

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg

18 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

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

Sunday Worship: Worship Service – 9:30 a.m.

"Who can measure the influence of 100 years of the spiritual life of this church? "No stream from its source flows seaward, however so lonely its course, but what some land is gladdened; and no star ever rose and set without influence somewhere." How great then the influence of this church to gladden many lands, and to influence many lives?"

These sentences come from the History of the First Presbyterian Church – 1833 to 1933, prepared by Lydia B. Wetzel. Caroline Campagna kindly gave me a copy of this detailed account of the life of our congregation, which begins with the founding of Lewisburg in 1785. What stands out to me in this 100-year history is the great initiative and personal investment of those early residents, their commitment of both time and resources, to establish this fellowship we enjoy today.

It took the united effort of Borough residents, local farmers, and support from Northumberland Presbytery (itself founded in 1811) to construct our building, call its Pastors, ordain its first Elders, and send missionaries from Lewisburg to serve across the globe. As the quote above eloquently states, our church has a long history of encouraging people both near and far with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

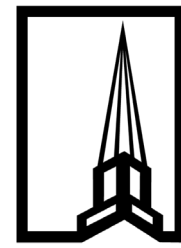
We are but the latest in a long line of disciples of Jesus Christ who live, work, worship, and serve in this community. Just as we stand on our forbearers' faithfulness and vision for how a Presbyterian church in Lewisburg could glorify God and care for His people, so our witness and love for Christ today will impact our families and our neighbors for generations to come.

As I continue to learn more about our church, I look forward to working with our Session and staff to develop and grow our ministries in ways that strengthen the faith of our members, and which share God's love with those with whom we live and work.

Knowing how God has provided for and worked through this church in the past, I am confident in the plans He has for our future.

Peace,

Pastor Ryan



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LEWISBURG, PA

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 11

9:30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Thursday, August 22

7:00 p.m. **Author's Night at the
Himmelreich w/ Tricia Kline**



Monday: Closed

Tuesday- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ushers This Month

John Troxell

Dave Thomas

Jonathan Walz

Ray Walz

John Tirpak

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays

2 Chloe McSween, Thomas Rathburn
4 Laura Graver, Rebecca Mignot, Lucas Winner
6 Matthew Jones
7 Daniel Cavanagh, Tim Cavanagh, Mark Reif, Ann Roll, Savannah Winans, Jacob Ziegler
8 Tom Gresh
9 Christian Gallagher, John Walsh
11 Barb Schmidt
14 Ariel Cooper, Nancy Curran, Avery Mast, Audrey McSween
16 Lamar Bruckhart
18 Pat Samuelson
20 Keith Kunkel
22 Ann Miller, Sammy Miller, Connie Moore
23 Kim Gilger
24 Emersyn Papson
25 Samuel Gill, Kerry Shutt, Sally Vogel
26 Ryan Kraus
28 Patty Apple, Garrett Brown
29 Rick Stancavage
30 Keay Hathaway
31 Nathaniel Reid

August Anniversaries

2 Jason & Sarah Friedberg
4 Richard & Peg Erdley, Matt & Ashley Kalcich
5 Tom & Mary Lou Rich
6 Don & Nancy Steckel
7 David & Mary Ruth Campbell
Mike & Jackie Mast
8 Matt & Wendy McTammany,
Steve & Kristen Mebius
12 Seth & Judith Ziegler
14 Wayne & Marilyn Gaver
15 Jim & Patty Apple
17 Clint & Karen Shurtliffe, Richard & Donna Ward



Greeters

August 4

Bill & Beth Shutt

August 11

Seth & Judith Ziegler

August 18

Randy & Kathy Storm

August 25

Matt & Wendy McTammany

In the Community

Dinner By The River Teams

August 1

Shaffer Team

August 8

Miller Team

August 15

Beaver UMC Team

August 22

Temple/Torretti Team

August 29

Lewisburg Alliance Team

August Anniversaries (continued)

19 John & Jessie Walsh

22 Atwood & Gail Ross

23 Ralph & Peggy Starkey

25 David & Anne Goehring, Dave & Paula Young

26 Brent & Ashley Papson, Seth & Vickie Ziegler

29 Dave & Marcia Thomas



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Susquehanna Valley Area Team of Operation Christmas Child is pleased to announce that First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg will once more be a Drop-Off Location for shoeboxes during National Collection Week, November 18-25, 2019. This marks the nineteenth year of this partnership. Sandy Miller, from our church, will serve as Drop-Off Team Leader. A change for this season is that Emmanuel Bible Fellowship Church in Sunbury will serve as the Central Drop-Off Location for our area. For most of us that just means that the big trailers won't be in the parking lot during collection week. A new Drop-Off Location will be added at Winfield Baptist Church.

