

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 word “Presbyterian” comes from a Greek word found throughout the New Testament (Matthew 26:57, Acts 15:23, I Timothy 5:17, and Revelation 4:10 are just a few of the places it appears). Translated “elder,” it forms the basis for how we understand the church is led and governed. Our Book of Order, part of our church’s constitution, says it like this,

“The Church’s ministry is a gift from Jesus Christ to the whole Church. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills, exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of God’s new creation. Christ’s ministry is the foundation and standard for all ministry, the pattern of the one who came “not to be served but to serve” (Matt. 20:28). The basic form of ministry is the ministry of the whole people of God, from whose midst some are called to ordered ministries, to fulfill particular functions. Members and those in ordered ministries serve together under the mandate of Christ.

*“The Church’s ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are **Deacons and Presbyters (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders)**. Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church.” (Form of Government, G-2.0101-2)*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LEWISBURG, PA

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 2

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

Friday, December 3

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

Sunday, December 5

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

Sunday, December 12

11:45 a.m. Congregational
Meeting

12:00 p.m. **Christmas Luncheon
and Play**

Friday, December 24

7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. **Christmas
Eve Services**

Saturday, December 25

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Christmas Dinner To Go



December Meetings

Tuesday, December 21

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

December Ushers

Clint Shurtliffe
Amber Lind
Rick Gathman

For this reason, each year we elect members to lead our church – some for ordination to the offices of Deacon and Ruling Elder, and some to serve as Trustees. We trust these men and women to seek Jesus’s will for this congregation, and to model Jesus’s priorities and values as they make decisions about our services, our programs, and our resources.

Following worship on December 12th, we will hold a congregational meeting to elect the next classes of Deacons, Ruling Elders, and Trustees to three-year terms on those boards. Our Session’s Nominating Committee does the work of asking God who among us has the gifts to, “fulfill these particular functions,” and then asks those who do if they are willing and able to serve. That meeting will also include the Session’s presentation of our 2022 annual budget. And that will be followed by our Christmas Luncheon and Program in the Great Hall – so plan to stay and enjoy all of it!

I ask that you be in prayer for our church – that those whom God calls will step forward in faith, and that God will make his vision for our mission and ministry clear in the year ahead. We are blessed, with much to enjoy, and much to do for the kingdom of God!

Peace to you,
Pastor Ryan

First Presbyterian Church Officers:

Term Expires 2022:

Session

Marcia Thomas
Ryan Graver
Dave Shrom
Kathy Storm

Deacons

Amber Lind
Glenn Dobbs
Ann Miller
Karen Ishii

Trustees

Katie Cavanagh
Tom Rich
Randy Storm

Term Expires 2023:

Session

Steve Mebius
Bonnie Troxell
Victor Vogel
Jessie Walsh

Deacons

Kristen Mebius
Ann Roll
Nancy Steckel
Sally Vogel
Kim Wagner

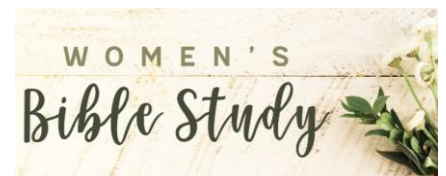
Trustees

Bill Black
Craig Harley
Dan Wagner



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, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is asked to wear a mask. Led by Bea Heid. Future meeting dates and times will be decided.

Nominated Officers to be voted on Dec. 12th at the Congregational Meeting*:

Term Expires 2024:

Session

Mark Temple

Deacons

Janine Fisher
Paul Miller

Trustees

Ken Jusko
Tom Neilson

Alternates: Drew Wright (Session), Barb Taggart (Deacons)

Nominating Committee Members: Craig Harley, Gene Heid, Karen Ishii, Ann Roll, Kathy Storm, Mary Kay Torretti

*Votes will also be counted through mail-in ballots for those worshipping from home.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

3 Erik Temple
4 David Han
6 Cole Temple
8 Jackie Wottrich
10 Gail Ross
16 Jim Friery, Kristen Mebius
18 Calvin Reif
20 Amy Tirpak
23 Marguerite Santorine
28 Brent Papson



December Anniversaries

12 Kirk & Paige Kerstetter
18 Ben & Courtney Remmey
29 Rich & Amy Cooper, Dale & Mindy Lind



UPCOMING USHERS:

<u>January 2022</u>	<u>February 2022</u>	<u>March 2022</u>
Bill Roll	Bill Snyder	Paul Miller
Ann Roll	Dave Shrom	Richard Erdley
Eric Schmidt	Craig Harley	Victor Vogel

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

It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths!

Beginning on Sunday, December 12th, lovely Christmas poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary. A 5-7 bloom poinsettia plant costs \$12.00. Ordered poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve services.

Christmas wreaths will adorn our church doors during the Advent season. Six \$50.00 sponsors are needed to cover the cost of the wreaths.

Order forms can be found on the table at the east end of the narthex. To order a poinsettia or wreath, please include your payment along with the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office by **Sunday, December 5th**.



Join us **Sunday, December 12th** following worship and our congregational meeting for an all-church Christmas lunch and program. Everyone is invited to attend. Ham, salad, rolls, beverages, and place settings will be provided. Last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring a main dish casserole and last names beginning with N-Z are asked to bring a dessert to share. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, December 5th by contacting the office.

