



Days of Praise

The Institute for Creation Research
icr.org
December 12, 2025

How to Keep from Falling

“For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?” (Psalm 56:13)

Once a person receives Christ as his Savior, he must begin and then continue in the Christian life. There will be many temptations, sorrows, and difficulties along the way, however, as well as many pressures to recant. How is the “babe” in Christ to keep from stumbling and falling?

The answer, of course, is that we are kept by the same grace that saved us in the first place! The Lord Jesus died to save us from eternal death in hell; surely we can “be saved by his life” from falling while living (Romans 5:10). Our beautiful text verse anticipates this great New Testament truth. If the Lord can deliver my soul from death, surely He can keep my feet from falling! Other wonderful verses in the Psalms give the same assurance. For example,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand” (Psalm 37:23–24).

It is important that each person professing faith in Christ be sure that his faith is real, founded on the true Jesus Christ as Creator, Redeemer, and Lord, and not a sentimental faith in “another Jesus . . . or another gospel” (2 Corinthians 11:4). As Peter urges, “Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10).

And then, in the last words of the New Testament before the book of Revelation, we are directed again to Christ.

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 1:24–25).

What a blessed assurance is this! HMM

*May your New Year be full of Love, Joy
and good Health!*



devotionals
daily from faith gateway

Thankful in the Waiting

Inspiration comes from:

The Way of the Wildflower

by Ruth Chou Simons

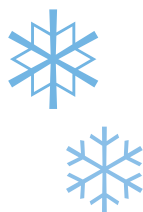
Vibrant Colorado wildflowers dotted the landscape only a few weeks ago, but now, their appearance is lack-luster at best. The sun is still bright overhead, but there’s a crispness in the air that tells me a new season is on its way.

Every year, as I watch the wildflowers fade, I’m reminded of the lessons they still have to teach us. Autumn may be a prequel to winter, but if we live in the way of the wildflower, it’s not a season to be lamented.

By God’s grace, the wildflowers in bloom remind us what it looks like to be dependent, free, resilient, unhurried, and beloved. But do you know what happens as they go dormant? Roots that were strengthened by spring and summer winds remain protected in the soil and wait for moisture from the gentle covering of winter snow. Just under the surface, invisible work is preparing the wildflowers for a new season of growth that is yet to come.

Wildflowers don’t protest their dormancy... they are patient, submitting to God’s plan in a long season of waiting. What if we, too,

Continued on page 4



Pastor David Missel

585-658-1197 Residence
djmguided1947@gmail.com
585-382-3311 Church

It is our desire to assist anyone who is seeking help, if possible, whether it be spiritual or otherwise. Please contact Pastor David or any Session Elder if you would like us to be of help.

When Pastor David is unavailable:

Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays as his day off so matters of less urgency could be left on the church office answering device, or call one of the Ruling Elders:

George Briggs	585-382-3038
Patty Gregg	585-245-1311
Carol Griffen	585-382-3681
Shirley Matthews	585-382-3171
Cathy Mlyniec	585-322-6669
Leo Richardson	585-382-3153

(Clerk of Session)

Other Contacts

LEPC website:

www.seekinggodtogether.com

LEPC Email Address:

grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

LEPC Food Pantry:

(by appointment only)
585-245-3448

Sunshine Person:

Cathy Mlyniec
cmlyniec@gmail.com



From the Pastor's Heart...

If there is one thing that many people have in common it's the propensity to worry. This is also true for many who profess to be Christian. I can remember as a youngster that a certain lady in our neighborhood was known to be a "worrywart". When I first heard of her "condition", I thought she was actually inflicted with some kind of physical wart that caused her to worry. When I asked my Mother about this matter, she explained to me that the label "worrywart" had nothing to do with a physical problem but meant a person chooses to worry about many things that can happen in life.

Recently, I was talking with a person, whose name will remain anonymous, who labeled herself as a "worrywart". I reminded her that God doesn't want us to worry about things, but to talk to Him about whatever the issue(s) may be.

