



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

Shining the light of the gospel into the heart of Lewistown since 1785

December 17, 2017

**Christmas Cantata:
Hallelujah! Light Has Come**



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

17 EAST THIRD STREET
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
Telephone: (717) 248-4561
lewistownpresbyterian.org
Pastors: James Thomas and Robert Zorn

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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heart of Lewistown since 1785

Advent Week Three

December 17, 2017

10:30 AM

Prelude Christmas is Here Wood
Christmas Medley Rinehart

Welcome and Announcements

Introit Angels We Have Heard on High Braman
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Call to Worship Luke 2:8-15

Leader: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

People: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Leader: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

People: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Choir: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Leader: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

People: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

* **Hymn #106** (red)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

* **Greeting of Peace**

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Chorus

*O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship – for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify prays, "Father forgive."
3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Graham Kendrick © 1986 by Kingsway ~ CCLI #1881909

Advent Candle Lighting

Unison Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to understand and receive the great news of our Savior's birth. May the joy that fills our hearts overflow so that we share it with others as generously as you have shared it with us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Children's Choir

Come On, Ring Those Bells!

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Traditional

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Christmas Cantata

Hallelujah! Light has Come

Prophecy

Bethlehem Calls
Let There Be Light

E Carswell & D Cline
S Krippayne & M Reynolds

Adoration

Glory in the Highest
Changed By a Baby Boy
A Celtic Christmas
Hark! The Herald Angel Sing
He is Born, the Divine Christ Child
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

C Tomlin, M Redman, D Carson
G Gaither
Arr: Lari Goss

Invitation

Love Came Gently
O Come, Be Born Again

M Funderburk
J Martin

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Infant Holy, Infant Holy
* Doxology #572 (red)
* Prayer of Dedication

Martin

*** Carol #124**

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

*** Benediction**

*** Closing Chorus**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain;
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain;
That Jesus Christ is born.*

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Smith

**If comfortably able please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit: LPC Bell Choir; Doug Garner, Director

Special Music: LPC Kids' Choir; Leah Riden, Director

Liturgist: Miranda Shoop **Next Week:** Alex Garner

Acolyte: Bailey Cullen

Advent Candle Lighting: Bruce and Barbara Nielsen

Next Week: Pat and Rachel Brown

Children's Sermon: Pastor Jim Thomas

Next Week: Ginny Westover

Cantata: Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, director

Ushers: Bill Sisson (lead usher), Don Pecht, Pam Pecht, Vicki Pecht, Miranda Shoop, Jeff Glendye

Children's Church: Leah Riden

Next week: Ginny Westover

Infants/Preschool: Karissa Zagurskie and Jimmy Zagurskie

Next week: Pam Pecht and Vicki Pecht

Deacon for the Month: Lynn Curry

Counters: Maryann Haines and Dave Noss

Next Week: Kari Cullen and Bill Sisson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Bag in the narthex. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers. Childcare through age four is available throughout the service. Children's church is available for children age 5 – grade 4 following the children's sermon.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS today are given by Pastor Jim and Devon Thomas in deep gratitude for our music ministries. We are blessed to have a wonderful choir director in Doug Garner and excellent accompanist in Joan Loewen. We are also blessed to have outstanding bell and choral choirs for both children and adults. To God be the glory!

BACKYARD MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNERS: Each bag will need to contain: 1 can of corn, 1 can of beans, 1 box of stuffing mix, 1 box of instant potatoes and 1 gravy packet. If you can collect these items, please place them in the box marked "Backyard" in the narthex. **TODAY** is the deadline.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: "Happy Birthday Jesus!" is our musical this year. The children have been working hard on this for a couple months and are very excited to present their program! Please plan to come back to the sanctuary this evening at 6 PM for this entertaining and very meaningful presentation. You are also invited to come ahead of time at 5 PM for a potluck dinner in the Baraca Room downstairs.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HELP NEEDED: Our Christmas Day Luncheon for our friends and community will be held from 11:30-1:00 on Monday, December 25 in the Baraca Room. We need your help to make this a meaningful blessing for those who attend. Please sign up in the narthex to help with clean up/set up, serving or donating cookies. There are opportunities available to help on Christmas Day as well as at other times.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

