

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.

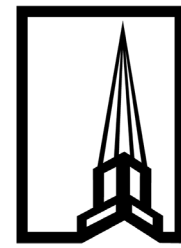
Christmas is coming fast! As the church's decorations come out and our preparations for Jesus' birth begin in earnest, a frequently asked question is, "On the third Sunday in Advent why do we light a pink or rose-colored candle on the wreath?"

The answer takes us back to the practices of the early Christian Church. During the fourth century, in Gaul (now known as France), Advent evolved as a period not just to commemorate the birth of Christ, but also to prepare for His second coming, when he will return as our divine judge. Advent's mood was much more penitential. It was less about gifts and parties and was observed instead with fasting and somber reflection.

By the Middle Ages, the appointed scripture reading from the New Testament epistles for the Third Sunday of Advent was Philippians 4:4–6, which begins with the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning "rejoice": "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." Philippians 4:4–6 also served as the introit for the day (the entrance song), which was interspersed with the antiphon of Psalm 84:2: "My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God."

The joyous character of this Philippians text momentarily suspended the solemn, repentant mood of Advent. Paul's injunction to the Philippians, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" translated, "Rejoice in the Lord always" interrupted the period of fasting. The opening word of the Latin text gave its name to the Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete" Sunday, by which it is still known today in some traditions. The third purple or dark blue candle on the Advent wreath was changed to a pink or rose one, a sign of a brief delight amid the fasting that came before the great Christmas feast.

Today, we welcome Advent as a season to remember God's greatest gift – the Son who arrived as a baby in Bethlehem's stable, who lives in our hearts today, and who has promised to return with an eternal kingdom, where all things (and us!) are



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LEWISBURG, PA

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

6:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 6

5:30-8:00 p.m. First Friday

"Christmas Joy"

Sunday, December 8

4:30 p.m. Christmas Dinner and
Program "Living Nativity"

Sunday, December 15

10:30 a.m. Christmas Cantata
"Lessons & Carols"

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Christmas
Eve Services

Wednesday, December 25



Ushers This Month

Clint Shurtliffe

Peg Bouton

Sharon Pearce

HELP! Additional volunteers for ushers are needed in the upcoming months. Please notify the Church office if you are able to help.

made new. Truly, "The Lord is near" (Phil. 4:5), and for that we can always be JOY-FULL!

Looking forward to sharing the wonder, beauty, and hope of Advent and Christmas with you,

Pastor Ryan

(reference "The Companion to the Book of Common Worship", Geneva Press. 2003.)

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

3 Erik Temple

4 David Han

6 Cole Temple

8 Jackie Wottrich

10 Gail Ross, Katelyn Young

12 Kirsten Winner

16 Jim Friery

18 Don Dobbs, Nathan Fox, Michael Redding, Calvin Reif

19 Kathy Davies, Naomi Gartzke

20 Amy Tirpak

23 Marguerite Santorine

24 Nancy Martin, David McCord

28 Betty Comerer, Brent Papson



December Anniversaries

12 Kirk & Paige Kerstetter

13 Brad & Heidi Zimmerman

18 Bennett & Courtney Remmey

29 Rich & Amy Cooper, Dale & Mindy Lind



Greeters

December 1

Don & Nancy Steckel

December 8

Brad & Sally Jordan

December 15

Mark & Leslie Temple

December 22

Wayne & Pat Samuelson

December 24

7:00 p.m. Connie Moore

9:00 p.m. Jan Temple

December 29

Richard & Peg Erdley

In the Community

Dinner By The River Teams

December 5

Sacred Heart Team

December 12

Zellmann Team

December 19

NO Dinner By the River

December 26

NO Dinner By The River



Join us **Sunday, December 8th at 4:30 p.m.** for the annual all-church Christmas Dinner and Program: "Living Nativity." Everyone is invited to attend. Ham, 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!



