



# Leighton Church

Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ

**Rev. David W. Meister**

## Week of November 26, 2023

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4180 2nd Street  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
(616) 891-8028  
office@leightonchurch.org  
www.leightonchurch.org  
Office Hours: 9a-3p  
Tues/Wed/Thurs

**Sunday Worship:** 9:30a

**The Discovery Place:** 11:00a

Classes for children, youth & adults

#### Board of Elders:

Scott Pollmann (Chairman),  
Todd Galloway, Art Hooker,  
Wayne Ingersoll, David  
Kaechele, Doug Thaler,  
Pastor Dave Meister

*Hearing assist system  
available from the sound booth  
at the back of the Sanctuary.*



@LeightonChurchMI

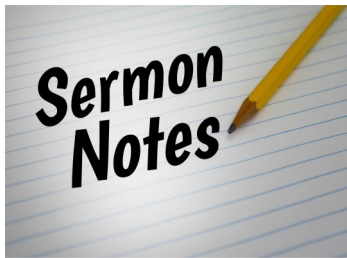
Worship Services on YouTube  
@leightonchurch7311

Sunday, November 26	No Youth Group
Monday, November 27	Men's Basketball 7:00p
Tuesday, November 28	Adult Bible Study 9:30-11:00a
Wednesday, Nov. 29	Family Dinner 5:30-6:30p Kids Worship 6:00-7:00p Prayer Meeting 6:00-6:30p Table Talk Adult Small Group 6:00-7:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p
Sunday, December 3	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Church Christmas Potluck Noon
Monday, December 4	Men's Basketball 6:00p
Tuesday, December 5	Adult Bible Study 9:30-11:00a Discipleship Team 6:30p Finance Meeting 6:30p
Wednesday, Dec. 6	Family Dinner 5:30-6:30p Kids Worship 6:00-7:00p Prayer Meeting 6:00-6:30p Table Talk Adult Small Group 6:00-7:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p



Would you like prayer for healing? Prayer for struggles in your life? Prayer for wisdom and discernment?

The Board of Elders are available for prayer at the end of the worship service each Sunday. Just come forward to the altar or to the front pew.



## Hey kids....3rd-8th Grade...

You're growing up and are too old to attend Children's Church, so what do you do during church? How about tuning in to what Pastor Dave is teaching on?

Pick up a clipboard out of the blue tub in the Lobby, fill out the sermon notes paper and turn it in to Rebecca Shanahan or Mark Kaechele after the service to get a prize.

There's a spot for you to write the name of the sermon (hint....watch the screen!), words you didn't understand, what verses were read from the Bible, and the name of a song that was sung during the service.

After awhile, you'll discover how much you've learned about God and how the Bible is important in developing a relationship with Him.

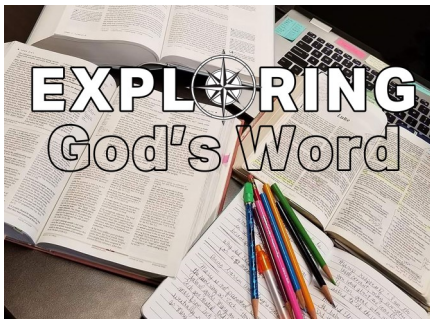


Kids age 4 thru 2nd Grade will gather in the **gym** for Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message.

In Children's Church, kids are learning to be "Fearless" because God is always with us.

Topics include courage, faith, honesty, trust and love.

**PARENTS....**after the worship service, please proceed to the gym to get your children and take them to their Discovery Place class.



# The Discovery Place For Children, Teens & Adults

## THE DISCOVERY PLACE CLASSES, TEACHERS & LOCATIONS

Toddlers, Preschoolers & Young 5's: Connie Blain & Britney Bredeweg (Room 4)

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Jan Geukes & Terri Farmer (Room 3)

3rd-5th Grades: Jackie Corwin & Nancy Slagh (Rooms 12/13)

6th-8th Grades: Cindy Herring & Valerie Lepeak (Room 9)

9th-12th Grades: Jill Smith, Mark Kaechele, Sally Smith (Youth Room)

Adults:

**LOUNGE:** "How to Hold on When Life Gets Tough: The Letters of Peter and Jude"  
Doug Thaler

**ROOMS 7/8:** "Who Moved My Pulpit?" - Jerry Slagh

**ROOMS 15/16:** "Relevant Faith for the Real World: Evangelism, Holiness  
And Social Action—Drew Corwin

**PRAYER ROOM:** All Belong (Special Needs Adults)—Sally Smith

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**Sundays Nights**  
**4:45-7:15 pm**  
**For all students in 6th-12th grades**

November 26th: No Youth Group

December 3rd: Grateful

December 10th: Grateful

December 17th: Christmas Party

December 24 & 31: No Youth Group



Brian Smith, Director of Youth Ministries

[youth@leightonchurch.org](mailto:youth@leightonchurch.org)

616-881-1488



**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:30-6:30 P.M.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come and gather around the table for dinner!  
Everything is provided for no set cost.  
Donations are appreciated.