August is a good time to check out the Back to School bargains and begin to think about what to pack in your shoeboxes this year. The age levels are 2 to 4 years; 5 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years and you choose a BOY or a GIRL. Once your boxes are packed you can bring them to worship on Sunday, November 24, "Shoebox Sunday". If you would like to know where in the world your shoeboxes went, go online to the Samaritans Purse website www.samaritanspurse.org and choose Follow Your Box. By registering your boxes there you will create a label(s), donate the \$9.00 requested fee online and you will be notified via email when the shipping information is available.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of the international relief organization, Samaritan's Purse. Shoebox gifts are an opportunity to share the Good News of the Gospel with children in need. In the hands of local churches every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship – transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Sandy or me.

Alice Marquart, Church Relations Team Member
Sandy Miller, Drop-Off Team Leader



THE HIMMELREICH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

"THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW"

AUTHOR'S NIGHT AT THE HIMMELREICH

Thursday, August 22nd 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Christian Author Tricia Kline

Christian author Tricia Kline will share highlights of recently completed writing projects - as well as new projects in the works following her recent travels to divinely-empowered and life-changing ministries in Guatemala and Moldova. Tricia is an award-winning journalist and author of several inspirational fiction and non-fiction works. She holds a bachelor's degree in Christian education and a master's degree in Christian studies/biblical studies. She lives in Mechanicsburg with her husband, Justin, their two rescue dogs, bunny and fish. Together they own and operate Extra Second Inc., a company that helps people share their testimonies in written form of what God has done, and is doing, in and through their lives. **Refreshments served. Bring a friend and join us!**

First Presby Kids

★ **Sunday, August 25th at 10:45 a.m.-**

Children's Sunday School Team Meeting in the Purple Room. This will be a chance for us to gather and look at the year ahead, explore our roles as teachers and pray together. (Nursery Teachers included!)

★ **Decorators Wanted:** For the start of the new school year, First Presby Kids will be giving the Christian Education Wing a fresh touch of fun and flair! Put your creative talents to work and be part of our decorating team! Contact the Church office or Carolyn McSween.

★ **First Friday resumes Sept. 6th-** Contact Carolyn McSween if you can serve that evening in manning the registration table, serving pizza, doing arts and crafts, or helping in the Pre-K corner. Mark your calendar to be part of the fun!

★ **Sunday School resumes Sept. 8th at 9:00 a.m.-** Can't wait to see everyone back again!

★ Volunteers are always appreciated! Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past and has signed up to help already!



Meeting Reminders

Monday, August 5

7:30 p.m. Missions

Tuesday, August 6

7:00 p.m. Congregational Life

Monday, August 12

7:00 p.m. Christian Ed

Monday, August 19

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

Wednesday, August 21

6:30 p.m. Worship Life

Lemonade on the Lawn

August 4 – Christian Ed

August 11 – Personnel Comm.

August 18 – Trustees

August 25 – Library

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on
The East Lawn**



Nursery:

August 4- Barb Taggart

August 11- Barb Taggart

August 18- Troxell

August 25- Jarrett

Kids Church:

August 4- Drouin

August 11- McSween

August 18- McSween

August 25- Family Sunday



Recaps from our days serving in *Woonsocket, RI*

Day 1: We had our first program tonight! It was a great time to meet new people, get a feel for how the program will work throughout the week, worship, and most importantly begin our look at the theme for this week "Relentless" -- the story of David's life.

The scripture for tonight came from Acts 13:22 which reads, "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart".

This week is going to be tough. It's going to be hot and frustrating. It's going to be full of difficult and rewarding work. It's going to be full of a lot of hills and valleys. But our prayer this week is that our students remain relentless. Relentless in the way they serve, the way they love, the way they mirror God in all that they do.

Day 2: In tonight's program we looked further into the story of David, specifically in 1 Samuel when David was anointed. Today's message focused on what it meant to be chosen. Just as David was chosen from the beginning to become King of Israel, we too have been chosen.

We talked with the youth about what that really means. When we read the Word, it's easy to read this story of David under different light because we know how it ends. We read it and think "Of course David was called -- it's King David", but we forget that at the time of his calling he was the youngest and least of his brothers, an afterthought to even his father when Samuel came to visit. At that point David was small, relatively weak, and unprepared for the road that God had placed before him. But the small became larger than life, the weak became mighty, and the unprepared became the perfect man for the job with God by his side.

