

LAKESHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE OPEN DOOR

March 2025

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door..." Revelations 3:8

Editor: Susan Dykstra



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY 10AM

-OR-

ACCESS THE LIVESTREAM

OF SUNDAY'S WORSHIP

<https://meet.google.com/rik-bqqf-rye>

phone call: 1-929-282-0976 and

at the prompt enter: 574 737 948#.



9am Adult Bible Study

10am Worship Service

11am Fellowship

2pm Lake Huron Woods Worship

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From the Pastor's Desk

It happened! Last Sunday we had a snow storm that began on Saturday and continued into Sunday morning. Our policy at Lakeshore is to worship God regardless of the weather. Lakeshore was one of only a few churches in our area that went ahead with Sunday morning worship. Seven hearty souls were present, and we went ahead with the service. Part of the service was to install Mary Beth Sheldon as a Deacon. Our Board of Deacons is now complete with eight Deacons ready to help those in our community most in need of God's loving hand reaching out with a helping hand.

A number of our church family tried to join the worship service online via Google Meet. Unfortunately, none of our Google Meet operators were present to bring the worship service to those at home. But I do have good news for all who would like our worship service brought into their homes on Sunday mornings. Many people have shared concerns about the quality of the sound reaching their homes on Sunday mornings. The music portion of worship is either silent or distorted. There is a good reason for that, our current sound system is about 40 years old. Our current system is not able to transmit music from our sanctuary into your home. Here's the good news: Phil Larson, our choir director, has been a student of sound systems for many years. Phil has offered to donate his knowledge and time to purchase and install a quality sound system for \$2,500. Phil has offered to raise the funds in a series of concerts using professional musicians in our community, all of whom would donate their time and talents to enable Lakeshore to purchase this much needed sound system. This system will be designed to transmit our music and our spoken words via Google Meet with the clarity we expect in 2025. The timeline to raise the funds and install the sound system would be late fall or early winter, 2025. My hunch is that those in our church family who listen to our services on Sunday morning would prefer not to wait until the winter of 2025-2026 to hear our wonderful piano and choir on Sunday mornings. I plan to request Session to use Memorial Funds to pay for the improvements. Currently the Memorial Fund has over \$8,000. This way those of you in our church family who like to pick up the Sunday Service online, will receive a much better quality of sound. Lakeshore must continue to improve the quality of its services offered to its church family.

I am very grateful to everyone in our church family who give their time, talents and treasure to serve Jesus Christ through Lakeshore Church. Jesus Christ is using us all together to do His work in our community and around the world.

Community Corner

Eat, Drink and be Irish, Our Irish Tea



You are cordially invited to attend the Irish Tea to be held on Saturday March 15, 2025 beginning at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall



March Birthdays

- 4 Pastor Bill
- 4 Marilyn Roach
- 5 Sharon Olenik
- 6 Wanda McCormick
- 7 Sharon Nash
- 7 Lori Pollack
- 14 Sandy Hunwick
- 23 Pat Stay
- 24 Janet Saxon
- 27 Jim Thelander
- 29 Nancy LaMonica
- 30 Judy Smardabredin

March Anniversaries

- 8 Don and Sue Colwell
- 17 John and Marsha Hiller





Lori Pollack

"Focus on the Power of God"

Several years ago, my sister became critically ill from an unknown virus she contracted on an international trip. She is the baby of the family, and we have been so very close for so many years.

The doctors had really no idea of what to do, but she was dying, so they tried unconventional means to save her life. Family gathered each day at the hospital, waiting to hear any news. The team of doctors finally addressed the family. Their conclusion was she would most likely die. I thought at the moment that she would most likely live as she would relatively young and strong. Seeing her husband, children and grandchildren in such despair strengthened my resolve.

We started to pray and believe in her recovery. Several weeks went by with many ups and deep downs. Many nights I stayed with her praying while she was deep in delirium. I began to have my doubts if she would survive.

My thoughts drifted to "am I relying on the knowledge of the medical community without focusing also on the power of God?"

Psalm 50:15 popped into my thoughts, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me".

My sister is a devout Christian and I knew she would want me to rely on God's power and will. The family continued daily prayers together at the hospital, praying for healing or relief from suffering. The prayer sessions

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Community Corner



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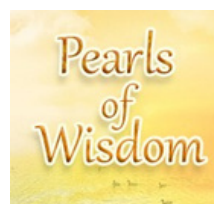
resulted in the dissolving of the feelings of extreme anxiety and grief. Each person seemed as though their hearts and mind were lifted even if it meant she would not survive.

I knew that God would heal her and spoke those words. I can honestly say some of the family rebuked me, stating I was giving false hope. But this did not deter me, as I felt the Holy Spirit revealed that it would be a long road but that she would recover. I know that the Holy Spirit reveals God's truth to individuals through divine revelations.

A few days later she awoke and wanted to see me right away. She recalled to me how she had passed away and was in Heaven. She with all the earthly blessings wanted to stay, but was told she had more work to do. She pleaded to no avail. As she came back into her body, she was felt the words inside her to share with all "the divine beauty of God is the ability to love one another and to remember that there is a heaven which represents the sum of all love".