In fact, it's true that to worry is actually a sin. In Luke 12:22-23 Jesus told the people of his time: ***"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing."***

You see, worry is not part of our personality; it is not something to be excused because "everybody does it." From God's perspective, worry is a sin.

Now it is certainly proper to be concerned about things that are your responsibility and over which you have control. That's because God expects us to be responsible, to be concerned that we follow through on what is ours to do.

But worry is about concerning yourself over things over which you have no control. **Worry is allowing cares and concerns to escalate beyond the realm of responsibility and into a realm in which you have no authority or control - God's realm.** That kind of concern, which is worry, is sin. When this occurs, we deny the faithfulness of God and Jesus's command "not to worry" thereby setting ourselves up to allow the enemy of our souls to tempt us not to trust God.

When tempted to worry, the best choice to make is to trust God. The Bible tells us: ***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight"*** (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Remember, For the child of God, ***"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"*** (Romans 8:28-29).

As you choose to fully trust in God, may the peace, joy and love of God dispel the temptation to worry and give you an abundant life in Christ Jesus.

God's Blessings
Pastor David



***Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and Happy and Blessed New Year!***



Annual Congregational Meeting

Session announces the calling of the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting for **January 25, 2026**, immediately following worship.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect church officers, approve all treasurer's reports, and to receive and act upon all other reports and matters brought before the congregation.

All are invited to attend the meeting, but only members can vote.

Monthly Celebrations January Birthdays

8 Paul Griffen



Anniversaries:

25 Bill and Vivienne Radley

Liturgists Signup for January



For those who want to read scripture during Sunday worship, please remember to sign the "Volunteer" list on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Thank you! May God Bless!



Prayer Shawl and Lap Robe Ministry

If you know of someone who has serious health problems and would find some encouragement, warmth and comfort from receiving a handmade shawl or lap robe, please contact Carole Missel.



Regular Session Meeting Minutes of 12/11/2025

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church:

Updates were given about the health of Bill Radley, Vivienne Radley, Jim Shaughnessy, Cathy Mlyniec's sister and her sister's male friend, and Pastor David. Session members offered prayers of thanksgiving for God's Grace and intercessory prayer for those in need.

Clerk's Report: Session granted permission to place a sign on church property in recognition of November being "Resilience Awareness Month".

Pastor's Report: Shut in's Communion served on 12/8/25 to Shirley Siniaipkin, Teresa Aberth and Toni Yunker.

Worship Report: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will not include Communion.

Witness Report: The Website needs upgrading. Scott Miller is still providing financially for the website. Food Pantry: 6 people received assistance in November. The pantry received a significant amount of food this past month as a result of the Livingston County Worker's Food Drive. The pantry also received a donation from the York Central School teachers. LEPC worshippers provided 10 gifts, for the "Christmas Sharing Program".

Missions: Session approved donations to the Christmas Sharing Program, Reclaimed Ministries, Inc. in support of Missionaries Tim and Bernadette Negus, Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree (Christmas) Ministry, and a year end donation to EduNations. Support for other possible mission outreaches were discussed.

Property: Cleaning and repair of insulation in the narthex closet to be scheduled. New gutters were installed on November 25, 2025. The snow plowing contract for 2025-2026 has been made.

Nominating: 2026 Slate of Candidates: Cathy Mlyniec (2nd term), and George Briggs: (abbrev. 1 year term). Session approved Carol Griffen as LEPC Treasurer and George L. Richardson as Clerk of Session for 2026.

Next Regular Session Meeting Date was scheduled for 1/8/2026.



Happy New Year! A Time of "Reflection"



This year, instead of making a New Year's resolution, why not try making it a time of "reflection"? Look back over 2025 and think about how you have grown "spiritually".

Are you walking closer with the Lord? Are you learning more about God's word in the Bible? Think about how God has increased your faith or strengthened your walk with Him. Where have you seen and felt him in a challenging situation? When have you felt his presence in quiet calm times?

