

# The First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg

18 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

www.first-presby.org T: 570-524-4419

Sunday Worship: Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.

I don't know why Tuesday's shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas hit me so hard, but it has. You'd think, with such frequently-repeated exposure to so many mass-shooting events—at churches, schools, and grocery stores—that the shock would wear off or diminish. I think it's because we're right at the end of the school year—when everyone, especially students, are celebrating their academic achievements, when teachers are breathing a sigh of relief, when families are looking ahead to summer trips and time together—that the deaths of 19 children and 3 adults, their lives violently cut short, makes this senseless act too terrible to brush aside.

Part of me wonders what, if anything, we can do about it.

As the details of this tragedy emerge, like information about the particular weapons the shooter used, my initial suspicions were confirmed. Arms and equipment modeled after what Soldiers carry into combat were used for what they were designed for: inflicting as much bodily harm as efficiently and reliably as possible. And yet, our laws allow for anyone simply qualified to cast a vote to legally purchase, train with, and transport these weapons and the military-grade ammunition they fire.

Estimates of the number of firearms in American hands range around 400 million. (That's greater than our nation's total population.) One out of three Americans owns a firearm. (I'm one of them.) Who ought to have one, and what kind, and how many, and what quantity and types of ammunition to go with it, sparks fierce debate, raising issues as far-ranging as the intent and meaning of our Constitution, the right to self-defense, a deep mistrust of government, and fear of our fellow citizens. I know thoughtful, Christian people who stand on both sides of the



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

LEWISBURG, PA

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, June 2**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner By the River**

**Sunday, June 5**

9:30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

**Sunday, June 19**

10:30-Noon **Strawberry Festival**  
in the Great Hall

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY**

**Monday, June 27-July 1**

9:00 a.m.-Noon **Vacation Bible  
School**

## June Meetings

**Thursday, June 2**

7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

**Tuesday, June 7**

7:00 p.m. Session Planning  
Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, June 21**

7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

## June Ushers

Rob Guissanie

Sharon Pearce

Mark Reif

pro-gun regulation/pro-gun rights divide, who are equally concerned about issues of safety and about our children's collective future.

Another part of me wonders how someone, like the Uvalde shooter, becomes so soul-broken that they actually commit such a heinous and reprehensible act. Dark thoughts will pass through anyone's mind in times of despair or great stress, but how those thoughts become plans and plans become preparations, which progress to execution—without anyone taking notice, without anyone being close enough to the shooter to see what's coming and intervene—indicates a crisis of loneliness and isolation which endangers us all.

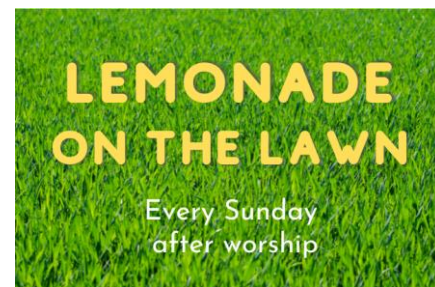
We have the means and ability to connect with one another like no other generation in human history, and yet our rates of anxiety and depression and suicide are rising, especially among young people. Combine this with wide availability and easy accessibility to the tools of violence, and it's not surprising that the frequency of mass shootings keeps on rising too.

I know from experience that this latest school shooting will soon fade from my newsfeed, and then from my attention. And maybe forgetting is just our mind's way of helping us move on from what is otherwise an incomprehensible and irreplaceable loss. But whether we're thinking or reading or praying about it or not, our nation is drowning in violence, and we can expect events like these will keep on happening. If anything, we ought to feel some surprise that it hasn't happened here.

If you've read this far, I suspect that you've had some kind of reaction to what I've shared. I know we may not agree on what actions should be taken, but I'd love to talk and pray with you about it anyway. Because if all we do is sigh and shake our heads, and turn our attention to happier things, then we have guaranteed that we'll be here again, and likely soon.

God bless those who grieve. And may God bless us, as we struggle to understand, as we argue over these issues together, and as we find the courage and resolve to change. In Jesus' name. And for His children's sake.

Pastor Ryan



Volunteers are needed beginning June 5<sup>th</sup> to ensure Lemonade on the Lawn continues every Sunday on the east lawn immediately following our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Lemonade and pretzels are provided. Please choose a date on the sign-up sheet located in the parlor. Thank you!

