6th grades) | 7 pm  
FLC 2nd Floor



## REFUEL

# BIG



## OF THE BIBLE

## Wednesdays

Refuel (Students) | 6:45 pm  
SMB 2nd & 3rd Floors

## 7th

HHS Football Team Dinner  
5:30 pm  
SMB 2nd Floor

## 20th

Not-So-Traditional  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
6:45 pm  
SMB 2nd Floor

## 24th

Worship Together  
Weekend | 10:45 am  
Auditorium (WC)



# CHEERFUL HOSPITALITY

“***Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another...Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.***” (1 Peter 4:9-11, NLT)

**Y**ou have only a few minutes before your guests arrive for dinner. Several days prior, you finally finished those little projects you'd been meaning to do. You've scrubbed every inch of the house, and the food is almost ready. However, you've just discovered the kids decided to dump out the Legos and now you're frantically picking them up. Then, you smell something burning, and your gut drops as you leave the Legos on the floor to save supper. Immediately following Operation Dinner Rescue, you remember that you haven't changed clothes, and you rush to your room to put on something decent. Upon arrival to your room, you find it a complete mess; outfits you were trying on lay strewn across the room along with your husband's work clothes. You remind yourself to close your bedroom door so your guests do not see the mess when they go to the bathroom. THE BATHROOM!!! You suddenly realize the bathroom is not up to your standard of "guest-readiness". Still not fully dressed, with Legos on the floor, a disaster in your bedroom, the smell of burnt oven-crust, and a messy bathroom you hear the sound you'd hoped would be delayed just a few minutes longer—the knock. Your guests have arrived, and you find yourself in full panic mode.

This scenario might seem a little extreme, however, if you've opened your home to others you've probably experienced something similar. Is it any wonder we prefer going out with friends instead of having them in our homes? Isn't it just too stressful to have people over? Is hospitality really worth all the stress, effort, and sacrifice? Without hesitation, I would say, "Absolutely!" There is nothing that thrills me or lifts my spirits like having guests in our home. However, with all the stress how can we **cheerfully** practice hospitality?

### **1. Change your filter**

1 Peter 4:9-11 instructs us to share our homes "cheerfully" but in scenarios like this, how is that possible? Hospitality becomes stressful when we filter our service through "What will people think?" When strained through this filter, we are unable to serve one another with joy. Cheerful service is sacrificed for the impossibly stressful task of trying to impress our guests and live up to a standard we're honestly not even sure they're holding us to. If your filter is "to serve one another" and "bring glory to God", the stress level drops drastically. Work to make the evening pleasant, not perfect.

The story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10 perfectly illustrates this principle. Martha was unnecessarily stressed, and Mary sat in the living room with Jesus as if there was nothing to do. Martha complains about getting no help from her sister, and Jesus responds, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42).

Martha was concerned with impressing Jesus, and Mary was only concerned with spending time with Him. Jesus wasn't there to be wowed by all Martha's niceties or unforgettable leg of lamb. He was there to spend time with His friends and Mary was wise enough to realize that and enjoy it, and the joy of that evening would never be taken away from her.

## 2. Consider what hospitality teaches your children

Hospitality teaches our children the value of relationships. In a technologically-driven world, our children need to see that *focused* time with people is more important than anything on a screen. In our home, we'll gladly sacrifice a movie night to be with friends. Why? Because we have yet to see a movie that even comes close to bringing the enjoyment of an evening spent with others. Hospitality allows our children to experience the joy of building relationships.

When we practice hospitality we teach our children about service. Because you're typically separated from your children during church services they might never see you actively serving in your local church. However, when you practice hospitality they see you serving God and others first-hand. Not only do they see it but they are able to serve alongside you—helping clean the house, set the table, or prepare food. They witness the value of serving and sacrificing for others.

This is why it is so important that we get step one right because our children need to see that our service is being filtered correctly. They need to see that we are serving God and others cheerfully and that our hospitality stems from our desire to spend time with friends. When we use the right filter our children get a glimpse of cheerful service and they will want to follow suit!

## 3. Consider what hospitality conveys to your guests

Nothing screams vulnerability like inviting someone into your home. The invitation is a clear message that they matter to you—so much so that you are willing to drop the barriers and invite them into your haven, your most private place. Hospitality tells people, "I don't just consider you a guest; I consider you a friend."

