THE FIRST PRESS

April Newsletter

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. (Virtual Only)
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (In-person or Livestream)

At the end of March, Caroline Campagna retired as the Himmelreich Librarian, after more than 12 years of service to our church and community. For hundreds in our area who make use of the Himmelreich's extensive Christian resources, Caroline has been the face of the library, and for many patrons, their first introduction to First Presbyterian Church.



I appreciate Caroline's kindness and quiet grace in serving those who use the library and in managing its volunteers, beautiful venue, and participation in multiple community events.

During a recent staff meeting, we presented Caroline with a framed print of the front of the Himmelreich's distinctive façade, sketched in ink by artist and fellow church member Jeanette Campbell.

As Caroline and Joseph take time to visit family spread across the US, please ask God to bless their travels. As the Himmelreich Library begins a new chapter in its mission to further God's kingdom in the Susquehanna Valley and around the world, ask God to guide and direct its Board. And please offer a thank-you to Caroline for serving well and faithfully in one of our church's most visible and historic ministries.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 11 10:30 a.m. Nursery Open again during Worship Service

Wednesday, April 21 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, May 2 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Thursday, May 6 5:30 p.m. Dinner By the River

Volunteers Needed

Help is needed for our weekly livestream service and running the sound system. Anyone interested in learning about how they can help is encouraged to speak to Matt Rishell or Pastor Ryan.

April Meetings

Tuesday, April 20 7:00 p.m. Zoom Session Meeting

April Ushers

Ryan Graver

Sharon Pearce

Anyone interested in ushering can sign up on the board in the narthex or notify the office.

Pastor Ryan

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

- 2 Nolan Jusko
- 4 Shannon Wright
- 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, Alexis Rathburn
- 18 Linda Cox
- 19 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

- 12 Rick & Kathy Gathman
- 22 George & Dustine Koons
- 23 Tom & Jeanette Campbell, Eric & Barb Schmidt







Many have been blessed by our ability to feed those who are food insecure. Although the ministry has had to adopt a new approach because of Covid-19, we have continued to provide a take-out meal the first Thursday of every month. However, we need more help to prepare and distribute the meals. As of now we are covered through June. Please prayerfully consider joining or forming a DBR team. Contact me with any questions. (570-713-8157) - Mary Kay Torretti

Lewisburg in Lights Continues Community Connection and Inspiration

Where: St Mary's Park on 15th Street in front of the pool Date: April 15th at 7:00 p.m. Rain Date: April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

There is light at the end of this tunnel. We all were plunged into something we were not prepared for and we've all been changed from the things we've experienced this year. There have been missed opportunities, loved ones who have passed away, and fears that have been made a reality. It has been a tough year and one that we would all like to move forward from. We want to take some time to honor the things we have experienced from this year, but also to look forward to the light ahead.

On Thursday evening, April 15th at 7 pm we will gather together at St Mary's Park for a time of remembering this past year, but also to share our hopes going forward. We will be lighting luminaries, having a time of poetry, singing, and sharing together as a community.

What do we need from you? 1. Show up for this event. 2. Stop by the CommUnity Zone Tuesday – Friday from 10 – 4 pm to write the name of a loved one who passed this past year or a hope you have for the future on one of our luminary bags. 3. Share this message with as many people in our community that you can!

ALSO: We need volunteers to help with the lighting and setting up of the luminaries. Please <u>sign here</u> to get on our list of volunteers.

The luminaries will be a magical, peaceful night of light. In order to make the best experience possible for everyone, we ask that you please adhere to the following:

- Masks will be required. You must wear face-covering at all times during the event to help protect yourselves, other participants, and volunteers from COVID-19.
- In order to amplify the soft yellow light of the luminaries, personal lights are not allowed (this includes flashlights, strobe lights, blinking lights, light-up toys, jewelry/clothing, sleds, etc.). The trail will be plenty bright for you to comfortably see where you are going.

Sponsored by the CommUnity Zone, in collaboration with Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church, Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority, Campus Theatre, Lewisburg Downtown Partnership, RiverWoods Senior Living Community, and St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Peace, Daniel Wilt, Pastor St. Paul's United Methodist Church 42 S. 4th Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837 Office: (570) 524-5011 | Cell: (814) 414-8795

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First Presby Kids News

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Virtual Sunday School! Every Sunday at 9 am, our kindergarten through 5th grade students gather together online for a 30-minute lesson led by our rotating team of Sunday School teachers.



After celebrating the miracle of Jesus power over the cross, our children begin to explore the work of the early church. Bible stories from the Books of John and Acts help our children to understand how the early church was started and how it came to be known across the world.

Nursery will re-open with VOLUNTEERS! The nursery will re-open staffed with loving volunteers beginning Sunday, April 11. The nursery is open to our youngest members from birth through age 3 and is open during the entire Sunday morning worship service. Children 2+ and adults must wear face masks in accordance with current church policy. VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED. Please contact Corey to help!

More changes are coming! Sunday school continues through the end of May. We will then take a break over the summer. Beginning **Sunday**, **June 6** we will bring back Kids Church for kids ages 4 through 3rd grade. After the Children's Message, kids will be dismissed to Kids Church where they will participate in a short lesson and enjoy a craft and/or some play time. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED.** Please contact Corey to help!

VBS is ON this summer! Mark your calendars for a bodacious week of fun! **August 2-6** we're taking a totally tubular trip through the early church. During BOLT: Totally 80's, kids will hear stories from the Book of Acts and learn how God's Spirit worked in and through the early

believers. Moreover, they'll discover they too have been empowered to take the good news of Jesus to the ends of the Earth. We are planning to host VBS at church, but will continue to monitor the local impact of Covid-19. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED.** Please contact Corey to help!



Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

firstpresbykids@gmail.com

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Sharing Our Concerns for Prayer

More than ever, we need to encourage and lift each other up to God in prayer. If you would like to be included on a regular "prayer chain", please send your email address to Alison at <u>info@first-presby.org</u>

Every week, Pastor Ryan will email a list of the concerns, needs, and joys that we can pray for.



April Youth Newsletter

We are back in person!

After a long 5 months, we are happy to be hosting in-person youth activities on Sunday nights again. Over the next few weeks, we are hopeful that we will be able to continue the rollout of in person events.

We are still closely monitoring risk assessments provided by GA Tech and enforcing masks and social distancing, but we feel comfortable that we can provide a safe environment.

Small group will remain online only. Based on the number of attendees and the busy schedules of our youth, we feel that remaining online for our study of "Blue Like Jazz" is the best way to keep it accessible to as many youth as possible.

We still have 4 spots available for this summer's mission trip to Wilmington, DE! We will be serving the community in Wilmington from July 11th – 17th. We are also in need of 2 chaperones (1 female and 1 male) to make this trip possible. We can't do it would out your help and we would love to talk to you about how we can serve Wilmington and our youth together! Feel free to reach out to Matt Rishell if you'd like any more details on any aspect of our trip including the Covid-procedures that will be in place.

We ask for your continued prayers for our ministries and for the health and well-being of all our students. We ask for prayers in an unusually trying time for us 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 <u>firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org</u>



WILMINGTON, DE JULY 11TH - 17TH

We're in need of adult (21+) male and female Chaperones

Contact Matt Rishell for more details

Our Team

Serena DeCosmo Jack Drouin Tim Cavanaugh Jack Dieffenderfer Reese Dieffenderfer Lorren Huff Ryan Shabahang Peter Lantz Emma Heid Charlie Heid

Carina Pavlov Anna Glantz Lily McBride Noah Shabahang Sam Stancavage Autumn Sena Maggie Daly Mia Turnbull Liv Heid Cole Temple