#### **UPCOMING USHERS:**

##### **July 2022**

Dave Thomas  
Katie Mebius  
Jessie Walsh

##### **August 2022**

Jon Walz  
Ray Walz  
Tom Gresh

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



### STRAWBERRY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Our annual Strawberry Festival will be held on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30-12. We will be serving homemade cakes, fresh sliced berries and ice cream in person in the Great Hall. We hope you can join us! Since the festival falls on Father's Day this year, we will also be giving a special gift to all the dads who attend the festival.

Take-out orders will also be available- these should be ordered ahead of time- before June 13<sup>th</sup>. Place your take-out orders by calling Alison at the church office 570-524-4419. Take-outs can be picked up during the Festival and

will consist of a pan of shortcake and unsliced berries.

We are asking for cake donations of shortcake, angel food, pound cake or brownies. If you can help with these, please call April Shrom 610-405-4066 or email [shroms@uplink.net](mailto:shroms@uplink.net). Cakes can be dropped off at the church Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> or Sunday by 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds from the Strawberry Festival will benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Frederick, MD this summer.

**JUNE Giftcard Drive!**

ANY AMOUNT APPRECIATED! \$\$\$

union county giving closet

target Walmart OLD NAVY KOHL'S

**WE NEED GIFTCARDS**  
TO HELP PURCHASE ITEMS FOR CLOTHING REQUESTS.  
NEW OR PARTIALLY USED ACCEPTED!

DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE SUNDAY OFFERING PLATE OR DROPPED OFF DURING SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY BETWEEN 9 AM & NOON.

Questions???. Please contact Alison Collins at the church office at 570-524-4419 or [ucgivingcloset@gmail.com](mailto:ucgivingcloset@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook [@ucgivingcloset](https://www.facebook.com/ucgivingcloset).

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

### June Birthdays

- 1 Nicole Jarrett, Matt McTammany
- 3 Hunter Grimes
- 5 Paul Simington
- 6 Isaac Kraus, Liz Einsig-Wise
- 7 Malcolm Arter Jr., Cindy Jones
- 10 Heather Creighton, Donna Ward
- 11 Rusty Graber
- 12 Eric Gilger
- 14 Gene Heid
- 17 Rick Gathman, Bea Heid
- 18 George Koons
- 19 Alison Collins
- 20 Chelsea Stanton
- 22 Collin Papson
- 24 Jessica Heid
- 25 Sarah Friedberg
- 27 Euan Griffith, Maryn Grimes
- 28 Jonny Miller
- 29 Clara Chiboroski

### June Anniversaries

- 2 Ryan & Lisa Kraus
- 7 Eric & Bonnie McDowell, Rick & Lisa Stancavage
- 8 Jim & Marilyn Zaiser
- 10 Dan & Katie Cavanagh
- 12 Joseph & Karen Gallagher
- 17 Bill & Karen Black
- 20 Mark & Amie Reif
- 22 Joe & Caroline Campagna
- 23 Patrick & Heidi Decosmo
- 25 Victor & Sally Vogel





“Whoever believes in me...rivers of living water will flow from within them.”  
*John 7:38 (NIV)*

## ***Programming for children from birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade!***

**Sum-sum-summertime!** Sunday school might be out for the summer, but we still have plenty of opportunities for fun and learning for the kids!

### **Sunday schedule is now:**

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Lemonade and pretzels on the lawn following the service

**Nursery care is available** for children from birth through age 3. The nursery is open for the duration of our Sunday morning worship service. Adult supervision is required if no volunteer is assigned.

**Kids Church is open** to children from age 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Kids' Church meets every Sunday\* immediately following the Children's Message. This summer we're doing a deep dive into the Lord's Prayer! Why do we say it? What does it mean?

\* On the last Sunday of every month we honor Family Sunday. All children age 4 and up are encouraged to stay and participate in our full worship service. However, we know that can be challenging for some of the littles, so our Himmelreich Library volunteers have graciously offered to host story time after the Children's Message for children ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

### **DON'T MISS IT...**



### **Vacation Bible School – June 27-July 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Make Waves with us as we learn that what we do today can change the world around us. Kids age 3 by June 1 through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to attend. Email Corey for more information and to register!

### **Follow us on Facebook @ FirstPresbyLewisburgPA**

Corey Jusko

Director of Children's Ministry

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

# FIRST PRESBY YOUTH NEWS



## Youth Group Q & A

Calling all parents, youth (grades 5-11), and those interested in being youth volunteers - Join Lisa for a casual time of conversation to share your ideas and learn more about hers for Youth Group here at First Presby.