In the same way, we have been called to this trip. It all may seem arbitrary at times, who signs up, who the chaperones are, where we are going, etc. But the truth is David was God's plan from the beginning and these specific team members, in this specific location, at this specific time are equally a part of God's incredible plan. And even when it may seem as though we are unprepared, we take a lesson from David that "through Christ all things are possible" and that God often calls the willing much more than he calls the prepared.

Day 3: The theme of tonight's program was "God is with you always". We dove in to perhaps one of the most famous stories about David; his battle with Goliath.

It's such a well-known story, I won't bother you with a recap. Instead, I'd like to talk about what we talked about in the youth group devotional time after each evening program.

Growing up, we often take on the mantle of David -- seeing the story from his perspective. David wasn't perfect by any means, but at least in this story, wouldn't we all want to be David? The small mighty warrior, armed with rocks and a whole lot of God.

Tonight however I was thinking, how often am I David and how often am I the Israelite army? I think if we are honest with ourselves, we tend to be the latter more than we might like.

The Philistines had a larger, better army and rightfully so, the Israelites were thinking "How can we conquer such a might foe?" I can almost see the roller coaster of emotions when the Israelites hear the news that if they can just defeat 1 warrior they will be the victors -- right up until a mountain of a man walks through the crowd and introduces himself as Goliath.

All of a sudden, the Israelites are faced with a mountain that they just don't think they can climb. How often in our lives are we like the Israelites? We forget about the God of the universe in our corner and instead see an insurmountable burden placed before us. We are taunted by our problems just as Goliath taunted the Israelite army, but we forget that the battle has already been won. We forget the truths of the worship song that goes "And if our God is for us, then what could ever stop us? And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?"

When we see these problems and past traumas that seem to taunt us from the battle field, and we feel as though we don't have the strength to defeat it on our own, maybe all we really need is a few rocks and a whole lot of God.

Day 4: The Thursday program each year is called "cry night" by everyone who has been to a Group Mission Trip before. It lived up to its name.

This email is always the hardest to write. I struggle with what words I can use to sum up the beauty of what happened tonight.

We talked about forgiveness in the life of David, specifically, when he sleeps with another woman and then has her husband tricked and killed in battle to cover it up. This is the man that not long ago was called a man after God's own heart.

We were asked to spend some time and think about our mistakes, our failures, our immoralities,

those we hurt, and the things we don't think we can forgive about ourselves.

All of these were written down on a piece of paper, and when we were ready we placed the paper in a bowl of water at the foot of the cross. The paper completely disappears in the water as a reminder of how we are forgiven just as David was.

It can be hard to comprehend. We are told so often that God forgives our sins, sometimes we become numb to its implications. We add qualifiers such as "He forgives better people", "He won't keep forgiving me, eventually He will run out of patience", "He forgives small sins, but if you knew what I've done..."

Tonight is a reminder that those are lies. That we are truly and wholly forgiven. More than that, we are not the same person any more -- "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come".

We took it hard. It's difficult to see your sins, your worst moments and biggest hurts, written down and being forced to acknowledge them. After we were dismissed, most of our students stayed after and prayed together, prayed for each other, held hands, cried, and embraced at the foot of the cross for over 50 mins.

While in a circle of our tear-soaked youth in front of the cross, one student said "There were a lot of times I didn't think I was going to make it this year. I didn't know how I did, but when I look around me now, I think I know how".

I wish I was more eloquent. I wish I had a clever phrase that would perfectly capture what was on display tonight. Tonight, instead of focusing on our sin, we watched it melt away into grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

We saw God tonight, and there's very little that can be said more than that.

Day 5: The focus of tonight was on how to come back to Lewisburg.

After camps like these, it's easy to fall into a Jesus-high that seems to fade just as easily as it came. But God wants us to be in a relationship with Him always.

We spoke about growth, forgiveness in a broken world, finding the light in the darkness, and the hope and refuge that the Lord provides.

One of the most rewarding parts of the trip is actually after the trip -- it's watching the strangers that became family continue to pursue a God that created them, completely forgives them, and utterly loves them.

Our co-leader Rachel and I took time to pray for each and every students that came with us tonight. It is easy to see the week coming to a close and the projects completed as the final words in a long and rewarding chapter. However, in actuality, our work is just beginning. We have 19 high schoolers who saw and experienced their creator this week.

The week may be finished, but the work is far from over. The seeds have been planted. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few".

As the daily update emails and our time in Woonsocket comes to a close, please continue to be praying for our leaders, our program, and our students -- that with each passing day, they pursue their God relentlessly.

From all of us in Woonsocket, thank you!

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