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith".

Hebrews 12:1-2

Continued from page 1

received our waiting seasons with patience? With thanksgiving for the invisible work that's preparing us for a new season of growth?

I'm no stranger to striving during the not-yet seasons of life, but when I pause to "consider the wildflowers" (Luke 12:27 NIV) I'm reminded that the rhythm of God's ways — including dormancy — is a gift.

I'm convinced that thankfulness is what carries us through the long, dormant seasons we'll experience in life.

Thankfulness is what helps us cultivate a posture of patience as we submit to all the Master Gardener is cultivating.

Though it isn't always comfortable, the inner work He's completing in our hearts is preparing us for new seasons of growth:

When He calls us to rest, just as we're reaching full bloom.

When He says, "Slow down," just as we're building momentum.

When He covers our talents with a gentle blanket of protection.

God's work in our lives is always for our good.

"If waiting is this fruitful, we can't afford not to be patient — awake, faithful, and watchful for God's plans and purposes with eager anticipation. After all, we know how the story ends, and we can be confident that nothing is wasted." (The Way of the Wildflower, Meditation #22, "When You're Still Waiting")

God has given you a beautiful bouquet of His blessings.

You might feel lost, forlorn, and forgotten, but we know with certainty that God is faithful. As the psalmist said in Psalm 73:23-26, ESV

Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You hold my right hand.

You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will receive me to glory. Whom have I in Heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

So take a deep breath, and be patient, submitting to God's plan while you wait. Miracles of life and

growth are taking place just beneath the surface, and more is happening than you could ever think or imagine.

If thankfulness is what helps us cultivate a posture of patience as we submit to all the Master Gardener is cultivating, then let's press into rehearsing His faithfulness!

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.
— Ephesians 1:3 CSB

Submitted by Carole Missel



Come Home to the Manger

Inspiration comes from:

Come Home for Christmas

by Matthew West, Matt Litton

The Most Cherished Gift

Each Christmas when I was a kid, like clock-work, and no matter what was going on, I could always count on receiving a blunt, circular object wrapped in plain green and red tissue paper. It was as dependable as the Christmas tree going up on Thanksgiving weekend and Santa's visit always happening after I finally fell asleep. I just knew it would always be there. Now, I've always been that guy who inspects presents carefully when no one is watching. So, if the size, shape, and wrapping paper didn't give it away, the fact that its contents always jingled when I picked it up and shook it confirmed what was inside the carefully wrapped gift. As I got older, I didn't even bother checking it before I opened it. You see, every single year of my childhood, this was the little package left for me at Christmas

from my grandma Luella West.

Grandma raised ten kids, and most of them got married and had kids of their own. So she literally had a small village of grandchildren to buy for at Christmas. My grandparents never had much money anyway, but after my grandpa passed away in 1984, things were even tighter for my grandma. No matter the circumstances of her life, she always welcomed a visit from all the members of the big West clan. And she enjoyed celebrating during our annual Christmas visits to northern Iowa, even later in her life when she was dealing with health issues. My grandma never let her situation stop her from giving a Christmas gift to each of her many grandchildren. There was something special about the simplicity and sacrifice in her giving that still sticks with me all these years later.

I guess I understand very clearly now how hard she had to work and how carefully she had to save throughout the year just so I could

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

hold that blunt, jingling object in my hands each Christmas. I remember those moments when my brother and I would sit together and unwrap Grandma's gift to find the same Gerber baby food jar. That was her offering to us each year. A container, carefully wrapped and filled with one hundred pennies. Each and every one of the West grandchildren received a dollar for Christmas.

