

# THE UPDATE



## Upcoming Opportunities

The recent weather may not act like it, but fall is here. Parents of school-age children will attest to the fact that routines have changed, summer habits have been forgotten, and weeks are settling into a new rhythm once again.

As the routines and rhythms that accompany fall take hold, it is also a time of fresh starts. New grades, new sports, new instruments, new schools, and around LFMC, new groups, studies, events, and opportunities for growth and change.

Do you want to learn more about what it means to know Christ? Dig deeper into your faith? Experience community? Finally get your finances under control? Get baptized? Join LFMC? Or, just have fun? Keep reading! This edition—and this fall at LFMC—is full of opportunities for you.

We pray you will experience growth, change, and community this fall.

Questions about what you read? Contact the leader(s) of the event/study or the pastor over that ministry (contact information on the back page) to learn more!

## September Edition Delayed

We apologize for the tardiness of the September edition of The Update. A computer malfunction in the office resulted in a total replacement and a steep learning curve with the new software. Thank you for your patience!

## Discipleship Ministries



### Financial Peace University

Sundays, Oct. 2-Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m. in Rm. 24/25

Are your finances where you want them to be? More than 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Our FPU team has personally benefited greatly from

this course, and they do a great job in helping all who finish FPU!

Join the journey to financial security when Financial Peace University, the personal money management program founded by Dave Ramsey, is back Lawrence Free Methodist Church. FPU is an 8-week program that help people dump debt, get control of their money, and establish savings. Through commitment and accountability, the average family pays of \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. On average, people who go through this program are debt-free within two years.

Non-refundable \$25 registration fee (check or cash) will save your spot and leave your balance at \$64, which can be paid in increments; or you may pay the full non-refundable \$89 for the course and kit when you register. The cost includes FPU kit, along with CDs of each session. The leader and contact is Tylor Shearburn, and you can contact him at [tylorshearburn@mwmedical.net](mailto:tylorshearburn@mwmedical.net) or (785) 393-8885. Sign up at the registration table in the lobby. Childcare is provided at no cost. Ask for details when you sign up.

### Men's Fraternity: A Man and His Story

Thursdays, Oct. 13-Nov. 17, 6-7:15 a.m. in Rm. 24/25

Men, being involved in a community of men is key to our spiritual development, for making it over the long haul as husbands and fathers, and for living a life that has impact! Every man needs other men encouraging him on his

journey to authentic manhood. Having other men around you helps you gain a better perspective on your life. Others can help you discover your blind spots and avoid costly mistakes. We all need men in our lives who will be honest with us to help us become better men. Sharing life with a community of men makes the great times feel like a celebration and provides much needed support when life gets rough.

If you are interested in getting connected, Men's Fraternity is a great on-ramp! There is a great need for men to rise up and be the men God calls them to be. Men's Fraternity is based on *Authentic Manhood: 33-The Series*. We will learn how to leave a legacy of eternal significance, integrity, and a great name!

Guys, this is a great deal and will be well worth your time and investment! The cost is \$25 for the 6 weeks of sessions and includes training book, videos we will view and process together, juice, coffee, and pastries. (Note: If you already have the *A Man and His Story* manual, the cost is \$10.)

Men's Fraternity is open to all men. And, please feel free to bring other men along with you! For more information contact Pastor Larry at [lbaldrige@lfmchurch.com](mailto:lbaldrige@lfmchurch.com).



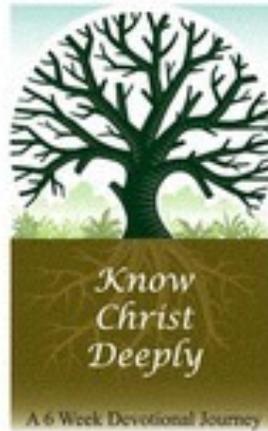
## Know Christ Deeply

Wednesdays, Sept. 28-Nov. 9, 6:15-7:45 p.m. in Rm. 22

Women's Bible Studies will be hosting a new Bible study, open to all women, on Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 28.

Most people find their identity in their accomplishments, titles or positions, trying to prove their competence by what they achieve. But what if our identity – our greatest claim to fame was not based on what we have done or will do – but on Who we know?