Hospitality tells your guests that they are worth the work that is necessary to have them over. You show someone they are valuable when

you are willing to work to prepare food and a comfortable place for them to enjoy their evening.

Hospitality also tells your guests they are worth the extra money you had to spend on groceries for their visit. Your family could have eaten at home for a lot less this evening, but you decided to have guests and the grocery bill ended up being 3 or 4 times the normal amount. Sacrifice always speaks volumes to appreciative people because they see that you highly value their company.

## 4. Remember that serving others is how we serve God

I believe this might be the key to cheerful hospitality. We often forget that serving others is how we serve the Lord. If Jesus was in town this weekend, would you have Him over for dinner? Most of us would emphatically answer in the affirmative, but Jesus explains that He is in town every weekend and our opportunities to host Him are endless.

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus taught that our service to others reflects our service to Him. In verses 40 and 45 we read, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me... when you refused to help the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help Me." In other words, when we open our home to others and serve others, we are opening our home to Christ and serving Him.

Have you ever asked, "What can I do to serve the Lord?" Have you ever thought, "I have no gifts or talents ... I can't sing or play an instrument or teach ... I have nothing to offer God"? Hospitality debunks that line of thinking because it is a gift we all possess. It takes no special talent. There is no minimum price tag or square footage requirement to extend hospitality. Anyone can open their home to others. It could be offering a glass of lemonade and a sofa to an exhausted foreign exchange student selling curriculum door-to-door. It could be in the form of offering your front porch as a shelter for a person caught in the rain. It could be an afternoon cup of coffee in your living



room with someone who needs to talk or a spontaneous bowl of ice cream in the evening with some friends. Jesus even reduced it to something as simple as offering a cup of cold water (Matthew 10:42). Whatever form it takes, hospitality is a valuable gift.

Unfortunately, its value has paled in comparison to the gifts that take center-stage. Yet, God places a high value on this forgotten gift. When is the last time you opened your home to others to share a meal, an evening, a laugh, a concern, a secret, a memory, a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, or just a cup of cold water? In so doing, you open your home to Jesus and share those things with Him. My prayer is that we will recapture the importance of hospitality and use it to serve God and bring others into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Life Groups

Opening your home for a Life Group can make a big difference in not only your spiritual growth but the growth of others. Contact Tim Yates at 304-736-7676 \*209 or [t.yates@lmbc.org](mailto:t.yates@lmbc.org) and he'll help lead you in the right direction.



**by Bryan Lamm**

*Bryan is a layman with a desire to equip saints and build relationships. He joined LMBC in 2013 and has used his writing for several Connect articles, as well as lyrics for choir specials, solos, and congregational songs. He has been married to his wife, Carrie, since 2007 and is the father of three —Hannah, Rebekah, and Noah. In his spare time Bryan loves to read, write, and entertain guests in his home.*

# BUT THIS MAN...



**N**ovember 14, 2014, is a date that I have not forgotten, and it is likely to be a date that I will never forget. Friday, November 14, 2014, my wife and I were on our way to drop our kids off at a friend's house so that we could do some Christmas shopping that evening. After we had dropped them off, roughly 5 minutes later, we were involved in a car accident; a vehicle had crossed the center line and hit us head-on. God's protection of my family was extremely powerful that day as my wife and I walked away from the accident with minor injuries. I am even more thankful that my kids were not in the vehicle when the accident happened because there was another car involved. After the initial collision with the first car, we were hit again by a second car who was following us too closely. The second collision pushed us into an embankment, shattering our rear windshield into the back

seat, the place where the kids would have been seated.

Even though this November will be five years since the accident, I can still remember the accident like it happened yesterday. A life-altering, traumatic experience is often never forgotten; every time I ride down that road where the accident occurred an unsettling feeling comes over me. I still don't know how we both walked away from that accident. If God's plan for us had been any different, we might have entered the presence of the Lord at that very moment five years ago. We are still here, which means God is not done with us yet. While I am so thankful for what God did for me and my wife that day, what I really learned is to be thankful for who He is.

