

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.

Online or In-person

Communion in the time of COVID -

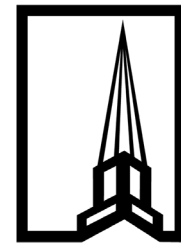
On Sunday, August 9th, the Session has authorized the celebration of the Lord's Supper during our 9:30 a.m. worship service. As with almost everything now, this Communion will be a little different than we're used to. Instead of Elders and Deacons passing trays to serve the elements to you, when you arrive for church that morning, you can pick up a "Fellowship Cup," a sealed, single-serving that holds both a bread wafer and cup of grape juice. Please take one for every person in your family who would like to participate in Communion. Pastor Ryan will lead us through our usual liturgy, and we will eat and drink together.



For those who join in worship from home on our live-stream, you are invited to participate along with those gathered in the sanctuary. Our understanding of the Lord's Supper permits us to share this gift of God's love despite the disruption and separation caused by the pandemic. From our Presbyterian Book of Order (2019/2021) – Directory for Worship, W-3.0409: Theology of the Lord's Supper, we remember that,

"The Reformed tradition understands the Lord's Supper to be a sign of God's covenant. The bread of the Lord's Supper is linked with the bread of Passover and the gift of manna in the wilderness. The Lord's Supper thus connects us with God's saving power and providential care from generation to generation. Like the offering of sacrifices, a sign of Israel's thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, the Lord's Supper is a sacrifice of praise and a sign of our gratitude for God's steadfast love. The Lord's Supper represents God's gracious invitation to an everlasting covenant. The Lord's Supper also reflects our calling to feed others as we have been fed, and offers a foretaste of that heavenly banquet when God will wipe away every tear and swallow up death forever.

"The Lord's Supper enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's sustaining grace offered to all people. The Lord's Supper



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LEWISBURG, PA

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 2,9,16,23,30

9:30 a.m. [In-person worship](#) ([guidelines on page 4](#)) or [livestream](#) ([link to Youtube service can be found on our website and Facebook page](#))

Sunday, August 9

9:30 a.m. [Holy Communion](#)

August Meetings

Tuesday, August 25

7:00 p.m. Zoom Session Meeting

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 p.m. Zoom Deacon Meeting

August Ushers

Dave Thomas

Jonathan Walz

Ray Walz

John Tirpak

is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace. Through the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ nourishes us in righteousness, faithfulness, and discipleship. Through the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit renews the Church in its identity and sends the Church to mission in the world. When we gather at the Lord's Supper the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites with the Church in every time and place. We join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world."

As we remember and celebrate God's saving grace by breaking bread and sharing the cup, our risen Savior Jesus unites us with Him, and all God's people. What is most important is not where we eat and drink this sacrament, but how – by responding to Jesus' invitation to His table with a spirit of faith, repentance, and love.

For those who are worshipping from home, you may use any bread and grape juice/wine that you have on hand. A note about what to do with leftovers – it has always been my practice to return any unused bread and juice from a Communion service to the earth from which God grew them. If, however, you prefer to share in Communion with the same elements we're using here at church, please call the office during the week and we will gladly bring you Fellowship Cups before Sunday morning.

Peace to you!

Pastor Ryan

Pastor's Bible Study-

Starting on Thursday, August 13th, at 7:00 p.m., I will host a Zoom Bible study. To join, email me at pastor@first-presby.org and I'll send you the Zoom link and some read-ahead/discussion questions. I plan to hold this group every Thursday through September 10th. I still haven't settled on a particular book or topic – so if you have any suggestions now's your chance to share your ideas!

Heading into Fall

As we continue to navigate this season of uncertainty, I want to share what the Session has planned as summer transitions into fall.

As usual, we will move our worship service time back to 10:30 a.m., starting on Sunday, September 13th, the first Sunday following Labor Day. We will not have an in-person Rally Day event to mark the start of Sunday School, but will begin offering virtual (Zoom) classes for both adults and children, from 9:00-9:30 am. The September newsletter will have more details about class subjects and age/grade-groupings for our children, as well as directions on how to connect to these online opportunities for study and growth.

As we move into September, our worship service will keep the same format we've been using since our re-gathering in June. We will maintain our social-distancing and mask wearing, and continue lifting up our hymns and songs from our hearts – not with our voices! Because the number of COVID cases is still increasing in the Susquehanna Valley, we will not open our nursery for drop-off childcare, or dismiss our younger children for Children's Church.

We continue to have a TV with the live-stream of the service set up in the Chapel. Youtube Live-streaming will continue for the foreseeable future, and DVD recordings of the service can be mailed to you by calling the church office.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays

- 2 Chloe McSween
4 Laura Graver, Rebecca Mignot, Lucas Winner
7 Daniel Cavanagh, Tim Cavanagh, Mark Reif, Ann Roll
8 Thomas Gresh
9 John Walsh
11 Barb Schmidt
14 Ariel Cooper, Nancy Curran, Avery Mast, Audrey McSween
18 Pat Samuelson
20 Keith Kunkel
22 Sammy Miller, Ann Miller, Connie Moore
23 Kim Gilger
24 Emersyn Papson
25 Samuel Gill, Kerry Shutt, Sally Vogel
26 Ryan Kraus
28 Patricia Apple, Garrett Brown
29 Tony Collins, 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 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
19 John & Jessie Walsh
22 Atwood & Gail Ross
23 Ralph & Peggy Starkey
25 David & Anne Goehring
26 Brent & Ashley Papson
29 Dave & Marcia Thomas



