

# 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)

I saw robins this week, perennial signs of spring. I've never been so glad for a winter to end, for the return of warm sunshine, and the first sprigs of new growth. After a long season of Lent-like fasting and desert living, I am SO ready for the world to break out in color and song!

It's no accident that we celebrate Easter in springtime, when the long-dead landscape comes back to life. Our rejoicing over Jesus' empty tomb comes at just the right time.

Still, this is not my first go-round with spring. As nice as these first warm days always feel, I know how the seasons change around here - for every two days of warming, one day of cold, dreary rain, or a hard frost, is sure to follow. Every year the fight between winter and spring goes twelve full rounds. Winter doesn't pack up and depart overnight.

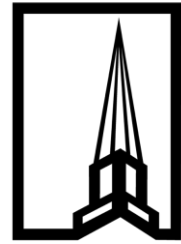
Life as a disciple of Jesus is just the same. As with spring, so also our experience of Jesus' triumph over sin and death.

For the first disciples, Jesus' death on the cross, his execution as a criminal, the Savior rejected and scorned by those he came to save, appeared as if darkness and night and sin had won a terrible, upset victory. Jesus' followers wondered if they'd picked the wrong side.

It's hard to imagine the depth of joy they felt at Jesus' resurrection, when he appeared and spoke and walked and ate and prayed with them. God's son was risen! Light and hope had returned!

Yet even after his resurrection, they still faced moments of doubt. The young Church was persecuted. Faithful servants were martyred. The Gospel faced opposition from God's own people and from the governing authorities.

We know how it feels. We're still in the fight against illness and grief. Families in our church are still struggling through covid



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 4**

5:30 p.m. [Dinner By the River](#)

**Sunday, March 7**

10:30 a.m. [Holy Communion](#)

**Sunday, March 14**

11:45 a.m. [Soup Distribution & Delivery Following Worship Service](#)

**Wednesday, March 17**



**Saturday, March 20**



## March Meetings

**Tuesday, March 16**

7:00 p.m. Zoom Session Meeting

**Wednesday, March 17**

7:00 p.m. Zoom Deacon Meeting

## March Ushers

Paul Miller

Clint Shurtliffe

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

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and quarantine. Students still wrestle with online classes and loss of their favorite activities. The news still brings us images of conflict and injustice wreaking havoc near and far.

It's easy to wonder if God's sovereign rule is in jeopardy. Or to question if Jesus' authority and power are still in effect. As great as it is to celebrate Easter, our transition into the full glory of the kingdom of God takes time. Like spring, it doesn't happen overnight.

Living through the transition isn't easy. It takes patience and faith and the encouragement and empathy of brothers and sisters who've been there. I find comfort in pastor and author Eugene Peterson's interpretation of the Bible, *The Message*, which presents Psalm 130 like this:

**130** <sup>1-2</sup> "Help, God—I've hit rock bottom! Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy.

<sup>3-4</sup> If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped.

<sup>5-6</sup> I pray to God—my life a prayer—and wait for what he'll say and do.

My life's on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning,

waiting and watching till morning.

<sup>7-8</sup> O Israel, wait and watch for God—with God's arrival comes love,

with God's arrival comes generous redemption.

No doubt about it—he'll redeem Israel, buy back Israel from captivity to sin."

The Good News is this - spring WILL come! Jesus IS alive! God HAS restored and redeemed us! We are ALMOST home!

Almost. And that's the hard part.

May God grant us all the faith and courage and love we need to see Him, and each other, through these waiting days. I know that I am grateful to have you, and our church family, to share the journey with. Even with all its ups and downs.