Poinsettias and Wreaths

Beginning on Sunday, December 15th, lovely Christmas poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary. A 5-7 bloom poinsettia plant costs \$12.00 and can be placed in honor or memory of a loved one. Ordered poinsettias should be picked up following the Christmas Eve services. Christmas wreaths will adorn our church doors during the Advent season. Six \$40.00 sponsors are needed to cover the cost of the wreaths. To sponsor a poinsettia or wreath, please send payment and dedication to the office no later than Sunday, December 8th.

Meeting Reminders

Tuesday, December 3

7:30 p.m. Missions

Friday, December 6, 13 & 20

9:15 a.m. Moms in Prayer

Tuesday, December 10

6:30 p.m. Congregational Life

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 p.m. Worship Life

Coffee Hour

Dec. 1 – McTammany Family

Dec. 8 – Wayne & Pat Samuelson

Dec. 15 – Mark & Amie Reif

Dec. 22 – Victor & Sally Vogel

Dec. 29 – Dave & Marcia Thomas



**Sundays from
10:00 - 10:30 a.m. in Parlor**

Nursery:

Dec. 1 - Drouin

Dec. 8 - McSween

Dec. 15 – Volunteer needed

Dec. 22 – Volunteer needed

Dec. 29 – Volunteer needed

Kids Church:

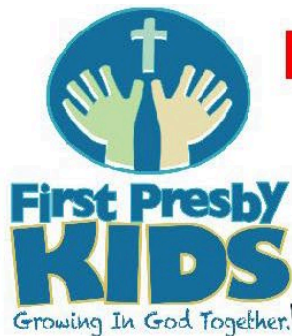
Dec. 1 - Heid

Dec. 8 - McSween

Dec. 15 – Christmas Cantata

Dec. 22 – Volunteer needed

Dec. 29 – Family Sunday



DECEMBER 2019

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 1

NO Sunday School

Friday, December 6

First Friday@First Presby

Sunday, December 8

@ 4:30 p.m. All-church Christmas Dinner and Program

Sunday, December 15

Cherub Choir sings with the Chancel Choir for Christmas Cantata (NO Kids Church)

Tuesday, December 24

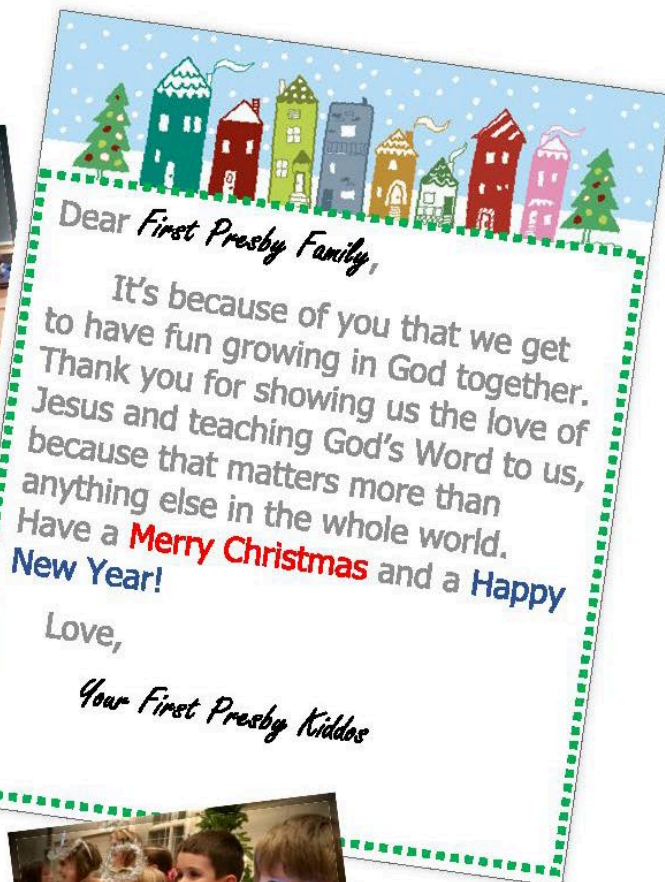
@ 7p.m. Cherub Choir sings for Christmas Eve service

SUNDAY, December 29

Family Sunday (NO Kids Church)

FRIDAY, January 3

First Friday@First Presby



Volunteer with us! From picking up pizza for First Friday or designing costumes for the Christmas program...to planning VBS decorations or leading Kids Church one Sunday...there are so many ways you can use your gifts to serve the Lord in the Children's Ministry. BE PART OF THE FUN! I'm just a call, text or email away and I'd love to hear from you.