In a similar way, all believers are thankful for the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, but the saving power of that sacrifice is only possible because of

the Who that was sacrificed. In other words, Christ's death on the cross would be pointless and vain if He was not who He said He was. This brings to mind one of my favorite verses in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews 10:12 says, "but this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God." It wasn't just any man that offered a sacrifice for the sins of the world it was, "this man." Who is this man? Well, if you were to read the first nine chapters of the Book of Hebrews, you would come away with a very good picture of "this man." He is so much better than everything: this is a truth that I think all believers recognize but sometimes have a hard time putting into practice. The young believers, to whom the book of Hebrews was written, were being persecuted and ostracized for following Christ. For this reason, some of them wanted to go back to the old ways, they wanted to abandon Christ. If Christ is



***It wasn't just any man that offered a sacrifice for the sins of the world. It was, "this man."***

so much better than everything, then why do we waste our time wrapping our lives with the world's idols instead of wrapping ourselves in the person of Christ? I love the way the book of Hebrews talks about Christ...

- **He is the heir of all things (1:2)**
- **He has made the worlds (1:2)**
- **He upholds all things by His Word (1:3)**
- **He has purged our sins (1:3)**
- **He has obtained a more excellent name (1:4)**
- **He has tasted death for every man (2:9)**
- **He is the captain of our salvation (2:10)**
- **He is a merciful and faithful High Priest (2:17)**
- **He is our Apostle and High Priest (3:1)**
- **He is our High Priest who sympathizes with us (4:15)**
- **He is the author of eternal salvation (5:9)**
- **He is an anchor for our soul (6:19)**
- **He is our forerunner (6:20)**
- **He is the bringer of a better hope (7:19)**
- **He is our surety of a better covenant (7:22)**
- **He saves to the uttermost (7:25)**
- **He always lives to make intercession for us (7:26)**
- **He is seated at the right hand of God (8:1)**
- **He is the minister of a better sanctuary (8:2)**
- **He is the mediator of a better covenant (8:6)**
- **He has appeared to put away sin (9:26)**
- **He is the new and living way (10:20)**
- **He is the author and finisher of our faith (12:2)**
- **He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (13:8)**

“But this man” offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sins; however, in the process Christ also made another sacrifice. When Christ was resurrected from the grave, He did not leave His body behind in the grave, He rose with a transformed and glorified body – meaning that this is the body He will keep. When Jesus became a man and took on flesh (cf. John 1:14), He knew that His new condition was not designed to be temporary. Think about that for a moment. Christ knew that taking on human form would be a permanent endeavor; He knew that he would not be able to go back to the state He was in before He was born as a baby in Bethlehem. This adds another dimension to the sacrificial act of Christ. He willingly sacrificed Himself, knowing full well that the form He took on (human form) in order to be our sacrifice was permanent. Christ forever wants to be associated with and minister to those for whom He died. This makes Hebrews 13:8 so powerful when it reads, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” While I am thankful for what Christ has done for me, I am even more grateful for who He is!



**by Jeremy Shaffer**

*Jeremy Shaffer is an assistant pastor who oversees the technical and administrative areas of the ministry. He regularly works alongside his wife Rebekah in the Children's Ministry, teaches in the LMBC Bible Institute, and teaches together with his wife tackling marriage and family topics as well as general Bible studies for adults. He has been serving the Lord at LMBC since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.*

# Ebenezer

A Ministry of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church

# BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO DOWNTOWN

LMBC's newest facility and outreach center will be opening its doors soon to an area we believe God has called us to serve and to reach with the love of Christ. However, we want you to see it first!

OPEN HOUSE

## SUNDAY, NOV. 3

FROM 2-4 PM

1651 8th Ave., Huntington, WV 25701

Join us Sunday, Nov. 3 anytime between 2 & 4 pm for a tour of LMBC's new outreach facility. There will be a brief dedication service at 2:30 pm. Come see and hear what God is doing. Due to limited parking, a parking attendant will be available.

*(There will be no evening service at LMBC.)*

# JOIN OTHERS WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS



God called us to be salt and light to the world. This page is dedicated to efforts that help illuminate the darkness by shining the light of Christ. Will you be a difference maker?



## STOCKING THE PANTRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our **LifeBridge Food & Clothing Pantry** weekly reaches those in need but demand increases as the holidays draw near. Could you help stock their shelves?

