

# The First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg

18 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

www.first-presby.org T: 570-524-4419

Sunday Worship: Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

## Advent is a Time of Preparing

On the last Sunday of November, we celebrated the "Hanging of the Greens" in recognition of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Since Advent is a time of preparation, we consider the ways that people prepare for the Christ Child.

There are many externals which indicate getting ready for the holidays. Buying presents, making our homes more beautiful, fixing fruit baskets for those who are ill or in need and giving parties are things we do to prepare.

But the weeks of Advent are really more concerned with the internal readying. We prepare our hearts by being patient in line as we purchase presents. We benefit inwardly as we seek ways to beautify our lives as well as our homes.

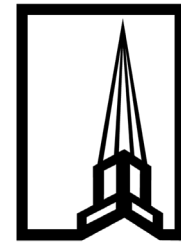
We make preparations for the Christ Child as we express deep concern for those who are sick or needy by giving ourselves as well as our baskets. We celebrate the wonderful message of Christmas not only by going to joyful parties but by experiencing inner joy.

Ironically, the days before Christmas become so busy that instead of developing a peaceful, joyous, patient attitude, we become harried, anxious and rushed.

The Advent season holds so much promise and potential. We need this time of year to express and experience warmth. We need to meditate on what the Christ Child's coming means to us. We need to take time to grow in love and patience.

We can enjoy all the trimming of the holidays. We can sing and visit and wrap gifts. And, more importantly, we can allow God to open our hearts in a new way to His love and blessing.

Blessings,  
Pastor Barb



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 2

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

### Sunday, December 9

5:00 p.m. All Church Christmas  
Dinner & Program

### Sunday, December 16

10:30 a.m. Christmas Cantata  
"Christmas is Calling"

11:45 a.m. Congregational  
Meeting (Luncheon to follow)

### Friday, December 21

6:30 p.m. "In Bethlehem Inn"  
Catered Dinner Theatre

### Monday, December 24

7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Christmas  
Eve Services

### Tuesday, December 25



## Ushers This Month

Clint Shurtliffe

Mark Reif

Michael Pursley

Peg Bouton

Sharon Pearce

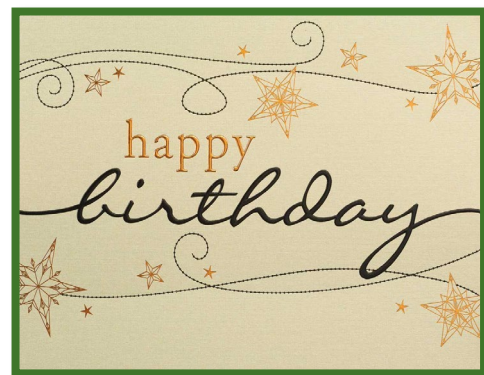
## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

### December Birthdays

- 1 Maggie Storm
- 3 Erik Temple
- 4 David Han
- 6 Cole Temple
- 8 Jackie Wottrich
- 10 Gail Ross
- 12 Kirsten Winner
- 16 Jim Friery
- 18 Don Dobbs, Calvin Reif
- 19 Naomi Gartzke
- 20 Amy Tirpak
- 23 Marguerite Santorine
- 24 Nancy Martin, David McCord
- 28 Betty Comerer, Brent Papson

### December Anniversaries

- 12 Kirk & Paige Kerstetter
- 18 Bennett & Courtney Remmey
- 29 Rob & Karen Guissanie,  
Dale & Mindy Lind



### **Greeters**

#### **December 2**

Terry & Barb Light

#### **December 9**

Amie Reif

#### **December 16**

Mark & Leslie Temple

#### **December 23**

Dave & April Shrom

#### **December 24**

7:00 p.m. Don & Glenn Dobbs

11:00 p.m. Jan Temple

#### **December 30**

Gerry & Kathleen Schwieger

### **In the Community**

#### **Dinner By The River Teams**

#### **December 6**

Sacred Heart Team

#### **December 13**

Zellman Team

#### **December 20**

No scheduled DBTR

#### **December 27**

No scheduled DBTR



Join us **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** for the annual all-church Christmas Dinner and Program: "The Chrismon Tree." Everyone is invited to attend. Meat, beverages, and desserts will be provided. Last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring a casserole or main dish and last names beginning with N-Z are asked to bring a salad and rolls to share. Please RSVP as soon as possible. We hope to see you there!