She slowly recovered over a period of months. I am so grateful to God that we still have her with us today. Dark situations can arise in life in which you may think that there is no way that you will come out of these circumstances at all. Take heart, God is always with you, especially in these times.

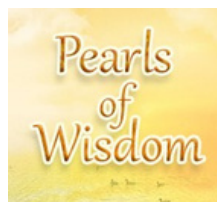
"May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).



Pearl Manasseh

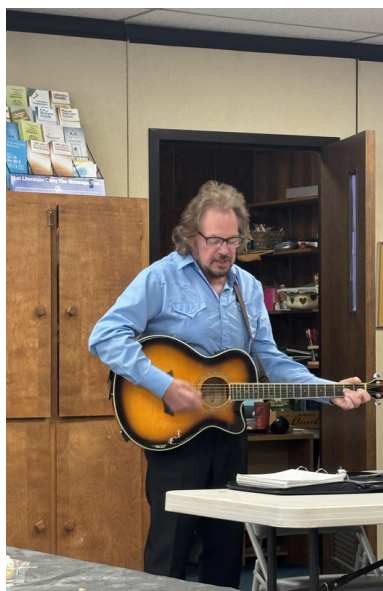
What Does It Mean? Have you ever walked away from a conversation or situation thinking you understood what just transpired, only to later realize there was another connotation meant and you missed the actual intention? Sometimes it's not a big deal and is laughable, and other times it can cause major misunderstandings or mistakes from not understanding instructions correctly. Have you ever noticed the Bible can seem to be kinda like that? There are verses that say, "Turn the other cheek" or to forgive '70x7' yet Jesus did not suffer fools gladly. One example is with the Pharisees. They deemed them selves as God's Perfect Chosen and insisted others worship the rules (instead of God) exactly as they did. Those who dared to think for their selves and worshiped God instead of the Pharisees' control were harshly dealt with, even to the point of crucifixion. Jesus was very clear about what was so offensive about them and their behavior. There's also the perspective of: "Well, if Jesus loves me and I'm perpetually forgiven, then that means I can do whatever I want and get away with it." The belief is there are no consequences for hurtful (to self or others) actions no matter how many times they're repeated or how intentionally harmful they are. If their conscience does become uneasy, the guilty might just say, 'Sorry, God' then continue on with no atonement or

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A God Given Talent



During fellowship time, we were entertained by a very talented person. His name is Bruce Reid. Bruce resides in Fort Gratiot. If his face seems familiar to you, he works as a Greeter at Walmart.

or sincere attempt at modification of behavior. That leads us to the seemingly contradictory admonishment to shake the dust off of our feet when instructed to walk away from those who would not listen to teachings of the Gospel. There's also the verse, "Bad company corrupts good character". (1Cor15:33). Now it can really get confusing as to what the Bible is telling us. I've known wonderful people who have been in abusive situations; some got out of them when they could, others stayed to their own and/or children's detriment. A few stayed and eventually - sometimes years later - the relationships healed and they went on to have a loving and mutually fulfilling coexistence. The abused may even end up bringing their abuser to Christ, as Joyce Meyer did with her father who sexually abused her for most of her childhood and who remained a bitter, angry man right up until he was saved not long before he died at a ripe old age. I have an amazing friend who is one of those who stayed in a dysfunctional marriage for many years and now has the type of relationship she's always hoped for with her husband. She recently asked why it was right for her to stay in her marriage but it's obviously not so for many others to do the same. Like most people, I've been in every different type of relationship to varying degrees of health, and don't have a definitive answer as to if what I did, which aligned with either of those Biblical principles, would be considered Biblically correct actions. But like my friend, I did what was right, even though we've made diverse decisions. I think that's why the Bible is called the 'Living Word'. The Ten Commandments are pretty explicit and concrete for all, with the rest of it applicable to each one of us, perhaps in different ways. The Holy Spirit leads us to what's right for our individual situations (& imperfections) within the parameters of the Bible's caring, varying dictates. Dear Heavenly Abba - Thank You for Your Living Word that, when coupled with our choice to have a personal relationship with Jesus, can give us all the guidance we need as the individuals You created us to be. And thank You that when we do wander off Your path, whether innocently or intentionally, You are always here to get us back on track if we are receptive to Your correction. Hallelujah & Amen!



Community Corner

MARCH EVENTS

5th-Ash Wednesday Service and Potluck 6pm

15th-Annual Irish Tea 3-5pm

19th - Potluck 6pm

Love Is.....

Saturday Night Live comedians are called "Not Ready for Prime Time Players" Our troupe should be called "Not Ready For Sunday Worship" We do our best to explain what the theme of the play is.

The theme for the February 23rd play was "**What is Love and What is Not love**" "Love is patient." "Love is not angry."

Thank you Pastor Roxie for all of your work directing us and writing the play!



Community Corner