No planning or cooking required. Just enjoy a good meal and good fellowship.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE**

Kids will learn how to face the **GIANTS** in their lives with the strength that only God can give.

Puppet Shows....Crafts....Games...  
Bible Lesson....Music



6:00-6:30 p.m.

In the Prayer Room

All are welcome!

Praise the Lord for His blessings  
Pray for needs of those in the church & community



6:00-7:00 p.m. in Rooms 10/11

Adults of all ages welcome!

An informal gathering to talk about topics of life and discover the places of the Scriptures.  
Nov 29—How to Answer Challenges to Your Faith



## We Care Card Ministry



Receiving a card in the mail is encouraging and can uplift one's spirit.

Stop by the table in the Lobby to sign cards for those who haven't been at church for some time, for those who are recovering from surgery or illness, and for those who just need a word of encouragement. Each week a new set of cards is set out.

Questions can be addressed to Sharon Kaechele  
(616) 891-1020

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There are a number of free devotionals and resources available on the information table in the Lobby. Stop by and pick up booklets that are of interest.

Our Daily Bread Devotional—Dec., Jan., Feb.  
Grieving with Hope  
Real Life Encouragement for Caregivers  
Facing Cancer with Hope  
Facing Illness with Hope  
Hope in Times of Change  
Praying with Hope



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**Are you unable to attend services on Sunday because you are ill, unable to get-out or out of town?**

**Now you don't have to miss a worship service!!**



Sunday morning worship services are now being recorded and posted on the church YouTube channel on Mondays.

Subscribe to the church's YouTube channel and get notifications when the sermons are uploaded OR visit the church website to be directed to YouTube to watch services.

Questions? Contact Jerry Slagh  
[worship@leightonchurch.org](mailto:worship@leightonchurch.org)



Thank you to all who are providing food and monetary resources for the Hand2Hand food pantry. Because of your generous donations, all the food for our Christmas meal is complete which includes ham, green beans, fruit jello, and a Christmas cake. Thank you again for your support. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers this holiday season.

The following items are needed:

Canned chicken

Canned peas, carrots, mixed vegetables (NEED!)

Peanut butter/Cheese Cracker Packs (NEED!)

Quart sized Ziploc storage bags

Thank you for helping us provide nutritious meals to child with food insecurity.

Lori Haselden, Hand2Hand Coordinator



## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**In the Lounge Thru December 5**

What do you know about the creation of the world? Are you leaning on what you've heard about creation or have you studied in-depth what God's word tells of the creation of the universe, animals, and mankind?

Go back to the beginning at this Bible study led by Cindy Herring. You'll discover:

The 7 C's of History

God's creation of the universe

Creation of animals, man, Adam & Eve

Dinosaurs & Dragons

Being a Steward of God's Creation

The Corruption-When Sin Entered the World

Adults of all ages and phases of life welcome.

Questions? Contact Cindy Herring

616-299-0083 or [bigcowdoc@yahoo.com](mailto:bigcowdoc@yahoo.com)

Sunday, December 3rd at Noon

It's an annual celebration for the entire church family!

Come for a potluck dinner at Noon in the gym. Bring a dish or two to pass.

All table service and beverages provided.

Good food....good fellowship

Christmas carol sing-a-long

A great way to kick off the Christmas season!



*Ladies  
Christmas Party*

All ladies are invited to gather for a night of Christmas joy on

Monday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. at

Connie Hooker's Home

4457 Patterson Road, Middleville

Bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner (table service and beverages provided) along with a \$10 gift to exchange.

Enjoy the beauty of her home, the fellowship of other women, and the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.

## Cards for Our Military



Jenni Pollmann is putting together a care package for her son, Gabe, who is in the Army. If anyone would like to include a card for Gabe, please turn them in by Wednesday, November 29th to the designated basket in the Lobby. Cards only please! No food may be sent.

Your cards will be a great encouragement to Gabe this Christmas season.