Come to the Bethlehem Inn! On **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**, you are invited to gather to remember the night of Jesus' birth. We will meet in the Great Hall for the dinner theatre, "In Bethlehem Inn." This lighthearted production explores the possibilities of what might have happened that special night centuries ago. You will meet Eli & Sarah Merriman, the Innkeeper and his wife. You will partake in a delicious catered meal. You will experience the anticipation and excitement surrounding this special birth. Don't delay in getting your tickets. You want to make sure there's room for you at the Inn!

Tickets- \$15.00 for adults  
\$8.00 for children ages 6-12  
Free for children ages 5 and under

## Meeting Reminders

### Monday, December 3

7:30 p.m. Missions

### Tuesday, December 4

6:30 p.m. Congregational Life

### Sunday, December 16

11:45 a.m. Annual Budget Mtg.

### Monday, December 17

7:00 p.m. Session, Trustees & Deacons

### Wednesday, December 19

6:30 p.m. Worship Life

## Coffee Hour

December 2 – Temple Family

December 9 – Thomas Family

December 16 – Vogel Family

December 23 – Mudge Family

December 30 – NO Coffee Hour

### Sundays from

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2018

Another National Collection Week is in the books and what a blessing that so many children around the world will be given the opportunity to hear about the love of God and be able to learn about Jesus. Each shoebox is a "Gospel Opportunity" that is distributed through churches in over 100 countries around the world. Each child that receives a box also receives a booklet in their own language entitled, "The Greatest Gift of All", with colorful Bible stories.



The Susquehanna Valley Area had **21,125 shoeboxes** pass through the Central Drop-Off Location here at First Presbyterian Church. Four trailers were filled and a fifth came for the remaining 31 cartons that wouldn't fit. 6,633 shoeboxes were collected at the Lewisburg Drop-Off Location and 121 from our church.

Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes and to all who volunteered to make it happen. It was rewarding to have OCC Susquehanna Valley Area Year-Round Volunteers assisting this year: Dale and Glenna Rearick, Angela Bitting, Rebecca Imgrund and Dawn Harris. The Youth Groups from Oregon Hill Grace Chapel, Liberty, PA and Emmanuel Bible Fellowship in Sunbury were put to work. Also Meadowbrook Christian School's Girls Soccer Team and Student Council reps from Sunbury Christian Academy were greatly appreciated as volunteers. Special thanks to John and Marcia Aikey and Mark and Amie Reif who spent many hours here and were marvelous in both physical and emotional support!!

In His Service,  
Alice Marquart

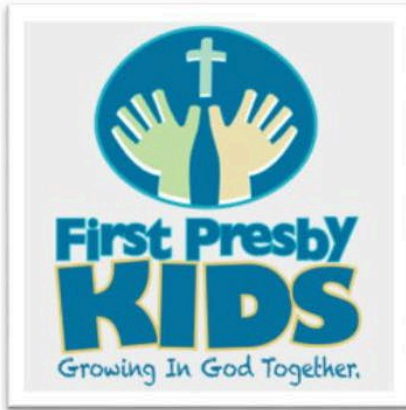


*We would like to thank Alice for all the hard work she puts forth in support of Operation Christmas Child. Every year is a team effort involving many people but her generosity and love for this mission is what pulls it all together. Thank you for your countless hours of planning and organizing as well as your physical and emotional dedication that make the First Presbyterian Church Central Drop-off location possible. You are greatly appreciated!*

Joy



# December 2018



It's the season of **joy** and **cheer**! Come and celebrate the birth of the **Savior** with us!

**Sunday, December 9 @ 5:00 p.m.**

*Christmas Dinner and Program - "The Chrismon Tree"*

All kids who would like to be in our annual Christmas program will have a part in the presentation of "The Chrismon Tree" displaying our handmade Chrismon ornaments. There is no rehearsal for this program, but be sure to sign up for the Christmas Dinner with the church office.