Of course, as a kid, you are always going to be more allured by the bigger gifts like a pair of Nikes, baseball cards, or a remote-controlled car. Those were the kinds of things we received from our parents and other relatives on Christmas morning. As the presents were opened, I would politely thank my grandma for her gift and then quickly set it aside (secretly disappointed), ready to move on to the more flashy and exciting ones. I'll admit, at the time, the significance of her gift was lost on me. The sacrifice Grandma West made to give us that dollar went completely unappreciated. To be honest, most years I held out hope that she would give me something different. But there it was, year after year after year, a blunt, round, jingly baby food jar filled with a hundred pennies.

As I grew older and wiser, I began to realize what it meant for her to give all of us that gift. It actually became a cherished moment that I always looked forward to at Christmas. My brother and I began to anticipate her present with some teenage humor like, "Where are you going to spend your dollar from Grandma?" But in reality, we had grown to really treasure her intention.

I don't know if I fully understood how much my grandma's

faithful giving truly captured the heart of Christmas until the year I graduated from college. I remember that she was one of my biggest cheerleaders and was always so proud of me. She was also really supportive of my music dreams and let everyone know about it. When you are just starting out, faith and belief from the people who love you can be like wind in your sails. I always laugh when I think about how she used to tell me that I was going to be the next Elvis Presley! And I will never forget our visit when she sat me down and told me, "Matthew, someday you're going to play the Grand Ole Opry!" You know, she wound up being right (about the Grand Ole Opry, not Elvis). She had really big hopes for me.

The true story of Christmas is the gift of a humble King in humble beginnings.

The Christmas before I graduated from college, she presented me with another blunt, jingly gift wrapped in the same paper as every year, but this one was somewhat bigger than what I had come to expect in years past. That particular present would be the best Christmas gift I ever received. You know, when I think back on my life now, the memories of all the big, flashy, or expensive Christmas presents I got as a kid have faded away, but I still remember Grandma West's. And I am still impacted by the lesson her gift taught me about the heart of Christmas.

Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday, but I am aware it is all too often commercial, material, full of big price tags, big events, big noise, and constant busyness. Even in the West house, sometimes we go big with our celebrations and

stack the presents taller than the one who is opening them! Many of us can take the holiday celebrations a little bit over the top. But if I'm being honest, while all those things are fun, they aren't ever the truly meaningful moments. None of them make Christmas the homecoming it is supposed to be. I still think often about Grandma West and how the simplicity and sacrifice of her giving continually points me toward the heart of that first Christmas and the manger.

Because the true story of Christmas is the gift of a humble King in humble beginnings.

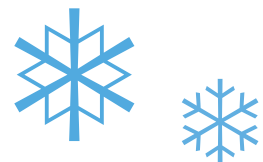
When we take a break from the chaos of the season and stop looking to fill the empty spaces in our lives with the world's empty promises and false hopes, we find the meaning, intention, and sacrifice all right there in God's love story to us.

I want to invite you to turn your heart back toward the greatest gift ever given. I want you to remember this Christmas how all God's blessings began, with the unexpected gift of eternal hope lying in a manger two thousand years ago in Bethlehem. I want you to take time this Christmas to bring your attention to the moment the Savior arrived.

In a world that says go big or go home, God entered creation in the most unassuming town, in the most understated circumstance, in a most unassertive form.

Excerpted with permission from *Come Home for Christmas* by Matthew West, copyright Matthew West.

Submitted by Carole Missel



Voice of the Martyr's:

icommittopray.com

November 20, 2025 | Benin

Pastor, Elders Abducted

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, Islamists entered a church building in north-eastern Benin near the end of the service and abducted its pastor and three elders. Persecution is prevalent in the northern part of Benin, where Christians are beaten and sometimes killed and church buildings are routinely destroyed. A senior Beninese pastor **requested prayer for the abducted church leaders and that Christians in Benin will remain bold witnesses to Christ amid persecution.**

December 11, 2025 | Pakistan

Bible Distribution Continues Amid Floods, Threats

While flooded rivers and fields have made travel difficult in Pakistan, some Christian teams continue to carry on the important work of distributing Bibles there. Devastating floods have led to the deaths of more than 800 people and forced over 1 million Pakistanis to evacuate their homes and villages. **"Please pray for them,"** said a front-line worker. **"It is very difficult, and they need to know where they can go because of the many flooded areas and also because of ongoing security threats."** Around 2% of Pakistan's population, roughly about 4 million people, are believed to be Christians. Even during dry seasons, Christians must use care in distributing Bibles, knowing the opposition they could face at the hands of fanatical Muslims.