The apostle Paul wrote, "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain



of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ. As a result, I can really know Christ." [Philippians 3:8-10, NLT]

Knowing God is our profound privilege. To say, "I know Him," would be an arrogant claim were it not that:

- God desires to be known by us.
- God has placed the desire to know Him in our hearts.
- God has revealed Himself in Scripture and ultimately in Christ.

The cost (for the book) is \$5. Questions? See Beth Baldrige or Ashley Casady at the sign-up table in the lobby.

## Search the Scriptures Women's Bible Study focusing on Life Lessons from Old Testament Battles

Thursdays, Sept. 22-Dec. 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Rm. 22

In this study, we will look at how God prepared the Israelites for battles in the land of Canaan and the lessons they learned in each situation. We will then discover how we can apply these same principles to our lives today. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." [Romans 15:4]



The cost is \$5, with an additional \$5 for an optional binder. For more information, contact Susan Hoisington at (785) 843-7660 or Dana Bryant at (785) 331-2795.



## Entrusted

Thursdays, Sept. 22-Dec. 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Rm. 24/25

At times, our journey can be hard. If we are to accomplish what God has called us to do, we need each other to come together, so we can be like Paul and stay the course and live lives of faithfulness. God's amazing gift of the gospel is way too precious to keep secret.

Come be part of the new Women's Bible Study by Beth Moore, Entrusted will begin Thursday, Sept. 22. Based on 2 Timothy, we will be encouraged to guard this gift and further God's kingdom by sharing Christ with others. We will move slowly, dividing each week into 2-week assignments. The cost of the study book is \$13.

## Primetimers

*Second Tuesday of each month,  
at noon in Rm. 24/25*

Primetimers would like to begin with a tribute to our dear friend Ava Lea Denton. Ava Lea was one the cornerstones of Primetimers. If Ava Lea was absent, you knew it was for a good reason. She usually had a "God's Moment" to share with the group. If no one was there to make the coffee, rest assured it would be made by Ava Lea. Ava Lea, your presence will be greatly missed. The cards you sent for birthdays and anniversaries were so thoughtful. We can be assured you have no more pain or suffering and are resting in the arms of your blessed Lord and Savior. We are sure that Jack was glad to see you.



Fourteen of us enjoyed the final summer 2016 breakfast on Aug. 16. Final plans were made for the booklet. A big thank you to Nancy Ezell for putting the booklet together. We have hosts/hostesses for all meetings and a program, thanks to Judy Rahn. The booklet is now available.

Our goal is to increase those attending Primetimers. One of the ways we are going to try to do that this year is by keeping you better informed of our activities and trying to learn how we could serve you better. With this in mind, there is a short survey in the church lobby. If you are 50-and-better, would you take a minute to complete the survey?

Primetimers began fall and winter potluck luncheons in September, and they will continue on the second Tuesday of each month, at noon in Rm. 24/25. You are asked to bring one dish: a salad, a main dish, or a dessert. First time attenders, don't bring anything; you will be our guest. If you need more information, please contact Ernie Dyer at (785) 393-3846 or [epdyer@att.net](mailto:epdyer@att.net).

## Student Ministries

### Amazing Race

*Saturday, Sept. 24, 2:30 p.m. at LPMC*

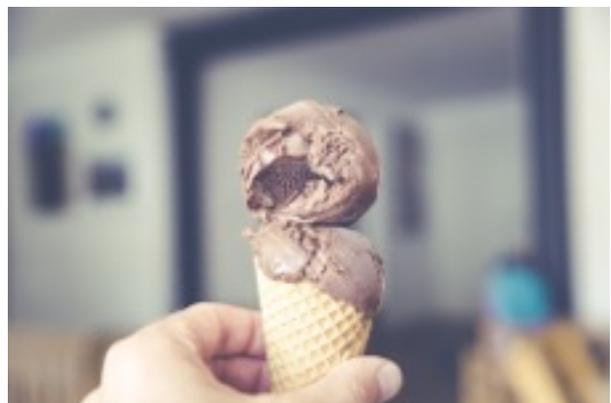
The Amazing Race relay will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 2:30 p.m. Students will race through various physical, intellectual, and team-building challenges to see who will be the first to conquer The Amazing Race! Parents are welcome to join in and form teams with their students, or even against them!



