

# The First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg

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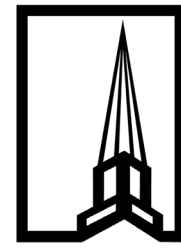
Sunday Worship: Sunday School – Temporarily Cancelled  
Worship Service – (Online Only)

This Easter will be different. More than any other Easter I've experienced, this year will not include many of the events and traditions and gatherings that mark our celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The requirement that we protect ourselves and our neighbors from the coronavirus has upended Holy Week! This year we will not pass the bread and cup under the gathering darkness of Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae service. No children will excitedly hunt for Easter eggs on Good Friday. When the sun rises on Easter morning, Soldiers' Memorial Park will be lonely and quiet. Our sanctuary will not be filled with the smell of flowers or crowded with families joyfully singing, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

I am disappointed that this is what April's calendar will look like. I understand it, and I agree that this is how things must be, but that doesn't mean I have to like it. Easter Sunday 2020 will not be what we expected to find at the end of Lent's already lean and somber days.

Yet as the days drag slowly on toward Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, I've found more and more comfort remembering that while we are swept along by circumstances and events beyond our control, God is not. Though we are bound to measure time in days and weeks and months, God is not. Regardless of the distance between us and the Easter celebration we're used to, what hasn't changed is Jesus' victory over sin and death. What remains constant and sure is the fact that by His grace, Jesus' walk from the tomb has freed us from sin and death as well.

Every Easter Sunday the congregation of the Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in New Hope, PA, where I served as an Associate Pastor, sings the hymn, "Every Morning is Easter Morning". (Words and Music by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh, © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.) This year, more than ever, I need its reminder of who I really am in Christ. That while I remain subject to this world's limits and sorrows, God's claim on me cannot be overturned.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, April 12**



## April Meetings

\*Cancelled at this time

\*More information will be provided as it becomes available

“Every morning is Easter morning, from now on! Every day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone! Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance! Hello Lord, hello sun! I am one of the Easter people! My new life has begun!”

Every day, especially in these challenging times, we live the new and risen life of Jesus Christ. We are Easter people. Even if we must put off the eggs and flowers until July.

Easter has come, and Easter is, and Easter will remain. We belong to Jesus, the Christ, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Until the day comes that we get to sing together, keep the hymn of praise alive and resounding in your heart.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Ryan

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

### April Birthdays

2 Nolan Jusko

5 Hayden Heid, Nick Kovaschetz, Brian Zaiser

7 David McSween

12 Craig Harley

14 Ellis Harley, Betty Lou McClure, Paul Miller

15 Natalie Van Fleet

16 Annie Collins, Mitchell McSween

18 Linda Cox

19 Atwood Ross, Ralph Starkey

20 Simon Barlett, Terry Light, Holly Moore, Jessie Walsh

22 Mark Heid, Ruth Kraus

23 Claire Graver

25 Rylee Jarrett

26 April Shrom

28 Gabriel Friedberg, Alexander Friedberg, Thomas Graver,  
Amanda Kovaschetz

29 Katie Cavanagh

30 Martha Gill

### April Anniversaries

6 Don & Glenn Dobbs

12 Rick & Kathy Gathman

22 George & Dustine Koons

23 Tom & Jeanette Campbell, Eric & Barb Schmidt



## Update from Session

Session held a virtual meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> and made the decision to continue the suspension of all church services and events through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Near the end of April, Session will meet again to reassess the church's response in light of the current state and federal guidance.

As we wait out these weeks of social distancing and the disruption of our usual gatherings, we are working to expand our weekly worship service offerings online. Pastor Ryan and the staff will continue to post a sermon every Sunday to the website ([first-presby.org](http://first-presby.org)) and podcast (search "First Presby Lewisburg" on the Apple "podcasts" application). In April, look for the addition of music, children's messages, and special service resources you can use at home for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

We are also working to offer virtual gatherings for Bible study, Sunday School classes, and general fellowship. Please watch for announcements of planned dates and times, and instructions for participating.

Since our staff and Boards are not gathering as usual, it is more important than ever that any needs or concerns get communicated directly to the church office. We are checking messages and emails daily. You can reach Pastor Ryan on his cell at (570) 903-0600 any time of day.

Please also remember that your pledges and offerings are still needed to maintain our staff and facility. You are welcome to send a check by mail, and we are still making weekly bank deposits. If you would prefer to set up automatic electronic giving, you can complete the eCheck Direct Debit Authorization form available on our website: <https://first-presby.org/index.php/worship/e-giving-form>



At this time, we cannot fill our orders for Easter flowers. We would like to place an order for flowers when we are all able to worship together again. It will be a different assortment of flowers depending on what flowers are available at the time. We will include flower dedications in the bulletin at that time as well. More information will be available when we are able to gather together again. If you already placed an order for Easter flowers and would prefer to have your money

refunded, please notify the church office [info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org).

### Capital Campaign Update:

We are almost to our goal!

Since the capital campaign was started in November, we have received \$217,500 in pledges sufficient to cover the cost of the HVAC system, which is installed and working, and enough to begin to cover the cost of exterior painting. We need to receive further pledges to reach the goal of \$250,000 that will complete the painting project and cover the cost to install new doors that will provide increased security inside and outside of the building. We know this is an unbelievably hard time for everyone, but if many members make small pledges to give over the next 2 years, the campaign will be a success.