**Sunday, December 23 @ 9:00 a.m.**

*"Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party*

Kids' Sunday School classes will be combined in the Christian Ed Wing for a big celebration of Jesus' birthday, complete with games, birthday cake, and even presents!

**Monday, December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.**

*Christmas Eve Family Service*

Children and children at heart are welcome for this very special worship service. As part of our Christmas Eve merriment, kids will be singing the songs we're practicing all month in Cherub Choir. *If you'd like to participate but do not regularly come to Cherub Choir (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.) please get in touch with Mrs. McSween!*



## Things To Note

- Sunday, December 16 – NO Kids Church for Christmas Cantata
- Sunday, December 30 – NO Sunday School
- The Late Night Shoppers Party will not take place on Friday, December 7 as listed in last month's newsletter—But stay tuned for the forthcoming date of a kids-night-in/parents-night-out with snacks, games and crafts hosted by the youth as a mission trip fundraiser.

Got an idea for the Children's Ministry? Want to become a volunteer? Have questions about a program or event? I'm just a call, a text or a click away and I'd love to hear from you.

Carolyn McSween | Director of Children's Ministry  
firstpresbykids@gmail.com | (570) 939-2119



### Nursery Volunteers

- December 2: McSween Family
- December 9: Volunteer needed
- December 16: Volunteer needed
- December 23: Volunteer needed
- December 30: Volunteer needed

### Kids Church Volunteers

- December 2: Heid Family
- December 9: Mrs. McSween
- December 16: No Kids Church
- December 23: Mrs. McSween
- December 30: Mrs. McSween

## First Presby Youth Newsletter



## Sponsor the Spot!



Sponsor the Spot!! For our mission trip this summer, we are starting an exciting new fundraiser called Sponsor the Spot! We have 17 total spots for our trip and are praying that between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will receive \$100 per spot! Here's how it works:

If you and/or your family decide that they would like to fully or partially sponsor a spot, contact Youth Director Matthew Rishell at [firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org](mailto:firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org).

We would like each spot to receive \$100 – that's only a little over \$3.50 per week!

When you decide to sponsor a spot, you will be randomly assigned a spot number, when the students sign up for our mission trip, they will be randomly assigned a spot as well. The student that you have funded will be your prayer partner for our summer mission trip!

This is a great way to get involved, help our youth, and help students be able to help others!

Matthew Rishell – Youth Director

**Would you like to be included in our weekly Youth Newsletter to stay up to date on all of our latest events and updates? Contact Matt at [firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org](mailto:firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org)**

## Next Month

### Guatemala Medical Mission Trip

January 19 – 27, 2019

Our Guatemala Medical Mission Team is ready to head to Guatemala on January 19, 2019! In addition to taking trained medical staff to the villages, we also give out vitamins to the children and adults to supplement their diet, which consists primarily of corn tortillas and black beans. We try to leave everyone with a 3 month supply, but would LOVE to give each person a 6 month supply to get them to when the summer trips visit the villages.

If you are interested in donating money to help purchase vitamins in bulk and other supplies, please place a check in the offering or mail to the church with Guatemala Vitamins in the memo.

If you are interested in the trip or have any other questions, please contact Amber Lind at 570-847-6200 or [AmberRLind@gmail.com](mailto:AmberRLind@gmail.com). Thanks!





Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents, or donated food for the Community Thanksgiving Meal. A very special thank you to Joe and Cathleen Stenglein who agreed to organize the event on such short notice. This event is always a huge undertaking and we are so thankful that people came together and were able to provide this much-anticipated meal to our community and our friends.

### **Seeking Employment**

Lorna and Travis Curry are missionaries our Church supported while they were working with The Mission Society in Namibia, Africa at the Children of Zion Village. Lorna is the sister of Doug Winner and daughter of Shirley Winner who are members of this Church. After over 7 years of work in Africa, Lorna and Travis are moving to the Lewisburg area in December for a year to be closer to family. They currently have lodging, but are now looking for employment during their time in Lewisburg. Travis has a background in project management of IT projects. Lorna has a background in Pediatric PT (but has not kept license up to date because of being in Africa). She is interested in children's ministry or any ministry with ladies or even to include physical exercise. If you know of any opportunities, please contact Travis and Lorna at [tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com](mailto:tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com)