### Halloween Ice Cream Social

*Saturday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. at LPMC*

We will be having a Halloween Ice Cream Social, so students are welcome to come dressed up in their costumes. While it is an ice cream social, there will be a twist, as you can imagine with every youth event! Students should bring a drink or snack to share with everyone.



## Children's Ministries

### A Typical Night at Awana

*Wednesdays, 6:15-8 p.m.*

Awana began for the 2016-2017 school year on September 7 and runs every Wednesday from 6:15-8 p.m. Perhaps you have a child and have thought about registering them for Awana. Maybe you have debated about volunteering at the program.

What is Awana? What does a typical night look like?

**Name Tags:** When you arrive, you will head to the check-in counter. Our Awana secretaries will greet you and give your child their name tag and give you the child's pick-up tag. They will then direct your child to their classroom.

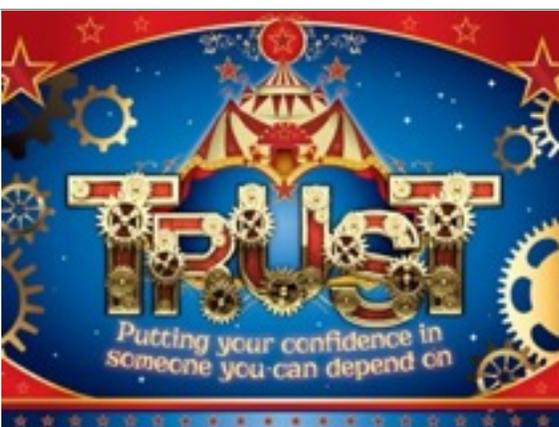
**Cubbies:** Cubbies is the group for 3- to 5-year-olds who have not started Kindergarten yet. They meet in the preschool wing in the "Threes" room. Throughout the evening, the Cubbies will interact with their peers, sing their group song, listen to a Bible story, learn a Bible verse, make a craft, play games, and have a snack. Throughout the year, Cubbies also earn badges for their vest as they complete their handbook.

**Sparks:** Sparks is for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. They gather first in the Galaxy for activities to help get their wiggles out. From there, they will rotate through handbook time (a time to learn verses and complete activities in their handbook), game time, and large group time where they will learn the day's story through fun and outrageous experiments and object lessons. They work to earn badges and jewels for their Sparks vest.

**T&T (Truth & Training):** Truth and Training is the name of both the 3rd-4th grade group, as well as the 5th-6th grade group. They will rotate through handbook time, game time, and large group time and learn how to live out their faith. They will earn a variety of badges that go on their T&T shirts.

The Awana program is designed to get kids thinking about the choices they make, how to treat others, and how to love God. They will learn Bible verses and stories but also what it means to be a Christian. They will make friends and find people who care about them. They will play some wild games and learn about teamwork.

Ready to register your child or to volunteer? Register on Wednesday nights, or contact Pastor Allie at (785) 842-2343 or [aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org](mailto:aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org) to volunteer.



### DU in September

*Sundays at 10:35 a.m.*

Have you ever been to the circus? The circus can be a fun experience. But have you ever watched the circus through the eyes of a child? How they suddenly point to the sky as they notice the courageous men and women who walk, skip, and even ride bikes three stories above you on the high wire. They inch their way out onto the wire, and for what you hope is only dramatic effect, they bobble and tinker on the wire only millimeters from losing their grip.

The audience collectively gasps and your child grabs you and whispers "Are they going to fall?" You reassure them that of course not, these guys are pros. They won't fall ... you look up at the wire, praying you didn't just lie to your kid.

They finish their routine, and the audience goes wild! Nothing like a daring trip to the circus to experience what it means to trust.

The performers trust that the wire will stay tight, their legs will stay strong, and their toes won't let go. And, the audience trusts that the performer will expertly complete their routine and not give anyone the opportunity to explain, "That's why we don't have a high wire in our backyard."

Whether on the high wire or in life, trust is important. If we don't trust, we might miss the opportunity to watch God show up and do what only He can do.

Throughout the Bible, we see different people who have put their trust in God in the midst of some unbelievable circumstances.