Kathy and Randy Storm



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS FOR APRIL 2020

Last month's Children's Ministry news was full of dates for fun, exciting upcoming events. This month everything seems to be on hold. Life sure has changed a lot in just a matter of weeks. School is closed, parents are working from home, play dates and sports practices are cancelled. It might not look like the month we had plotted on our calendars, but if we take the time to do so we can see the good blessings amongst the worry and change.

In our house the pace has slowed down drastically. No more racing after school to complete homework and get to swimming or gymnastics. We're sharing more meals as a family around the dinner table. The kids are getting in the kitchen with me to cook and bake. We're getting outside to walk and bike the neighborhood, talking with neighbors from a safe distance across the street. Instead of play dates we have scheduled video chats with friends and family outside our neighborhood.

For as long as church and Sunday school are cancelled, I'll continue to share Sunday school lessons via email once a week. For the latest news, I encourage you to connect with us on Facebook at First Presby Kids. I'll share links to other resources and sites that could be helpful in keeping the kids occupied and keeping yourself informed.

Our April and May events may not go as planned – they may be cancelled or altered to fit the ever-changing guidelines. But I'm hopeful for late spring and early summer. **I'm continuing to plan for Vacation Bible School and I still need plenty of volunteers! Give me a call or send me an email to connect about opportunities.**

I am thankful that our region has not yet been thrown into the depths of this virus. But we know the future is uncertain. For now, I encourage you to embrace the good things happening in your home. But if you need help, resources, or guidance, know first and foremost that our God is an awesome God! Also know that First Presbyterian Church is YOUR church, a place of hope in times of trouble. We may not be meeting inside the building but we're still here for you, available via phone and email.

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*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:4-7

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Corey Jusko, Director of Children's Ministry  
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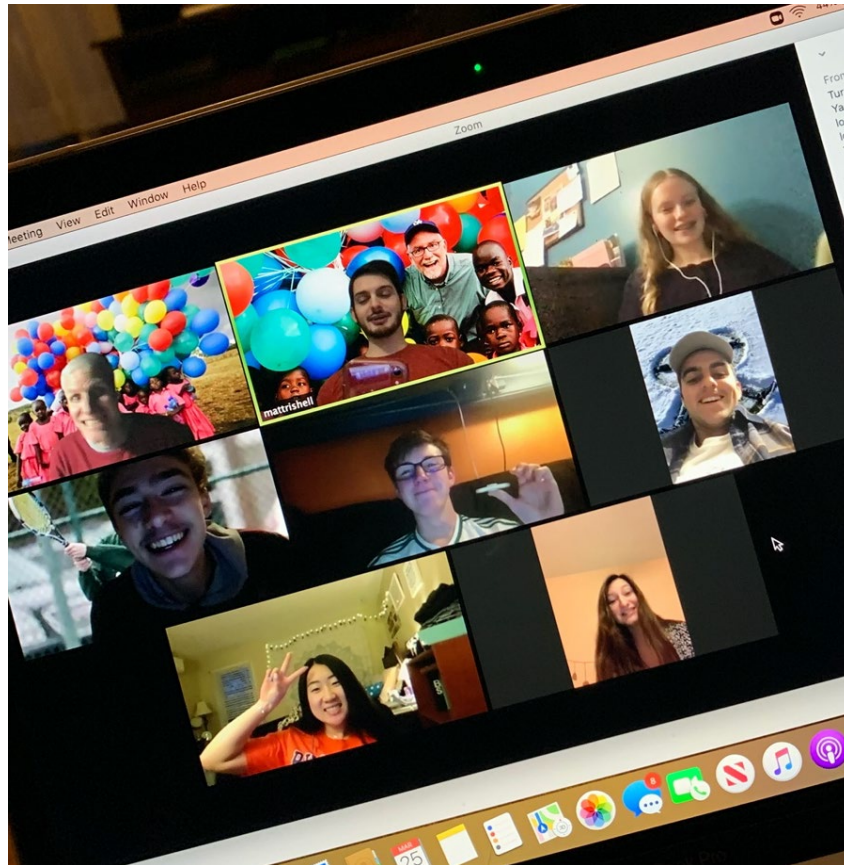
# April Youth Newsletter

With 4 months left until we depart for our summer mission trip to Rochester, NY, we only have 3 spots available! If your student is interested, please contact Matt Rishell as soon as possible.

The total cost per student is \$265 and a \$50 deposit will reserve your student's spot.

All of our normal programming has come to a hiatus as a precautionary measure due to covid-19. Despite not being able to meet in person, we are finding ways to continue learning and diving into God's word together.

We just finished our high school small group book study through a video calling service, "Zoom". We also are able to do daily devotionals and comment our thoughts with each other through the YouVersion Bible app.



Although circumstances aren't ideal, it's been encouraging to see how we can continue to grow despite remaining apart for the time being.

We can't wait to play games, worship, and be together once again (sooner rather than later).

Please join us in continuing to pray for the youth, their spiritual development, our leaders, and of course the health of those around the world affected by covid-19.

Thank you all,

Matthew Rishell – Director of Youth Ministry

**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)**