

# 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.

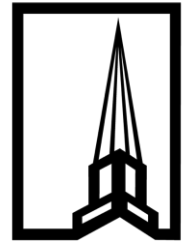
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

The October newsletter from our Presbytery of Northumberland included an article titled, “Build Back the Church; Don’t Try to Return to Normal” by the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish, a pastor who also serves as a teacher, retreat leader, spiritual director, and individual, marital, and family therapist. He begins by sharing recent conversations he’s had with church pastors...

“One pastor said, “When can we go back to normal? That’s all they keep asking. How the heck do we get back to normal after the past year?” Another said, “I’m supposed to love them. How do I love them after all the crap they’ve put me through this past year?” Still another commented, “I don’t even know where to start. I’ll bet we lost at least 30% of our members during the pandemic. And everyone thinks it’s up to me to get them back.”

Standish writes, “These are statements I’ve heard over the past two months from pastors I work with. They’re under tremendous pressure to get back to normal, ...but what if normal doesn’t exist anymore? As one said recently, “I thought I’d be ecstatic once everyone was vaccinated because we could get back to in-person worship. It’s even worse now! At least during the pandemic, they mostly got along. Now they’re at each other’s throats. Some just want to get rid of all the technology and go back to the way it was. Others love it and want to increase it. Some want to pretend the pandemic’s over, while others want proof of vaccination. I hate it!”

He continues, “Church members and pastors suffer from both fatigue and a yearning to get back to normal. But there is no normal to get back to. Normal died during the pandemic as churches scrambled to meet new realities: How do we record our services? Do we need a camera, or can we use our



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, November 4

5:30 p.m. Dinner By the River  
(take-out only)

### Friday, November 5

5:30-8:00 p.m. First Friday Kids  
Night in the Great Hall

### Sunday, November 7

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

### Monday, November 15 - 22

11:00 a.m. OCC Shoebox  
Collection Week Begins

### Sunday, November 21

10:30 a.m. OCC Shoebox  
Sunday  
6:00 p.m. Hanging of the  
Greens

### Thursday, November 25

11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Meal  
To Go



## November Meetings

### Tuesday, November 16

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

## November Ushers

Wendy McTammany  
Randy Storm

phones? Do we live stream on Facebook or YouTube or a streaming service, or upload recordings to YouTube? How do we create an engaging service for distracted, bathrobe clothed people watching in their kitchens while eating breakfast?

"No church remains like it was at the beginning of 2020. We have more technology and fewer members. The good news is that churches have been amazingly adaptive. The bad is that they've been despairingly conflicted. As a clergy coach and guide, most of my work now is helping them sort through options as they try to move the church forward.

"I've been offering a very clear response: you can't go back. You can only build back. It's as though we've all been devastated by a hurricane, an earthquake, or a condo collapse. Relationships have been frayed, worship services have been disrupted, education has been decimated, trust in authority and each other has eroded. Our post-pandemic world is mentally and spiritually like a war zone after a truce. Where to start? What do we do?

"I'll share some of the guidance I've been giving pastors:

"Emphasize building back rather than returning to normal. Share with leaders and members that the church's recovery is much like rebuilding after a hurricane, earthquake, or collapse. Get them thinking about how to rebuild intentionally. Talk about building back better. In building back after a disaster, few restore things to what they were. Most try to make improvements. Almost all churches now have an upgraded digital presence both through video and websites. Lead your church to become a hybrid church that holds onto what was good while embracing what can be better.

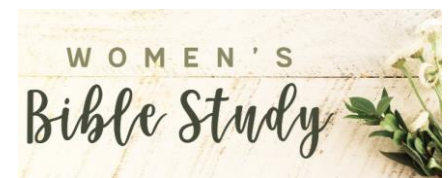
"Start small and basic. The tendency after a disaster is to get back to the same level of activity, but the reality is that that capability is gone. We need to start where we are, not where we were. Don't be in a hurry to return, especially to what wasn't working, but do think about what can be done. Start small and build up. This is a chance to rethink things and do them better.

Standish adds, "Reconsider the pastor's position description. I've been encouraging all pastors to talk with their boards, councils, sessions, or vestries about rethinking their roles as pastors. For the past 50 years more and more has been piled onto the pastor's plate. Originally pastors focused on preaching, teaching, and worship. Then they became responsible for visiting. Then they became the main evangelizers. Soon they were responsible for developing small



## **Let's Keep Coffee Hour Brewing!**

Volunteers are needed to ensure coffee hour continues every Sunday from 10:00–10:30 a.m. Coffee and treats provided, or you can bake/buy your own. Please choose a date on the sign-up sheet located in the kitchen. Thank you!



All are welcome to join a women's Bible study in the Chapel on **Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is asked to wear a mask. Led by Bea Heid. Future meeting dates and times will be decided.

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discipleship group programs. They became more and more like a corporate CEO or organizational executive director. They've been tasked with leading the congregation to become more missional. The pandemic has forced them to become technology wizzes. In the process no one's advocated for taking things off the pastor's plate. Most pastors are past the breaking point. So, whether it starts with a personnel committee, a task force, or the board, it's time to talk about what needs to be taken off the pastor's plate and shared with the congregation. This reflects a reality I faced 25 years ago: I realized that I could focus on visiting or on leading, but I couldn't do both. We re-envisioned my position so that the laity did more visiting, which allowed me to focus on leading. We did it again 10 years later to allow me to spend more time writing books and speaking across the country as part of a mission of our church. The key is having honest conversations about what is realistic for pastors and engaging in a process to restore pastors to what's realistic.

