

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.

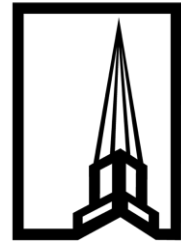
This year October 31st, Halloween, falls on a Sunday. (Don't worry, I am not about to invite you to dress up as your favorite Bible character for church that morning!) What I do encourage you to do is remember that this is also Reformation Sunday. In case your church history is a little rusty, here's the story behind it.

"In the 16th century – 1517 to be exact, all across Europe, the Roman Catholic Church was engaged in one of the greatest fundraisers in all of history.

If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church (called "Indulgences") promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or for others who had already died.

There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time. And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LEWISBURG, PA

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 1

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

Sunday, October 3

10:30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Thursday, October 7

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

October Meetings

Tuesday, October 5

7:30 p.m. Missions Meeting

Tuesday, October 19

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

October Ushers

Ken Jusko

Peg Bouton

Wayne Samuelson

November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church's calendar.

The day before All Saints, a German Catholic priest named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral.

Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. **Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy.

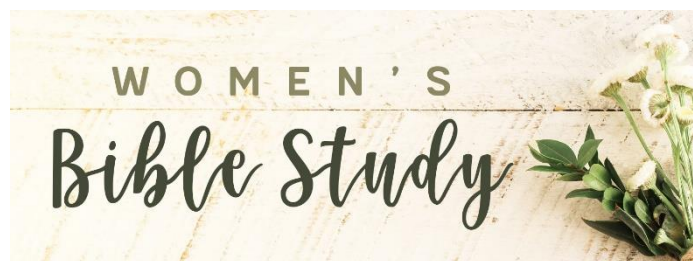
His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn't go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants. Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.”¹

As descendants of those original Reformers, we celebrate that everything we do for God is in response to his amazing mercy and love for us. God frees us so that we can worship, serve, and live for Him! Or, as John proclaims, “We love, because He first loved us.” | John 4:19.

May God's joy over you overflow, and may you know the peace and joy of Jesus Christ in all you do!

Pastor Ryan

¹ <https://sojoy.org/reformation/>



All are welcome to join a women's Bible study in the Chapel on **Wednesday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is asked to wear a mask. Led by Bea Heid. Future meeting dates and times will be decided.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

October Birthdays

2 Ian Cavanagh, Audrey Collins,
Bonnie Troxell
3 Jody Zimmerman
4 Melanie Brown
8 Matt Kalcich, Betty Veening
9 Dede Gronlund, Jack Temple
10 Dave Miller, Alexandra Remmey,
Bill Roll
12 Paul Tarves
15 Richard Barlett
17 Howard Stoelting
18 Dan Wagner
26 Charlie Heid
28 Amelia Collins, John Jones
29 Marsha Tarves

October Anniversaries

1 Bill & Beth Shutt
5 Dan & Kim Wagner
15 Tony & Alison Collins
18 Rusty & Karen Graber, Tom &
Marilyn Gresh
26 Paul & Karen Miller



Sunday, October 24th, we will celebrate Harvest Home by collecting food items for the Presbyterian Home in Williamsport. They are in need of #10 cans of fruits and vegetables, flour, sugar, coffee, pasta, rice, etc. Our gifts will be dedicated on Sunday, October 24th during the worship service. Please call the office if you'd like to drop off your donations during the week.



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!

**USHERS FOR 2021 & 2022
BEGINNING OCTOBER 2021**

Please note when you are assigned. If the month isn't convenient for you, let the Office know. If you will be absent one week, please find a substitute.

OCTOBER

Ken Jusko
Peg Bouton
Wayne Samuelson

NOVEMBER

Matt McTammany
Randy Storm
Steve Mebius

DECEMBER

Clint Shurtliffe
Amber Lind
Rick Gathman

JANUARY

Bill Roll
Ann Roll
Eric Schmidt

FEBRUARY

Bill Snyder
Dave Shrom
Craig Harley

MARCH

Paul Miller
Richard Erdley
Victor Vogel

APRIL

Mark Temple
Terry Light
Ryan Graver

MAY

Dan Wagner
Bill Black
Brent Papson

JUNE

Rob Guissanie
Sharon Pierce
Mark Reif

JULY

Dave Thomas
Katie Mebius
Jessie Walsh

AUGUST

Jon Walz
Ray Walz
Tom Gresh

GOOD NEWS ... GREAT JOY!!!

Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week will be here before you know it – November 15 - 22. I have gone shopping for most of the things I will pack in my boxes ... I got the school supplies during the Back-To-School sales, but I still need to get some toys and hygiene items. Remember when you are packing - no toothpaste or candy (due to increasingly strict customs regulations to many of the countries) and never anything liquid. The requested donation toward shipping remains \$9.00.

What a great way to share the love of Jesus with a child who may never have received a gift of any kind. Each box is distributed through church-based organizations. A story booklet, "The Greatest Gift of All", is included in each box, translated into the child's own language.

If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, I would be glad to try and answer them or help you find the answer. Call me at 570-522-0973, email alicemarquart@gmail.com or leave a message in the church office, 570-524-4419. Sign-up sheets for the Collection Process will be ready soon. I hope you will consider volunteering in some way.

Alice Marquart – Drop-Off Center Coordinator

TWO MISSION/WORK OPPORTUNITIES

**Eastwick, PA
(Philadelphia Area)**

Damage from Isaias over a year ago

October 11 – 15, 2021

Leader: Clair Kline

570-374-4481

clairsally@verizon.net

SKILLS NEEDED

Drywall

Painting

Finish Carpentry

**COST – Contribute Toward
Transportation and Food**

**ACCOMODATION – Salt & Light
Church – nearby**

Jersey City, NY

(Northeast New Jersey)

Damage from Ida a few weeks ago

October 24 – 30, 2021

Leader: Doug Orbaker

570-768-6436

dougorbaker@yahoo.com

SKILLS NEEDED

Willingness to work, lift

**Tear out water damaged areas in
three churches**

**COST - Contribute Toward
Transportation and Food**

**ACCOMODATIONS – Nearby Church
with kitchen, shower facilities**

These mission trip opportunities are through the Presbytery of Northumberland. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ryan.



THE HIMMELREICH LIBRARY

AND CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTER "THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW"

At the time of Himmelreich's 88th anniversary, the Union County Journal published a special article. I include excerpts here:

"William D. Himmelreich, by leaving the sum of \$30,000 to the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of constructing and stocking a library, managed to construct for himself a more enduring memorial than philanthropists of other places and times who bequeathed hundreds of thousands of dollars for the same purpose."

"...Himmelreich was that rare species, a legend in his own time, known for his good works, personal courage and honesty. After his death in 1897, at the age of 55, there were many sincere tributes published. An indication of this bachelor Sunday School teacher's standing in the community is the fact that almost the entire front page of the Lewisburg Saturday News of October 30, 1897, is devoted to the news of his death and the accompanying tributes of his friends. It was his Sunday school class of young ladies that inspired him to found the library."

"Get a lot of books, strong, full of meat..." Mr. Himmelreich instructed.

Himmelreich's desire was to get books for children and youth first. He began purchasing books on his frequent business trips to various cities. "In 1893, new tables and book cases were ordered and installed in the church Sunday school rooms as well as comfortable arm chairs and rockers for the convenience of the young readers." "By 1910, the new library was open to the public but remained true to Himmelreich's ideal of presenting a collection of books around the central, most important book, the Bible."

The article ended with a notice that there would be a planning and visioning session for the next five years of the library. I plan to attend a similar meeting this evening. I'm grateful that over a hundred years later the vision of the Himmelreich to promote Biblical learning and have the resources to do so is still in place. I invite you to come to the library, read the rest of the story and enjoy the resources we continue to offer.

Barb Yorks, head librarian



First Presby Kids News

October 2021

“Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”

Joshua 1:9 (NIRV)

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 3rd 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 to 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 3rd grade. Children are dismissed from the sanctuary immediately following the Children’s Message.

First Friday is back! It’s a time for worship, learning, creating and playing and, of course, PIZZA! First Friday is open to kids in our community, ages 3 through 5th grade. We will hold two more in 2021 – **November 5 and December 3, 5:30 – 8:00 pm.**



Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA

Director of Children’s Ministry

Corey Jusko

firstpresbykids@gmail.com