Abraham picked up everything and moved his entire family to a new home and a new life following God. Elijah trusted that God would send fire from heaven to consume a sacrifice after it had been over-saturated with water. Even Jesus trusted God's plan when He humbled himself and gave His life for us on the cross.

Putting our trust in God and the people He's put in our lives isn't always easy. That's why we're taking the month of September to see what God says about trust.

We define trust like this: putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.

There's a phrase we often say around here: "I can trust God no matter what." And it's true; we know that God is that Someone we can depend on. Our own understanding can have a way of getting us in trouble sometimes, especially when life doesn't turn out exactly how we'd want or expect. That's why it's important that our trust is grounded in God, His love for us, and His willingness to do whatever it took to have a relationship with us.

As we read through all the examples of trust throughout Scripture to find the best stories to help kids unpack this idea of trust, we kept coming back to one guy in the Old Testament, Joseph. After all, his entire life was built on his trust in God's faithfulness. Joseph found himself in some of the craziest situations throughout his life, yet time and again Scripture tells us that Joseph trusted

God and found hope in Him. So each week this month, we'll take a closer look at Joseph's life and discover something about how we can trust God and the people He's put in our lives.

Our Memory Verse is Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." It's easy for us to choose our own path, but it's not always best for us. When we trust in God, He'll give us the best path for our lives.



## WEEK 1

In Genesis 37 and 39:1-2, we discovered that Joseph was his father Jacob's favorite. He gave Joseph a colorful coat, which made the rest of his brothers extremely jealous. On top of that, Joseph told his family about his dreams where they bowed down to him. Eventually, they sold Joseph into slavery and lied about it to their father. Though Joseph was alone in a far-away country, he chose to trust God.

**Bottom Line: When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.** Kids may have time when they feel like no one is with them or on their side. Although they feel that way, Someone is looking out for them. We pray that kids come to realize that God is always with them.



## WEEK 2

We continued Joseph's story in Genesis 40. Joseph was accused of something he didn't do and found himself in prison. Joseph still trusted God, and God was with him. While he was in prison, Joseph met Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, who both ended up having dreams they didn't understand. With God's help, Joseph interpreted their dreams. The cupbearer promised to talk to Pharaoh about Joseph and his situation, but forgot about Joseph. Still, Joseph trusted God and eventually was put in charge of the rest of the prisoners.

**Bottom Line: When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.** There will be times in a kid's life when something happens that just doesn't make sense, like a divorce, moving to a new home or a new school, or getting a serious illness. And while that situation is confusing, we

pray kids continue to trust God and allow Him to help them get through that difficult time.



### WEEK 3

In Genesis 41, we looked at the next chapter of Joseph's life. Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. The cupbearer finally remembered how Joseph interpreted his dream while they were in prison and recommended they get him to help. With God's help, Joseph interpreted the dreams and formulated a plan to help Egypt survive through the seven years of famine that God said was coming. Pharaoh ended up putting Joseph in charge of the entire project. Joseph could have been worried and decided that the task was too difficult, but instead he trusted God and God was faithful.

**Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** Kids will face moments when they're called to do something that might seem crazy to us—maybe something as simple as getting up in front of the class and giving a speech—but we can trust God to give us the strength and courage to face whatever comes our way.