- Canned meats, vegetables, and tuna
- Mac-n-cheese
- Pinto beans
- Ramen Noodles
- Tuna Helper
- Scalloped potatoes
- Peanut butter
- Hats and gloves
- New socks and underwear

Collection bins are in all lobby areas.

## SEND THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Operation Christmas Child effort is preparing to ship packages to children across the globe. Now, more than ever, will you lend your aid?

- Monetary Donations are needed for shipping costs. Each box is \$9 to ship and we ship approximately 1500 just from our church.
- Packing Parties are scheduled for Oct. 29, Nov. 7, and 12 from 6-8 pm in the Renaissance Room (FLC). These parties are vital to having LMBC's donations packed and ready to ship, so please make plans to join in the fun at one or all of them.
- Prayer is a powerful resource for strength and success in reaching others with the Gospel message. Please pray for:
  - Victory in the salvation of the children (and their families) who receive the boxes.
  - Strength for our OCC Team who works countless hours to organize, manage, prepare and oversee all that goes into this ministry.

*\*Monetary gifts can be made at [lmbc.org/give](https://lmbc.org/give)*



**S. Family**  
*Venezuela*

**V. Family**  
*Ecudaor*

*These missionary families are serving in areas of the world where the Gospel message is not welcome. For their safety, we have not included specific names on this page.*

**C. Family & G. Family**  
*Egypt*

**W. Family**  
*North Africa*

**F. Family & W. Family**  
*Bulgaria*

**V. Family**  
*Siberia*

**K. Family**  
*Ukraine*

**K. Family**  
*Kazakhstan*

**D. Family & S. Family**  
*Israel*

**L. Family**  
*China*

**G. Family**  
*Middle East*

**D. Family & J. Family**  
*India*

**C. Family**  
*Cambodia*



A letter from the

# W. FAMILY

(We) have been back in the US for a month now, and we've made a good start in reporting to about half of our supporting churches. We have already had meetings in Virginia, Indiana and Tennessee; and Lord willing, we will soon be leaving for a trip out West to visit supporters in Kansas, Texas, and Colorado. Meanwhile, we are enjoying time with family here in the Chattanooga area. Both of our sons and their wives are here, and we have been able to spend a lot of time with them and our grandchildren. We are so thankful for Skype, which has allowed us weekly contact with the grandkids while we are on the field so that we don't have to start from scratch each time we return. We are thankful for this blessing of technology, but nothing beats spending time with them in person!

We'd like to remind you of our need for a new location for the young church plant and the Christian bookstore we left behind in Bulgaria. The Lord did not see fit to provide a new place before we left, but we continue to pray that He will provide just the right place at an affordable price in His time. Currently, the church and the bookstore are separate, but it is our prayer that we can find a suitable rental space where they can be together. The last Sunday service before returning to the US last month we had thirteen in attendance. There was room for a couple more, but the potential for real growth is really on hold. The bookstore also needs more space, and we feel that having the church and the bookstore together will benefit both and open doors for new ministry opportunities. Please pray for our small group of believers who will continue meeting as we are in the States. Pray for those who are taking turns to come and tend to our flock in our stead.

Finding a new place for our church and bookstore will also free up a space that we can use for a food bank. There are many who would benefit from this ministry, and it is just one more way to touch even more lives. We have been struck by the number of times the Bible mentions caring for the poor, and we are looking forward to being used in this way.

In other news, we just got word that the first printing of "The Way to Joy" discipleship material in Bulgarian is hot off the press and will soon be shipped to our colleagues. Pray that God will use this curriculum along with the evangelistic material, "The Story of Hope", which had already been printed, to grow His church in Bulgaria!

We also want to inform you of our need for added support. We need to raise about \$200 monthly for our personal support, and we anticipate a new larger space for the church will be up to \$300 a month more than the church is currently spending. Our small group gives generously but is just able to pay the current rent. Would you prayerfully consider supporting the church directly to help make a new larger space possible? Donations can be designated to the "VT Bulgaria Church Plant" account.