November 27, 2025 | Pakistan

Christian Family Held Hostage, Now in Hiding

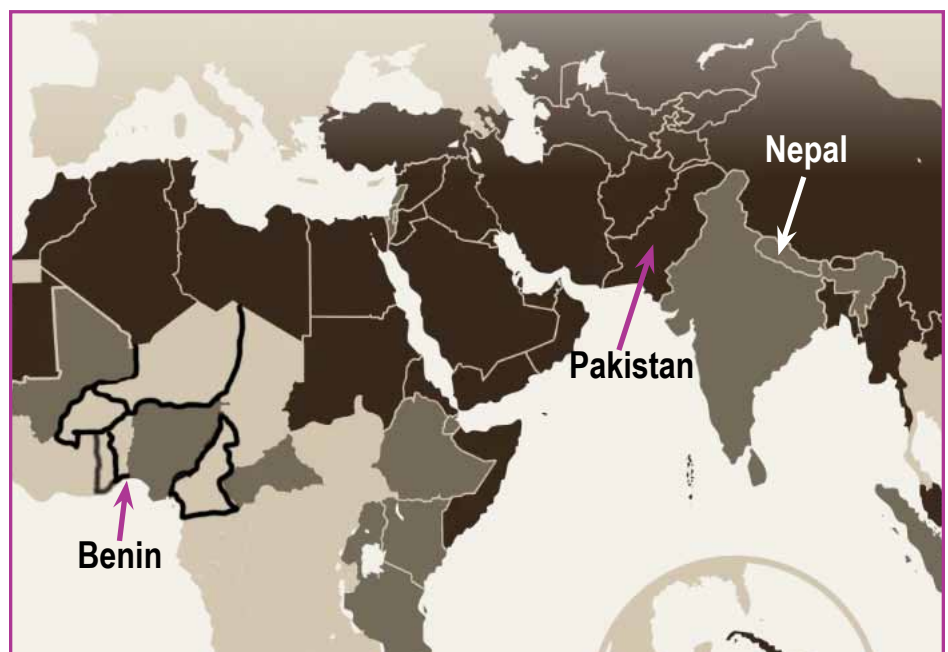
On August 27, 2025, at 1:30 a.m., a group of armed men took a Christian family captive, threatened to bring blasphemy charges against the family and demanded the family pay more than \$150,000 to prevent the accusations. They also threatened to destroy everything the Christians owned. "You will be the next Jaranwala," the abductors said, referencing a riot in August 2023 when Islamic extremists destroyed 26 churches and more than 80 homes in a Christian area after Pakistani Christians were falsely accused of destroying a copy of the Quran.

Front-line workers said this family escaped from their abductors but have since gone into hiding. "The threat of blasphemy is such a weapon," said a front-line worker. "Threats and false claims that someone has committed blasphemy are being used against Christians all over the country. **Please pray for all Pakistani Christians to be safe and have wisdom as they serve Christ.**"


