

# 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. (Sept. 6)

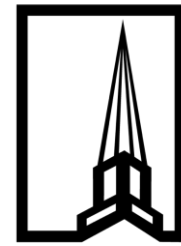
10:30 a.m. (beginning

Sept. 13)

At times when everything seems upside down and the future seems completely uncertain, it's important to remember who God is and how God operates. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he told them to say, "give us this day our daily bread." This prayer hearkens back to the Israelites in the desert, for whom God did, indeed, provide *daily* bread. As the Israelites wandered for forty years between slavery in Egypt and victory in the Promised Land, God led and provided for his people *day by day*. Enough manna came from heaven to feed God's people for a day. (see Exodus 16) For forty years they went to bed each night with only trust in God's faithfulness to assure them there would be food the next day. God did not provide them a map or a schedule; God did not give them the whole picture and plan before they set out across the Red Sea. Instead, God provided a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead His people step by step. This is an incredibly difficult place to be in! Not to know what tomorrow brings! But this is God's way of leading his people.

This is not how we like, or how we're familiar with, being a church. How can we be moving forward without knowing where we're going? It flies in the face of every good business or organizational practice we can think of! Like the Israelites, we're living through a time when all that we can rely on is one simple claim - God is faithful. God hears the cries of his people, God loves his people, and God provides for his people.

Even though the last six months have been full of surprises, we should be ready for more. God's plans often do not align with the plans of His people ("For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8)). Sometimes the things we experience as awful, God uses for good. (Remember how Joseph told his brothers who had sold him into slavery, "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Sept. 3, 10, 17**

7:00 p.m. [Zoom Bible Study](#)

**Sunday, Sept. 6**

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

[In-person worship \(guidelines on page 4\)](#) or [livestream \(link to Youtube service can be found on our website and Facebook page\)](#)

**Thursday, Sept. 10, 17, 24**

6:00 p.m. [Bell Choir Practice](#)

**Sunday, Sept. 13, 20, 27**

9:00 a.m. [Virtual Sunday School for all ages](#)

10:30 a.m. [In-person worship \(guidelines on page 4\)](#) or [livestream \(link to Youtube service can be found on our website and Facebook page\)](#)

## September Meetings

**Tuesday, September 29**

7:00 p.m. [Zoom Session Meeting](#)

## September Ushers

Jim Apple

Rick Gathman

Wayne Samuelson

Jon Miller

people, as he is doing today" (Genesis 50:19)).

Our world feels as though it's been thrown into chaos. It's critical for us to remember that God has *not* been thrown into chaos. God continues to be a God of order. God continues to reign sovereign over all of His creation. God continues to remain with and for his people. Our task as Christ's disciples is to keep our eyes and hearts focused on the Lord, to renew our trust in his ways, to trust him to provide our *daily* bread as we take each step forward in faith. As our congregation continues to walk through these challenging days, continue to trust God to see us through. Continue to trust God to speak clearly to our Session, Deacons, and Trustees. Pray for our staff as they continue in earnest to seek God's wisdom, to hear God's voice, to follow God's call. Reach out to your neighbors and friends, if only to share how tired you are of these days!

And through it all, rejoice in the gift of this congregation. The depth of love and friendship, fellowship and care that exists in this body is a gift from God, and a blessing to each one of us. If we have to walk through all of the chaos 2020 has brought us, and all that it will surely bring us in the weeks and months to come, I give thanks to God that we are going through it together. And I know that God will see us through.

Praying Jesus' peace, grace, and love for you,  
Pastor Ryan

## Pastor's Bible Study-

Zoom Bible Study continues September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. To join, email me at [pastor@first-presby.org](mailto:pastor@first-presby.org) and I'll send you the Zoom link and some read-ahead/discussion questions.

## William D. Himmelreich Memorial Library Seeks Volunteers

Our church's William D. Himmelreich Memorial Library continues to honor Mr. Himmelreich's mission of spreading the Gospel.

One of the joys of using a library is the opportunity to enter and browse the "stacks". Following recommendations from the PA Department of Libraries and ideas from the Public Library of Union County, we currently limit public entry. Instead, we direct patrons to use our website: [www.thehimmelreich.org](http://www.thehimmelreich.org), email: [librarian@first-presby.org](mailto:librarian@first-presby.org), or phone message: [570-523-3377](tel:570-523-3377) to choose items. We offer "curb side" pickup with returns in the outside drop box. Returned items are quarantined for three days. We are very flexible and have arranged the library to store drop off, baskets of items to browse on the porch, and aid in using our website.