### WEEK 4

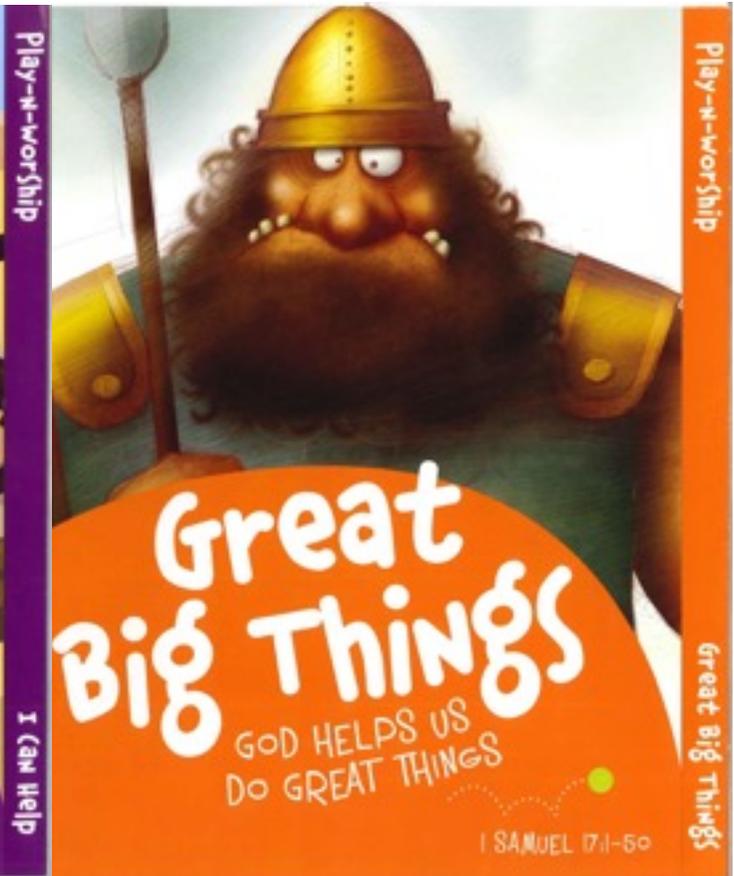
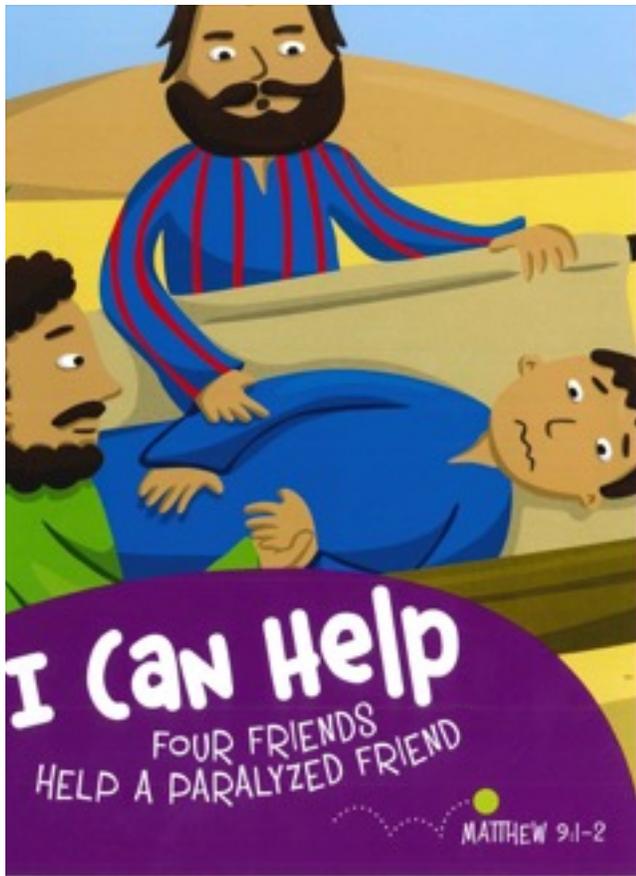
We will finish our look at Joseph's life in Genesis 42-45, where we discover that the famine had spread all the way to where Joseph's family lived. Jacob sent Joseph's brothers down to Egypt to get food, where they ended up in front of Joseph. After some back and forth, Joseph finally revealed his identity and forgave his brothers for how they treated him. Throughout his entire life, Joseph trusted God and realized that what his brothers intended for harm, God intended for good to help preserve their family.

**Bottom Line: You can trust God no matter what.** This is one of the basic truths of 252 Basics, our DU curriculum. Above all else, we want kids to realize that they can take God at His word. We see throughout the Bible that God is working on our behalf to rescue us. He sent Jesus to make a way for us to be with God forever. We pray kids put their faith in Him.