# David Eschenbach

## Peru

David Eschenbach has been ministering in Peru; teaching and preaching. He operates his own non-profit ministry, Eschenbach International Ministries. One of the outreach ministries of his organization is the Christmas Children Festival, which is held in three cities.

The Eschenbach ministry has moved to a new location; an office in the home of ministry partner, Daniel. Daniel is the central Peru Director and the International Director of all English speaking countries and Spanish countries. He is a university graduate in Business Administration. Daniel and David are working on a new Latin America Facebook and new official email account to upgrade the ministry.

David recently had sinus surgery which went very well. David is feeling much better.

Continue to keep David in your prayers for health and healing. Also pray that the Lord will provide the resources needed for ministry as finances are running low. Pray that the Christmas Children Festivals are effective in reaching children and families with the Gospel.

*Your gifts to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of David Eschenbach and 14 other missionaries around the world.  
Thank you for giving!*

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Sally Smith has begun teaching a Discovery Place class for challenged young adults. This class is hosting a winter clothing drive through the month of December.

Needed are gently used or new hats, gloves, scarves, coats and especially snow pants and boots. Place them in the designated basket in the Lobby. Please wash your gently used items before donating them. It's a great opportunity to get rid of last year's winter clothes that no longer fit your children or grandchildren.

All clothes will be donated to TK Schools and given to children and teens in need.







# Thank you for making a Difference in the Life of a Child This Christmas!

Last Sunday, the task of loading the 509 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child was made easier with many hands passing the boxes from one to another assembly line style. It was fun to have everyone participate; from children to adults.



**THANK YOU to all who participated in this year's  
shoebox collection for Samaritan's Purse  
in one way or another.  
It was a huge success and a lot of fun!  
~The Mission Team**



In addition to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection, the Mission Team is also organizing these drives this Christmas season.



Donate Little Debbie brand snacks to be included in treat bags for the patrons of the Barry County Commission on Aging. Any kind of Little Debbie brand snacks will be appreciated (Oatmeal Crème Pies, Christmas Trees, Brownies, Flavored Snack Cakes, etc.)

The goal is to collect 160+ snack cakes/cookies. Place your donation in the designated box in the Lobby by

**December 3rd.**

Questions can be directed to Jan Geukes (616) 240-0265

This is the 2nd year that Leighton Church is hosting a toy drive. The toys will be given to United Way in Barry County. They host a “store” where parents can come to “shop” for Christmas gifts for their children. In order for families to participate, they are screened and must meet certain criteria.

Stop by the Christmas tree in the Lobby and select a tag or list with gift suggestions to purchase or pick up a toy/gift of your choosing.

Gifts are to be returned UNWRAPPED to Leighton Church by DECEMBER 10TH,



# T-Shirt Order Form



God has a purpose and a plan for each one of us. - Jeremiah 29:11

One of our missions here at Leighton is to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus. When we do, people wonder who we are and what we are doing. Our T-Shirts simply say, "We're on a Mission From God."

Write your name and number of shirts needed in what size on this form and place your payment in the offering plate.

Payment is due with your order. Order deadline is **DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## T-Shirt Order Form

**\$10.50 each (2x and 3x additional cost)**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LEIGHTON CHURCH**

50% Cotton/50% Polyester

Youth				Adult				Adult 2X-5X
	M	L	XL	S	M	L	XL	(2XL=\$3 more) (3XL = \$4 more)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone# To Reach You \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of regular size shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of 2X shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of 3X shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LEIGHTON CHURCH**



# *Celebrating 160 Years of Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ 1863-2023*



2023 is the 160th Anniversary of Leighton Church. Several people are attending Leighton Church now that were not here 10 years ago for our 150th celebrations which included year-long, weekly oral presentations of church history. Therefore, this year we will be having historical reports printed in the weekly news bulletin to inform (or remind) people of our church's beginnings and events.

## WHO WE WERE—WHO WE ARE: A FAITH JOURNEY—Part 47

### Leighton UMC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1996 Facility

On September 12, 2021, Leighton UMC celebrated 25 years in our current structure. On the two Sundays prior to that date, I gave talks about the history of Leighton's churches from the beginning in the 1860's to the current building, the land acquisition, the ground breaking, financing, and vandalism of the 1996 building.

On Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, during the worship service, I told about the deconsecration and leave-taking of the former (1930) building, the consecration service of the new building, and the mortgage burning service. Several special guests were in attendance on that Sunday: Robert and Sharon Weaver—contractor for the new building; Forrest and Sandee (Finkbeiner) Frank—daughter of Wayne Finkbeiner, building committee chairperson; Brian and Deb Martin—excavator; and Rev. Ray and Joyce Townsend—former pastor. 132 people attended.