Standish advises, "Talk with members about the need to move forward. Whether it's through newsletters, videos, a congregational letter, or sermons, let the congregation know that this pandemic wasn't the first time the church faced an upheaval. Christianity is a religion that's thrived through so many catastrophes and upheavals (think of the early church growing despite persecutions, attacks from barbarian tribes, the Renaissance, and the Reformation). Remind them that God doesn't call people backward, but always calls them forward."

The challenges and changes brought by the pandemic won't be the last our congregation will face. But they can be opportunities to make changes for the better. God continues to call us forward, trusting Him in new things even when we'd rather retreat into what was once comfortable and familiar.

As we prepare for Reformation Sunday this week, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the battle-cry of the reformers, "the Church reformed, and always reforming," sounds as needfully as ever. Just as the Spirit of God has led God's people through the ages, God will see us through today. All we need is the faith, the willingness, and the imagination to follow where the Savior leads. I look forward to the conversations, the prayer, and the discernment ahead of us, and am glad to have all of you to share the journey.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Ryan

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Hanging of the Greens will be **Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Join us as we decorate the church for the Christmas season. All are welcome and asked to bring cookies to share. Please notify the office if you plan to help.

### **UPCOMING USHERS:**

#### December 2021

Clint Shurtliffe  
Amber Lind  
Rick Gathman

#### January 2022

Bill Roll  
Ann Roll  
Eric Schmidt

#### February 2022

Bill Snyder  
Dave Shrom  
Craig Harley

\*If the month isn't convenient for you, let the Office know. If you will be absent one week, please find a substitute.

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

### November Birthdays

- 1 Bill Shutt
- 2 Emma Heid
- 3 Molly Graver
- 4 John Tirpak
- 6 Beth Shutt
- 9 Abigail Gilger
- 11 Lisa Stancavage
- 12 Wayne Samuelson, Josh Tirpak
- 14 Joe Santorine
- 17 Ashley Cox
- 18 Sarah Reif, Tom Rich
- 19 Jim Apple, Lucy Kalcich
- 21 Matt Rishell
- 27 Karen Miller
- 28 Marianne Barlett, Hannah Kraus
- 30 Shirley Grose

### November Anniversaries

- 7 Larry & Marian Fletcher
- 12 Darryl & Janine Fisher
- 20 Mark & Leslie Temple
- 24 Cliff & Nina Leshner



### Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30

This year our annual Thanksgiving dinner will be offered for pick-up or local delivery only on **Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 12:30**. Reservations for meals will be required and orders must be received by Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to reserve a meal for pick-up or delivery, please call 570-524-4419 and leave a message with your name, phone number and number of meals to reserve. Pick-

up will be at the entrance on Cherry Alley behind the church. Masks are required as well as following social distancing guidelines. A sign-up sheet for donations and volunteers is located in the narthex. Please consider volunteering your time or making a food or monetary donation to cover the supplies needed.

## Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week is coming up quickly – always the third week in November. This year that is Monday, November 15 – Monday, November 22. So glad that many empty shoeboxes have been picked up



**NATIONAL  
COLLECTION  
WEEK**

**NOV. 15-22**

from the Parlor so far. Remember, if you would like boxes but cannot get to the church, I would be glad to bring them to you. Also, Build A Box Online is another fun and easy way to pack a box if you have computer access. The link to that site is:

<https://build-a-shoebbox.samaritanaspurse.org/view/562cbbdd-7619-4e93-8298-0d19b3bec5ce>

**Packed boxes can be dropped off at the back entrance to the church at the following times:**

Monday, Nov 15	11:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, Nov 16	4:00pm – 7:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 17	11:00am – 2:00pm
Thursday, Nov 18	4:00pm – 7:00pm
Friday, Nov 19	11:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, Nov 20	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, Nov 21	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Monday, Nov 22	9:00am – 11:00am

Sign-up sheets to volunteer are located on a table in the Parlor or call Alice Marquart at 570-522-0973 or email [alicemarquart@gmail.com](mailto:alicemarquart@gmail.com).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

In His Service,

Alice Marquart  
Drop-Off Coordinator  
Susquehanna Valley Area Team  
Phone: 570-522-0973  
Email: [alicemarquart@gmail.com](mailto:alicemarquart@gmail.com)



# First Presby Kids News

NOVEMBER 2021

*"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault." James 1:5*

**Volunteer with us!** Our First Presby Family includes so many young children. And we offer those children many opportunities to grow their faith. We need volunteers in all areas of Children's Ministry – **Sunday School, Nursery, Kids Church, and First Friday!** Contact Corey Jusko to learn more or to sign up!

**Sunday School!** Class meets every Sunday at 9:00am. Children 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade meet in the **BLUE** room. Grades 4 through 6 meet in the **PURPLE** room. Come see us in the Education Wing!

**Nursery is OPEN!** The nursery remains open, staffed with loving volunteers. The nursery is open for our youngest members from birth through age 3 and is open during Sunday school from 9:00 to 10:00 and again at 10:30 through the worship service.

**Kids Church!** We meet every Sunday, except the last Sunday of the month. Kids Church is available for kids age 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Children are dismissed from the sanctuary immediately following the Children's Message.

**First Friday @ First Presby – November 5, 5:30-8:00!** Join us for a Packing Party! We've been collecting items for Operation Christmas Child since Vacation Bible School in August. Now it's time to pack the shoeboxes and prepare to send them all over the world! Children 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Kids will create personalized crafts, take part in packing and praying over the boxes. Pizza will be served for dinner. Volunteers are welcome!



**First Friday @ First Presby – December 3, 5:30-8:00!** Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday! We'll decorate the Great Hall with paper chains and ornaments. We'll play birthday games and have cake and ice cream. It's all in preparation for the best season of all – Christmas! Children 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and adult volunteers are welcome!



**Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA**

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

[firstpresbykids@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbykids@gmail.com)