December 04, 2025 | Nepal

Three Language Groups to Have Bible for First Time

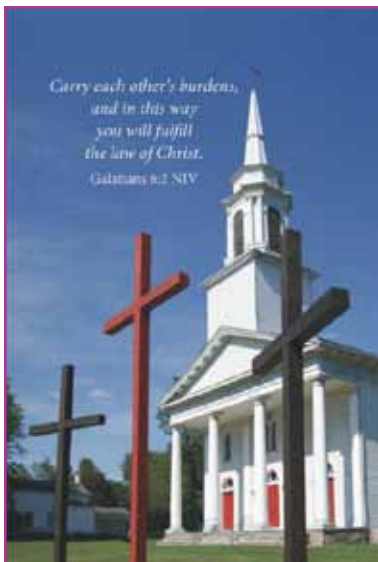
Front-line workers in Nepal report that three language groups will soon have Bibles available in print for the first time. **Praise the Lord** for the years of faithful translation work that have been completed and for the culmination of this work. **Pray for the next steps of the printing and distribution** of God's Word to people who have long waited to have it in their own languages. Finally, **pray that every Bible produced in these new translations will reach fertile ground** and lead to spiritual maturity and church growth among all of Nepal's people groups.



January Steeple Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Please continue to pray for Fatu Thoronka, our EduNations Sponsored Student, and the rest of the students and teachers at Sierra Leon.		Pray that LEPC may be a powerful witness for the Lord in 2026!	1 Pray to hold firmly to the faith we profess Hebrews 4:14-16	2 Thank God for his mercy and grace Hebrews 4:14-16	3 Pray for new believers to remain strong and grow in their faith.
4 Pray for the Holy Spirit to guard our mouths so we speak in love.	5 Praise God, for His faithfulness is great Lamentations 3:22-24	6 Pray for those who are mourning	7 Pray for World Outreach - EPC Missionaries	8 Pray for health issues within the LEPC congregation	9 Prayer of thanksgiving for loved one	10 Pray for the Christians in Benin
11 Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us discernment to guard us against evil.	12 Praise God for His steadfast love Lamentations 3:22-24	13 Pray for the people in our community with health issues	14 Thank God - our reason for hope.	15 Pray for the persecuted Pakistani Christians	16 Thank God for His constant presence, protection, and guidance.	17 Pray for all homeless refugees throughout the world
18 Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, drawing us closer to Jesus everyday	19 Pakistanis - evacuees from flooding	20 Pray for the Ukrainian war to be resolved	21 Pray for God's wisdom as we face a new year full of challenges	22 Prayer of thanksgiving for God's love and mercy	23 Pray for the people in Nepal that are producing and distributing new Bibles.	24 Pray for LEPC members & friends
25 VOM Bible distribution in Pakistan	26 Pray for Salvation for unbelievers	27 Pray for the young children that are kidnapped and abused	28 Pray for the protection of our police, firemen and 1st responders	29 Pray for those with physical disabilities	30 Pray for those who struggle with depression and mental health issues	31 Pray for wisdom for our local, state and federal government.
Pray for the people in the Middle East, particularly women and children	Pray for forgiveness when we say unkind words.	Please Pray for Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pray for Israelis to look to God — and to find Him! – Pray for broken hearts to be comforted and healed — both Jewish and Arab. – Pray for unity to grow and strengthen between Jewish and Arab believers. – Pray for protection, deliverance, and salvation. – Pray that they would not be overcome with evil, but that they would overcome evil with good, that God may be glorified. 				

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Philippians 4:6 nkjv



EPCConnection

EPCConnection is the news and information service of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.



To subscribe go to:
<https://epconnection.org>

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday morning Worship

9:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Share
9:40 - 10:20	Berean Sunday School
10:30 -	Traditional worship (Hymnals/piano)
Communion	First Sunday of the month
Dish-to-Pass Luncheon	2nd Sunday of the month after church



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*May your New Year
be full of Love, Joy
and good Health!*

Our Mission

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Our Vision

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

The Steeple Newsletter

is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of church and local events, and provide information to stimulate and edify it's readers.

For those who would like a printed version of the church newsletters, we keep the last 2 months' issues in the brochure rack, on the wall to your right, as you exit the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.

Submission Deadline:
The 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

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Staying Connected: If anyone does not receive the Steeple Newsletter, participate in Prayer Chain Activations, receive church updates by e-mail, or has a change for the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wants to be included, please contact Leo Richardson.