During the Sunday School hour, children were in their classes and everyone else was in the sanctuary to hear more information from various committee chairpersons about the building, such as—repairs and improvements in the past 25 years, staff, events, missions, etc. Also, videos were shown of the ground breaking, construction, and mortgage burning.

At noon, everyone enjoyed a catered meal by Nancy and Roger Blain of chicken marsala, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cooked carrots and rolls. Cake and soft ice cream was for dessert. After dinner, those that could, gathered by a new autumn blaze maple tree planted near the flag pole to commemorate this anniversary.

(To be continued....by Luann Snyder)







## Orders due November 26th

### Cost:

- \$4.75 each for 4" (5 blooms)
- \$7.00 each for a 6" (4-7 blooms)
- \$18.00 each for an 8" (8-12 blooms)
- \$28.00 for a 10" (16+ blooms)

To successfully place your order please follow these steps:

1. Put your name and phone number on the order form.
2. Indicate whether you are purchasing poinsettias in memory or in honor and the person's name(s).
3. Indicate the number of poinsettias you'd like to order by color and size.
4. Total your order and attach a check made out to Leighton Church or cash in the exact amount. You may also pay by credit card online at [www.leightonchurch.org/give](http://www.leightonchurch.org/give) and select Holiday Flower Orders

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia Color	Quantity of 4"	Quantity of 6"	Quantity of 8"	Quantity of 10"	Total
Red					
Pink					
White					
Marble					

Poinsettias will be on display

in the Sanctuary December 17th-24th.

Take your poinsettia home after Christmas Eve Service the 24th.

Your name will be on the pot.

Everyone age 50+ is invited to attend the  
December J.O.Y. lunches at 1:00 p.m.

Curley Cone  
on M-179 east of Patterson Road on

Thursday, December 7  
Thursday, December 21

Friends and family welcome!

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*Dear Leighton Church,*

*Your thoughts, prayers and cards for our family and  
my healing during this time of sorrow have been  
greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your  
kindness and sympathy.*

*Cindy Brown*

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Get your heart ready for Christmas  
with advent teachings by Max Lucado

On Sundays, December 3 & 10, videos of Max  
Lucado's teaching from his book  
"Because of Bethlehem"

Will be shown in the Sanctuary from 11a-Noon.

Max explores how the One who made  
everything chose to make himself nothing and  
come in our world. Jesus' birth give us the  
promise that God is always near us, always for  
us, and always within us-and that we no longer  
need to have marks on our record.

All are welcome. Questions can be directed to  
Pastor Dave.



**Max Lucado Teachings**

**December 3 & 10**

**11:00 am**

**In the Sanctuary**

# Service in Action

## How do I get involved?

<b>GREETER MINISTRY:</b> November 26: Art & Connie Hooker December 3: Scott & Terri Farmer December 10: The Syswerda Family	<b>Get involved:</b> Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianepor93@gmail.com
<b>Intercessory Prayer:</b> November 26: Alverna Truax December 3: Drew & Jackie Corwin December 10: Judi Galloway	<b>Get involved:</b> Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks.
<b>Nursery:</b> November 26: Scott & Terri Farmer December 3: April Taylor & Sally Smith December 10: Michael & Christine Syswerda	<b>Get Involved:</b> Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
<b>Coffee Bar:</b> November 26: Larry & Diane Porter December 3: Servers Needed December 10: Servers Needed	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar
<b>Treats for Coffee Fellowship:</b> November 26: Debi Warren & Diane Porter December 3: Denise Meister & Nancy Slagh December 10: Sally Smith & Lauren Risner	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567
<b>Acolytes:</b> November 26: Hollie Lepeak & Olivia Taylor December 3: Olivia Taylor & Abbi Pollmann December 10: Keagan Shanahan & Hollie Lepeak	<b>Get Involved:</b> Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com
<b>Children's Church:</b> November 26: Diane & Ian Norris December 3: Valerie & Hollie Lepeak December 10: Christine & Ava Syswerda	<b>Get Involved:</b> Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
<b>Youth Group Snacks:</b> November 26: No Youth Group December 3: _____ December 10: _____	<b>Get Involved:</b> Sign up in the Lobby to provide snacks for 20 on the date that works best for you. Contact Brian Smith with questions (616) 881-1488 or youth@leightonchurch.org