**Be an encouragement! Here's how you can contact this missionary family:**

**The W. Family  
218 Honey Bee Ln.  
Dunlap, TN 37327**



# HOW TO JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Are looking for a church home?  
 Would you prayerfully consider whether God  
 may be leading you to our family of believers?  
 If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

## TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

### Births

- **Ruby Catherine Criss**, to Jeremy and Andrea Criss

### Bereavements

- **James Melvin Adkins**, Rhonda Wyrick's step-father
- **Betty Bevins**, Terri Burgh's mother
- **Delphia Fryer**, Larry Fryer's mother
- **Christopher James Justice**, Eric & Cindy Justice's son
- **Lonnie McConda**, Frances McConda's husband
- **Benjamin Potter**, Jenny Signorini's brother
- **Frances Rose**, Bob Stepp's mother
- **Leila Ross**, Charley Ross' mother

### New Members (& Baptisms)

- **Ian & Ariel Bashore**
- **Morgan Blatt**
- **Mike & Rose Casto**
- **Joyce Farley** (by baptism)
- **Hannah Hayes** (by baptism)
- **Jonah Howerton**
- **McKenna & Molly Lingenfelter** (by baptism)
- **Clint & Misty Maynard**
- **Claudette Newman** (by baptism)
- **Irene Taylor**

### Staff Birthdays

- **Matt McClay** (5th)
- **Pastor Lemming** (10th)

### 1st Baptism



Trust in Christ and follow Him in believer's baptism.

### 2nd Contact



Complete an information card during a service or contact us so we can ask you a few simple questions.

### 3rd Meet

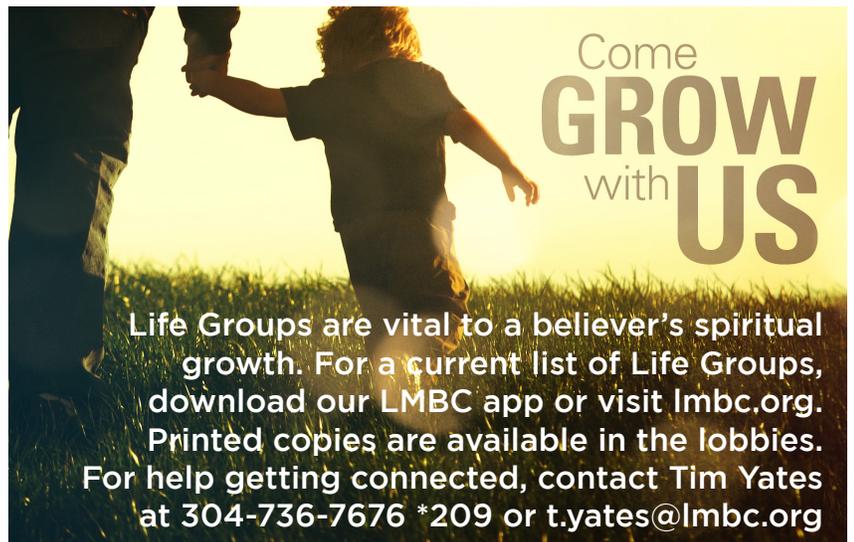


Meet the pastors at **Starting Point on Sunday, Dec. 8**

### 4th Preparation



Complete **The Journey** a two-week group Bible study of orientation to LMBC. **Offered in the weeks following Starting Point.**



Life Groups are vital to a believer's spiritual growth. For a current list of Life Groups, download our LMBC app or visit [lmbc.org](http://lmbc.org). Printed copies are available in the lobbies. For help getting connected, contact Tim Yates at 304-736-7676 \*209 or [t.yates@lmbc.org](mailto:t.yates@lmbc.org)

# OUR PASTORS

*<sup>17</sup> Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. **Hebrews 13:17 NIV***



**David Lemming**  
*Senior Pastor*



**Nathan McClay**  
*Worship Pastor*



**Jeremy Shaffer**  
*Executive Pastor*



**Phil Newberry**  
*Membership  
Pastor*



**Tim Yates**  
*Life Group &  
Outreach Pastor*



**Matt McClay**  
*Student Pastor*



**Bill Blankenship**  
*Hospital Visitation  
Pastor*

*Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from*



*Making disciples who live and love like Jesus*

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**Imbc.org**

**Emergency pager:  
304-691-0633**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP  
9 am, 10:45 am & 6 pm**

*Nurseries are available during all services on Sunday and on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 - 8:15.*

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*Read previous editions of Connect at [Imbc.org](http://Imbc.org).*