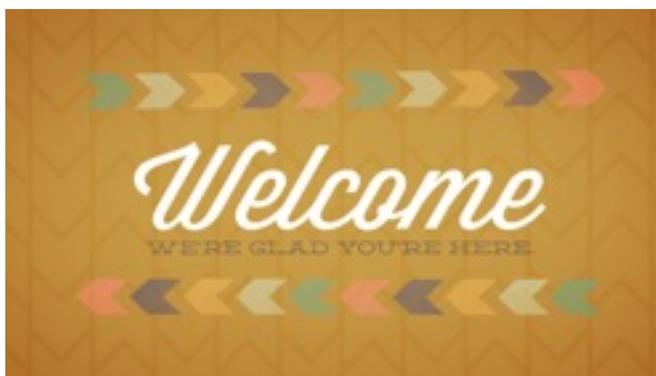


## September in Twos...

## and in Threes and Fours



Misc.

**New Attenders Luncheon**

Sunday, Oct. 9, 12-1:15 p.m. in Rm. 24/25

If you are new to LFMC and would like to find out more about our missions, values, and ministries, you are invited to our New Attenders Luncheon. This is a great big-picture information time, and you will have an opportunity to ask the pastors any questions you may have.

**When:** Sunday, Oct. 9, 12-1:15 p.m. (after the 10:35 service)

**Where:** Room 24/25 (next to the kitchen and near the gym)

**What to Bring:** Just show up! Pizza and drinks will be provided.

**How to RSVP:** Just write *Lunch* on your connection card or contact the church office. Please let us know how many people will be attending.

## Membership

As part of our Celebration Sunday services on Sunday, Nov. 20, we will welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the church or would like to learn more about our church before making the decision, please contact the church office or write *Membership* on your connection card Sunday morning. A mandatory Membership Class will take place mid-October. In our Membership Class, you'll get a picture of how our church plans to accomplish its mission of making more and better disciples of Christ and how you can be a part of that. You'll also get an overview of our core beliefs and values, how we operate, and a brief history of Free Methodism. You don't have to become a member if you attend, but that option is available to you once you attend. Childcare is available upon request.



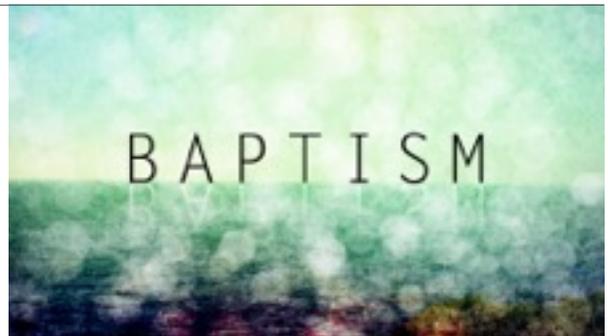
## Child Dedication

On our Celebration Sunday, Nov. 20, we will dedicate children. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office or indicate your interest via connection card on a Sunday morning. Parents dedicating a child should plan to attend a mandatory Child Dedication Class in the church library at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9.



## Baptism

If you or your child/teen would like to celebrate your faith in Jesus Christ through water baptism, we encourage you to sign up to be a part of our Nov. 20 baptisms as part of our Celebration Sunday services. Contact the church office or write *Baptism* on your connection card Sunday morning, and a pastor will contact you.



## Sunday Services & Programs

9:00 a.m.

Blended Worship

Care for infants through preschoolers

10:35 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Care for infants through 2-year-olds

Programs for preschoolers through 12th graders

## Church Office Information

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

Phone: (785) 842-2343

[office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org)

[www.lfmchurch.org](http://www.lfmchurch.org)

### Bill Bump

Senior Pastor

[bbump@lfmchurch.org](mailto:bbump@lfmchurch.org)

### Larry Baldridge

Pastor of Discipleship

[lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org](mailto:lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org)

### Bryce Ball

Pastor of Student Ministries

[bball@lfmchurch.org](mailto:bball@lfmchurch.org)

### Allie Klopenstein

Pastor of Children's Ministries

[aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org](mailto:aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org)

### Bethany Harvester

Administrative Assistant

[office@lfmchurch.org](mailto:office@lfmchurch.org)

### Doug Heacock

Director of Media & Contemporary Worship

[dheacock@lfmchurch.org](mailto:dheacock@lfmchurch.org)

### Vanessa Thomas

Director of Choir & Blended Worship

[vanessathomasvoicestudio@gmail.com](mailto:vanessathomasvoicestudio@gmail.com)