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



Operation Christmas Child Update!

8 Days, 40 Drop Off Hours, 41 Volunteers + First Presby staff, 203 shoeboxes from our First Presby family, 2,919 total shoeboxes collected at this Drop Off Center, 1 20' Trailer packed full with 192 cartons of OCC shoeboxes, and feeling God's presence throughout!

What an amazing week! There is no way we can adequately express how grateful we are for the heart that First Presby has for OCC. Thank you to everyone that prayed,

volunteered, packed a shoebox, donated filler items, encouraged and helped out. Stay tuned, we'll share more details, some of the special moments we experienced, and a few photos in the January First Presby newsletter.

First Presbyterian Nominated Church Officers:

Term Expires 2020

Session

Rick Gathman
Bonnie Troxell
Steve Mebius
Mary Kay Torretti

Deacons

Pat Samuelson
Connie Moore
Mary Lou Rich
Jeannie Lepley

Trustees

Sally Vogel
David Grill
Dan Wagner
Craig Harley

Term Expires 2021

Session

Don Steckel
Mike Pursley
Amie Reif
Gene Heid

Deacons

Jan Temple
Peg Bouton
Barb Schmidt

Trustees

Wayne Samuelson
Eric Schmidt

Term Expires 2022

Session

Marcia Thomas
Ryan Graver
Roger Curran
Kathy Storm

Deacons

Amber Lind
Glenn Dobbs
Ann Miller
Karen Ishii

Trustees

Katie Cavanagh
Tom Rich
Randy Storm

Alternates: Wendy McTammany (Session), Margaret Weirick (Deacons), Bill Black (Trustees)

Nominating Committee 2020 Members at Large: Karen Miller, Ann Roll

***The ordination and installation of new officers will take place during worship on Sunday, January 12th. Please plan to attend that service.**



If you did not use offering envelopes this year and would like to be issued offering envelopes for the year 2020, please notify the Church office at info@first-presby.org or 570-524-4419. You do not need to notify the office if you are currently using envelopes and would like to continue using them next year. Anyone currently using envelopes will automatically be assigned envelopes next year.

December Youth Newsletter

Our 2020 Summer Mission Trip is official!

The total cost per student is only \$265. A \$50 deposit is required to reserve a spot on this summer's mission trip – it's always an incredible week that your student won't want to miss. We already have 19 students signed up and we're running out of room quickly so get those deposits in! First come, first serve! For more information regarding the mission trip, please contact our Youth Director, Matt Rishell at firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org.

Our programs are all up and running well with Refuge, Fuel, weekly Guy's and Girl's breakfasts, and high school small group book study on "Everybody Always" keeping us busy throughout the week.

We just wrapped up our 2nd annual Friendsgiving at the Manse and had roughly 60 high school students and recent graduates joining us – thank you to all who came and all who helped!



Finally, as we get closer to the holidays and the holiday shopping season, be sure to bookmark and use "smile.amazon.com" and support "First Presbyterian Church Lewisburg" and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to our youth program without any additional costs!

As we begin wrapping up the fall semester, please be praying for:

Our leaders – That they will be refreshed, guided by the Spirit in thought and words, and be able to continue the work of the Kingdom

Our students – That as they continue this school year, they will continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord, chase Him first, and that more believers will be added to our numbers daily.

Our programs – That they will be effective in reaching the lost and discipling the found. That they will be a place to fuel them for the rest of their week and a place of refuge and strength when it can be hard to come by. That our programs are fun and exciting, but most importantly are a lens through which our students see Christ clearer.

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