**When?** You choose the date that fits your schedule from those below and just contact Lisa and let her know when you're coming (email [firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org](mailto:firstpresbyyouth@first-presby.org) or text/call 716-989-1884).

## CHOOSE FROM

**Monday, June 6**      **Wednesday, June 8**  
**Tuesday, June 14**   **Thursday, June 16**

The time will be **6:30-7:30 pm** each night and we will meet at the manse (14 Market St).



It's not too late to sign up for the **High School Summer Mission Trip to Frederick, MD, July 24-30, 2022**. This is for ANYONE ages 14-20. We have **12 spots** available. The cost is \$200 (scholarships are available if there is a need). **The ABSOLUTE deadline to sign up is Sunday, June 19.** Please

get your name (and your friends' names) to Lisa or Pastor Ryan ASAP. Questions, just ask!

## JUNE YOUTH GROUP DATES

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 5**

5:00-6:30 pm Middle School Youth

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 12**

#### **Team Scavenger Hunt**

5:00-6:30 pm Middle School Youth  
7:00-8:30 pm High School Youth

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 19**

Help with the Strawberry Festival  
10:30 am-12:00 noon  
ALL AGES - Middle and High school

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

High School Hang-out  
7:00-9:00 pm

### **MON-FRI, JUNE 27-JULY 1**

Help with VBS, 9 am -12 noon

## JULY YOUTH GROUP DATES

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 6**

7:00-9:00 pm High School Movie Night

### **SUNDAY, JULY 10**

#### **Team Hide 'N Seek**

5:00-6:30 pm Middle School Youth  
7:00-8:30 pm High School Youth

### **FRIDAY, JULY 15**

Food Bank Bag Distribution  
ALL AGES - Middle and High School

### **SUNDAY, JULY 17**

5:00-6:30 pm Middle School Youth  
7:00-8:30 pm High School Youth

### **SUN-SAT, JULY 24-30**

High School Mission Trip  
Frederick, MD

## From the Himmelreich

The Bible is God's story. Contained within are many individual narratives. Jesus uses stories to illustrate vital truths. God's Word offers adventure, challenge, wisdom, compassion, love... framed in beautiful life experiences.

As librarian at the Himmelreich I have the privilege of access to the Bible in many versions. I also am surrounded by numerous books, videos and CD's which offer modern day illustrations of how ordinary persons live out God's directives. Please join me in the library and read of modern heroes, struggling seekers, wandering travelers and conquering persons of faith.

Blessings,

Barb Yorks, Head Librarian

### Operation Christmas Child: Item of the Month



For the month of May, we will be collecting small toy balls and trucks in support of Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to donate any of these items to be packed in the shoeboxes for OCC, please place them in the collection box located in the parlor. As in previous years, we will be collecting different items each month. It is a fun way to get a jump start on shoebox packing for November!



### Position Opening for Church Custodian

We are currently looking for someone to fill the position of Church Custodian. The duties include cleaning of the church building and library and possibly light maintenance as well. The position is part-time 15-20 hours /week, hourly wage without benefits. The start date would be as soon as possible. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact the Personnel Committee via the church office.



It is our hope and prayer that as a church we can encourage and provide some assistance in the effort to promote our students to attend Christian Summer Camps. Every child that has some involvement in our church is eligible to receive a \$100 scholarship to attend the Christian camp of their choice. Please contact the office ([info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org)) to request a scholarship

application form.

## Message from the Session

### Church Entrance Update

After careful consideration, the Session approved increasing the security and safety of our church building by adding electronic locks to the three main exterior doors used for entrance. These include the blue double doors which allow entrance to the Sunday School wing and main elevator from both Cherry Alley and Market Street, and the single blue 'mail' door at the top of the ramp on Market Street (on the river-side of the church).

These locks will be programmed to open during designated events (i.e. Sunday mornings, Dinner By The River, Choir rehearsal, Youth Group, etc.) and automatically secure after the event, eliminating the need for manual locking. An electronic key or 'fob' will be issued to all active church Officers (Trustees, Deacons, and Session) and church Staff. These allow entry to the church at any time. A video-intercom system located outside each of the exterior doors will allow anyone else (members or visitors) to request entry during and after office-hours via communication with the church staff or designated backup. Instructions will be posted by the intercom. Church members who would like a fob can obtain one through an application available in the church office.

We believe this change allows for easier access for both members and visitors, while also providing increased security for those inside the building. The new lock system will be installed in mid-July and go into effect once training is completed. More information will be available in the narthex and upon request from the church office.