During this time, we are also preparing for the full return of patrons. With the help of energetic volunteers, we have reorganized items and shelving, processed new items, and cleaned. We can use extra volunteers to help with these processes, many which can be done at one's convenience and with limited time.

Our volunteers are very valuable to the library. We welcome and look forward to seeing you. COME JOIN US!

Blessings,

Caroline Campagna

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

### September Birthdays

- 1 Elyse Kempen, Judith Ziegler
- 2 Alice Marquart, Sharon Pearce, Kim Wagner
- 4 Carolyn McSween, Karen Shurtliffe
- 5 Tom Hans
- 6 Alexa Mast
- 8 Richard Erdley, Caroline Graves, Rob Royer
- 10 Audrey Kalcich, Jan Peterson
- 11 Mark Temple
- 13 Kirk Jarrett
- 14 Jackie Mast
- 15 Liv Heid
- 16 Lisa Kraus
- 18 Sarah Graber
- 23 Crystal Reid
- 24 Landon Jarrett
- 28 David Goehring, Robert McTammany
- 29 Sawyer Kovaschetz

### September Anniversaries

- 1 Bob & Nancy Martin
- 24 Richard & Sharon Beaver
- 25 Nick & Amanda Kovaschetz
- 26 Scott & Kristin McVicar



### **Let Your "Voices" Ring Out**

As we struggle to define the new "normal" during COVID-19 times, consider an alternate method of making music. The act of expressing ourselves through communal singing may not be an option however we can use this time to express ourselves in other ways. With ringing, we increase independent thinking, listening skills, attention span, physical coordination, self-discipline and personal expression. Ringers also gain positive social and emotional skills through collaboration and the development of self-esteem. These are just a few reasons why so many love to ring! Please consider joining the fun. Weekly rehearsals begin Thursday, September 10 at 6pm in the Choir Room. If you have any questions, contact Susan Erdley ([bellchoirdirector@first-presby.org](mailto:bellchoirdirector@first-presby.org)).



## **Reminder: Guidelines for In-Person Worship Service**

- 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.



# First Presby Kids News SEPTEMBER 2020

*"I looked to the Lord, and he answered me. He saved me from everything I was afraid of."* Psalm 34:4

**Backyard VBS was a success!** If you joined us for our first-ever backyard VBS, THANK YOU! We had a great time FOCUSing on the Good News of God's love and saving grace through Jesus Christ! Nearly 40 kids participated in 5 locations around Lewisburg, with 2 church families participating from home.



virtually

**Virtual Sunday School begins SEPTEMBER 13!**



Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend our virtual Sunday school classes. Each class will be 30 minutes and meet every Sunday at 9:00 am. A link to join our virtual class will be emailed the week preceding each class.

**Join us on an adventure** through the Bible, one book at a time. Our new curriculum, GO!, takes kids chronologically through the Bible every year. Gospel-centered and God-focused, GO! teaches Biblical truth with real-life application and lays the foundation for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

firstpresbykids@gmail.com

# September Youth Newsletter

Spots for our summer 2020 mission trip from July 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> are already filling up fast. There are only 2 spots left! The total cost per student is \$260 and a \$50 deposit will reserve your student's spot. All mission trip spots are first come, first serve so don't wait!

For more information or questions regarding the mission trip, please contact our Youth Director, Matt Rishell at [firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org](mailto:firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org).

Like so many, we are anxiously awaiting a time that can offer more clarity for the coming weeks and months. We will continue to do our best to enact all CDC recommended guidelines for all of our youth activities.

Unfortunately, this means that not all of our programs will be starting in the fall as we hoped. Although we look forward to being back to normal, for the time being, we will not be holding before school breakfasts or Wednesday night small groups.

We ask for your continued prayers for our ministries and for the health and well-being of all students as they return to school in the coming weeks.

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)**



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](mailto: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.

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## Capital Campaign Update-

We are almost to our goal! Since the capital campaign was started in November, we have received \$237,530 in pledges- 95% of our total goal! The trustees have signed contracts with painters, tree trimmers, electricians, and a general building contractor. Several projects to improve and maintain our property have already been completed and others will continue through September. Thank you for your faithful giving of your capital campaign pledges. Those who have not yet made a pledge to the capital campaign, please consider helping financially with our ongoing projects. We need an additional \$12,470 to meet our goal. We know this is an unbelievably hard time for everyone, but if many members make small pledges to give over the next 1-2 years, the campaign will be a success. Thank you for your support!