Reminder: Guidelines for In-Person Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

- Entrance to the church will be limited to the sanctuary doors on Market St., and the CE building doors (both the parking lot and ramp, and sidewalk from Market St). Signs will be placed on the other exterior doors directing people to these entrances. Entrance and interior doors will be propped open.
- Masks (cloth or surgical) are required to be worn inside the church building. Signs announcing this will be posted at entry doors. Masks will be available and provided to those who arrive without one. If someone indicates they cannot wear a mask for a medical reason, they will be directed to watch a live-feed of the service from the Chapel.
- A sign-in sheet will be located at each door so that we can accurately record who attends. This information will be used to assist with contact tracing in the event an infection is identified.
- Hand sanitizer will be located at each door. Gloves will also be available.
- A Greeter wearing gloves will be stationed at each entrance to monitor mask wearing, assist with sign-in, direct guests to the sanctuary, and offer a warm welcome back to church!
- Sanctuary pews will be roped off before Sunday morning. Windows will be open to promote air circulation. Families/households will sit together. There will be no childcare. Children will stay in their seats for the Children's Message.
- Ushers will monitor sanctuary seating to maintain safe distancing. Overflow seating will be provided in the Chapel and Parlor.
- Bibles, hymnals and fellowship pads will be removed from pews before Sunday. The screen and projector will be used for lyrics and announcements. We will not sing along with hymns, but quietly hum and meditate on the words.
- Offering plates will be placed at the exits at the end of the service. Following the benediction, Pastor Ryan will dismiss members by section in order to maintain safe distancing.
- The only restrooms open will be those located between the office hallway and the CE/Great Hall stairway. Doors will be propped open.
- The CE wing, Offices, Library, Kitchen, Great Hall, Cave and lower-level will be marked off as 'closed.' Water fountains will be covered.
- Pastor Ryan advises that anyone in a higher-risk category, or who is experiencing any symptoms of illness, should continue to participate in worship from home. The service will be live-streamed and dvd copies can be mailed by request.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

It's time! Children's programming is returning! We will be reopening with a gradual approach. **September** will see virtual Sunday school classes for children and adults, 9:00-9:30 on Sunday mornings. Sunday services will move to 10:30 a.m. **Nursery and Kids Church will remain closed.** We will use the month to assess local numbers and review how the public school reopening is going, then potentially proceed with in-person classes beginning in October or November.

How can YOU serve?

- **Sunday School** classes will resume (virtually in September). Be part of a teaching team! Each class operates best with **3 to 4 teachers** who can divide up the weeks according to their personal schedules. Curriculum will be provided for you and you may customize it for your class – allowing time for a lesson, an activity or craft, and plenty of time for discussion and getting to know the youngest members of our church. **We NEED volunteers for Nursery (from birth to pre-K), K-2nd grade, and 3rd-5th grade!**
- **Nursery** will reopen in October or November during 10:30 a.m. services. It is available for children from birth up to age 4. It's a time to play, read, and listen to music.
- **Kids Church** will reopen in October or November for kids age 4 through 3rd grade. Children are dismissed to Kids Church following the children's message every Sunday except for Family Sunday. Materials and a brief lesson will be provided for you. Engage the kids in a game, craft, or activity, and allow time for free play.
- **Children's Message** Let the children learn from our congregation! Share a life lesson, a Bible lesson, or a special story with the children during Sunday morning services.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN! Contact Corey to volunteer!



Follow us on Facebook @ First Presby Kids for resources, updates and more!

Corey Jusko, Director of Children's Ministry

708-296-7906

firstpresbykids@gmail.com

August Youth Newsletter

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well and healthy.

We will be continuing in-person, High school youth group for the time being. We are keeping a close eye on all developments and guidelines regarding Covid-19. At this point, we can only take it one week at a time, but will continue as per “normal” as long as we are able.

Our 2021 Summer Mission Trip will be to **Wilmington, DE from July 11th – 17th**. If your student signed up for this past year's trip, all money paid is automatically rolled over for this next year – just contact me and let me know your student would like a spot! If your student did not register for this past year's trip, a \$50 deposit is required to reserve a spot! BUT ACT QUICKLY. Out of our 28 total spots, we only have 12 left for next summer. The total cost per student will be \$260.00.

As always, we are in need of chaperones for our mission trip. We know it's early, but please consider if you'd be willing to join us! Contact Matt Rishell if you have any questions – regardless of interest level.

Please continue to pray for our neighbors here in the valley and around the world. As always please keep our youth program and leadership in your prayers as well.

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



If you are unable to view the weekly worship service online and would prefer a dvd copy of the service to watch, please notify the office at info@first-presby.org or leave a message at 570-524-4419. We are also working on providing bulletins and sermon notes prior to the service to anyone who may be interested. These pages could be mailed or emailed by request.

A Note from the Trustees-

The trustees have signed contracts with painters, tree trimmers, electricians, and a general building contractor. Several projects to improve and maintain our property will start in August and September. Thank you for your faithful giving of your capital campaign pledges. Those of you who have not yet made a pledge to the capital campaign, please consider helping financially with our ongoing projects. Pledges may be paid over one, two or three years.