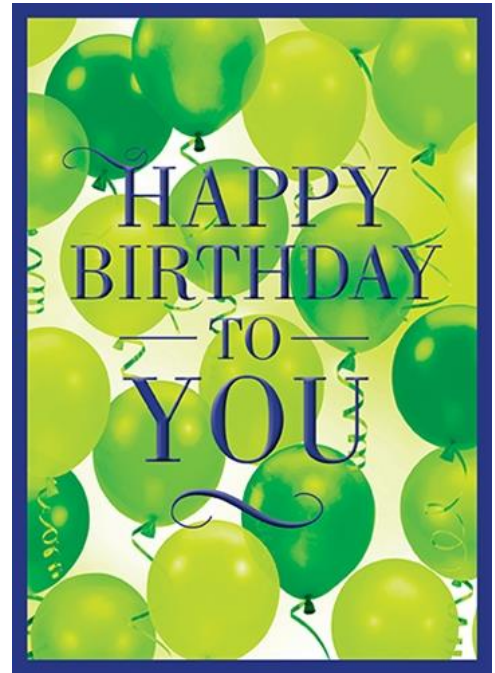
Praying for your peace, in Christ,

Pastor Ryan

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

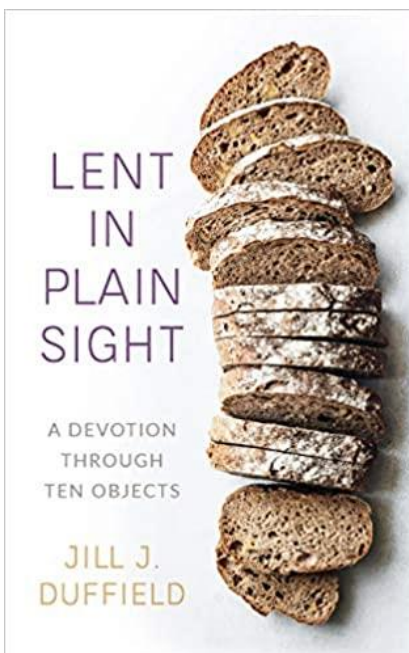
### March Birthdays

2 Spencer Barlett, Cecilia Peterson  
5 Dustine Koons  
8 Tom Campbell, Jeanette Campbell, Dave Thomas  
9 Caden Papson  
10 Gerry Schwieger  
13 Amy Cooper, Mike Mast  
14 Victor Vogel  
16 Abigail McManus, Jon Walz  
21 Marilyn Gaver, Raymond Walz  
22 Paige Kerstetter, Jennifer Wakeman  
23 Rachel Wakeman  
27 Karen Guissanie, Christopher Tirpak  
28 Sarah Bolig, Kathy Gathman  
29 Lauren Mebius  
31 Sutton Kovaschetz, Dale Lind, Margaret Weirick



### March Anniversaries

7 Joe & Marguerite Santorine  
14 Mark & Jessica Heid  
17 Samuel & Barb Taggart  
19 Jeff & Heather Creighton  
22 John & Cindy Jones



### **Recommended for Lent –**

For anyone looking for a good Lenten devotional, let me point you toward Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects, by Jill J. Duffield. Published in 2020 by Westminster John Knox Press. Reflecting on such common objects as dust, bread, coins, shoes, and towels, this book offers a verse of scripture, a reflection, thoughtful questions, and a prayer, for each day of the six weeks of Lent.

(Of course, if you order through Amazon, please remember to use smile.amazon, and chose "First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg" so that our youth ministries receive .5% of each purchase.)

This book is available in both paperback and Kindle editions.



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

**Trustees Report- Capital Campaign Alive and Well**

Thanks to all for your continuing support of our Capital Campaign. Since the beginning of the campaign, we have replaced our six largest heating/air conditioning units maintaining comfort in our Sanctuary, Great Hall, Parlor, Chapel and Chorus Room. We still have as many as 4 smaller units that will require replacement before long. All units being replaced were/are 26+ years old where the normal life expectancy is 15 years. We have repaired 6 of our exterior doors and 6 of our interior doors and installed 2 new doors increasing our security and easing operation for all. We also completed a long, long overdue facelift of the exterior of our entire facility including the steeple ( which is notable on a sunny day or at night as you enter Lewisburg from the bridge). There is still more to be done. Maintaining such a fine mature property as we have been blessed with always presents its challenges but we are meeting those challenges well. We thank all of those who have pledged their support – we have reached 96% of our pledge goal – another \$10,000 in pledges will bring us to 100%. Thanks also to those who have fulfilled their pledges and hopefully will continue to honor any unfilled commitments during 2021. Additional pledges are most welcome at any time. May we all be able to enjoy worshipping and fellowshiping in our church building very soon.



We are now collecting orders for Easter flowers. To place your order, please email [info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org) and provide your name, dedication (in honor or

memory of), plant choice and quantity. Payment can be mailed or dropped off in the church office mail slot. Order forms will also be available in the narthex. Flower choices are:

- Lily (5-7 bloom)                   \$12.50
- Hyacinth (3 bloom)               \$11.00
- Tulip (6 inch)                       \$11.00

**Order deadline is Monday, March 22, 2021.**



# First Presby Kids News MARCH 2021

*“Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* Romans 6:4b (NIV)

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



The month of March prepares our hearts and minds for the resurrection of the living Christ. Our lessons continue to teach us of Jesus' miracles and his final days as a man on earth. Join us as we discover the outrageous love of Jesus!

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Romans 6:23 (NIV)

**Nursery is open!** The nursery is now open during Sunday morning worship services. It is available for children ages 3 and under, accompanied by 1 adult. No nursery volunteers are assigned at this time. Please continue to follow our safety precautions including sanitizing hands before play and wearing masks during play.

**Looking ahead to Easter!** The wind may be blustery and the temperatures below freezing, but warmer weather and brighter seasons are coming! We will not host our annual egg hunt this year. Instead for the celebration of **Easter**, families will be able to take home an Easter kit and participate in a virtual story and scavenger hunt. Stay tuned for details!

**It's never too early to plan for VBS!** 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.

Details about location and time will be coming as we continue to monitor the local impact of Covid-19.



**Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA**

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

firstpresbykids@gmail.com

# March Youth Newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you all well, staying healthy, and ready for the Easter season!

At the time of writing, our youth programming remains completely online. Despite these limitations, we've still been able to meet Sunday nights for a message and discussion through various books of the Bible, we're still reading our way through Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller in small group, and have found limited times for a few of us to gather throughout the week.

However, based on numbers provided by Georgia Tech which monitors Covid rates and transmission percentages for each county, Union county has seen a 70% drop in risk over the past month. With such an encouraging sign, we're hopeful that we will soon be able to gather in person again. We will still be masked and enforce social distancing, but this is a step in a positive direction.

We are quickly approaching our Youth Summer Mission Trip. With 24 of 28 spots filled, we still have room for your student! Although circumstances can change, we are cautiously optimistic that the mission trip will happen this summer. 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.

It's a challenging time for all of us, so we thank you for your continued support. We hope to be back in person soon, but of course we will not do so until we can be sure that we can do so as safely as possible.

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 [firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org](mailto:firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org)**



## 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 [info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org)

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