Saturday, December 25th from 11:30-12:30

This year our annual Christmas dinner will be offered for pick-up or local delivery only on **Saturday, December 25th from 11:30 – 12:30**. Reservations for meals will be required and orders must be received by Tuesday, December 21st. 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 will be available in the narthex. Please consider volunteering your time or making a food or monetary donation to cover the supplies needed.



Operation Christmas Child 2021

Another National Collection Week is over and what a blessing that so many children around the world will be given the opportunity to hear about the love of God and be able to learn about Jesus. Each shoebox is a “Gospel



Opportunity” that is distributed through churches in over 100 countries around the world. Each child that receives a box also receives a booklet in their own language entitled, “The Greatest Gift of All”, with colorful Bible stories.

The Lewisburg Drop-Off Location here at First Presbyterian Church collected 3036 shoeboxes that were transported via a very large tractor trailer provided by Keith Erdley and also driven by him. His Dad, Richard Erdley, was a star volunteer this year ...watching over that truck, helping to load it along with several great volunteers from our congregation and riding down to the Central Drop-off Location at Emmanuel Bible Fellowship in Sunbury. (I am told by my Team Members down there that he also helped unload our shoeboxes from one truck to another.) Richard and Peg also stopped in most every day and helped us collect and pack boxes as needed. A huge thank you to the Erdley family.

Shoeboxes collected from our congregation totaled 103 and they were added to those at the Central Drop-Off. In turn they transported 20,780 shoeboxes collected from the five-county area to the Processing Center in Charlotte, NC. Thank you, everyone, for your participation.

Please pray for the safe arrival and distribution of all these gifts to children in many countries.

In His Service,

Alice Marquart, OCC Volunteer



A special thank you to Cathleen Stenglein and the amazing team of volunteers that prepared around 200 Thanksgiving meals – especially since they only had reservations for 127! The calls kept coming, and, amazingly, they didn't have to turn anyone away. What a blessing to our Church and community! Thank you to everyone for your donations of time, food, and extraordinary effort in making this meal a huge success!



“The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

It's Christmastime! We have so many exciting things happening in December for the children of our congregation. We hope these events and activities will inspire a beautiful, thoughtful and purposeful Christmas season for your families!

Sunday School, Nursery, and Kids Church continue through the month of December, following our usual schedule:

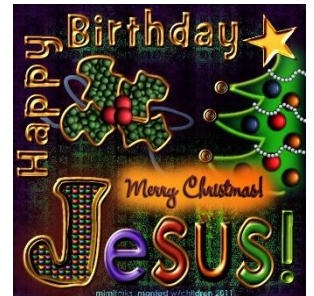
9:00 – 10:00 Sunday school in the education wing

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee hour in the Great Hall

10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary

*There will be no Sunday school on Dec 26

First Friday @ First Presby – December 3, 5:30-8:00! Join us for a birthday celebration for the star of the Christmas season – Jesus Christ! Children age 3 through 5th grade are welcome. Kids will make Christmas ornaments, decorate the Great Hall, and play birthday games, all while learning about the real reason for the season. Pizza will be served for dinner. Volunteers are welcome!



Congregational Christmas Luncheon - Sunday, December 12 following the worship service and congregational meeting. All are invited to attend. Enjoy Christmas fellowship with our congregation and a touching Christmas program. More details to come.

Christmas Eve Family Service - December 24 @ 7:00 p.m. Our family-friendly worship service will set your heart on the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ and the hope we have in Him.



Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

firstpresbykids@gmail.com

December Youth Newsletter

Even without a full-time youth director, we are blessed to have amazing volunteers in our congregation to fill that role during the interim and maintain connections with our local youth. Brent Papson and Rob Guissanie organized the youth's annual "Friendsgiving" Dinner held on Wednesday, November 24th in the parlor. Matt Rishell was even able to join from England via Zoom.



From The Himmelreich Library

Last Sunday, November 28, was the first Sunday of Advent. This special season ushers in the new church year. It is a time of preparation, reflection and slowing down. This last option seems antithetical to our usual approach to Christmas. Starting with Black Friday (or even before) we accelerate our shopping, partying, decorating...the list goes on. On Christmas Eve we talk about there being no room in the Inn but for the month of December there seems to be no room or time for considering the coming of Jesus.

I love the days leading up to Christmas. I enjoy drinking hot chocolate and gathering lights and ornaments to decorate our tree. I enjoy a variety of Hallmark specials (although I refuse to start in October watching their Christmas offerings). I join with family and friends in making Christmas cookies. My December is active and full. But I think it's vital to capture the intention and journey of Advent. I invite families to make or attain Advent wreaths and gather for family devotions. The library has an Advent calendar where each day we'll open a new window. You can be part of this process as well. I urge you to spend time each day reading God's Word and meditating on the coming of Jesus. God went to great lengths to show His love for us. May we give a small gift of our time back to Him by slowing down and preparing for His Son anew.

A great place to pause and reflect and even get great resources for preparation and rest is the Himmelreich! Please stop by!

Blessings,

Barb