- **Adult Sunday Morning Study** meets in the church parlor on Sundays at 9 AM. Our current study is "Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born; Hope is Here."
- **Youth Sunday Morning Study:** All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! The group meets on the third floor at 9 AM.
- **Sunday Afternoon Study** meets on the first Sunday of each month in the parlor, following the worship service.
- **Tuesday Evening Group:** We will take a break for Christmas. There will be no meetings December 19, 26 or January 2. We will resume January 9.
- **Wednesday Morning Group:** This group meets at 6:30 AM on Wednesday at the manse and is led by Pastor Jim. This week, the group will be having a breakfast meeting at the manse since our most recent study has been completed. The group will not meet on the 27th but will resume on January 3 with a new study: "The Forgiveness of Jesus," a Deeper Connections study edited by Matt Williams and featuring professors from a number of Christian colleges and seminaries illuminating the parables and actions of Jesus.
- **Sunday Evening Group** meets from 6:00 – 7:15 PM at the manse (108 N. Brown St.) The group will not be meeting this evening so that group members can attend the children's program. The group will not meet on December 24 so that members can attend the Christmas Eve service. Regular meetings will resume on January 7, at which time they will complete Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem."

YOUTH GROUP:

- **No meeting:** There will be no Youth Group meeting this Sunday or next so that youth can enjoy the Children's Christmas program this evening and Christmas Eve service next week.
- **Community Luncheon:** The youth group is responsible for the community luncheon on Sunday, December 31. Please plan to help out.
- **Christmas Party:** The youth group Christmas Party will be held after the community luncheon on December 31. Please bring a small, inexpensive gift for a white elephant exchange. Pick up time at the church is 3:30 PM.

NURSERY SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:

Children whose parents are members of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church and children now in Nursery School are offered an opportunity to register before the rest of the community. Registration forms can be picked up at the church office or call 248-4561 to request that a form be mailed to you. Registrations are accepted in the order in which the completed form and \$15 registration fee is received at the church office. **The deadline is Wednesday, January 3, 2018.** After that date, any remaining openings will be available to others.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: Youth in grades 6 and above (who have not yet become church members) and their parents should have received letters this week inviting the youth to confirmation classes, which will run from January 7 through May 6 from 9 – 10 each Sunday morning. Those who wish to join the church will meet with the session on May 10 and be received by the congregation on May 13. If you are or know of someone who may be interested but who did not receive an invitation, please call the church office.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church will be held on February 4 (note change from previously publicized date). Reports for the Annual Report are due by January 19.

UNITY SERVICE: Plans are underway for a service of Christian unity to be held in place of our regular worship service on January 21. The service will be held in conjunction with a number of other local churches and will be held at the Mifflin County Middle School auditorium.

PRAYER GUIDE

December 17, 2017

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music...." – Psalm 98:1-4

Pray for our Community, Nation and World

Our Community

- Those struggling with addictions, and their loved ones
- Marriages and other relationships in crisis
- Solutions to the opioid epidemic
- Meaningful and healing Christmas celebrations
- For those who are grieving during the holidays
- The upcoming Christian Unity service

Pray for our Church:

Our People and Ministries

- In gratitude and celebration for Rachel Brown who is graduating today from West Chester University
- For visitors to join us and to find a spiritual home here
- Our ongoing Natural Church Development process
- The upcoming leadership retreat
- For unity, openness, honesty, and commitment
- For the Holy Spirit to enliven us to God's presence

Those in the Military

- O1/LT Allison (Harklerode) Conforte: Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
- SPC Ian Shelly: attending Millersville University
- BM3 Tyler M. Earnest: 68 Peary Street, Pier #2 Newport, RI 02842
- SFC William Corson: 17836 Upland Dr SE, Yelm, WA 98597
- SGT John Dietz: PSC 560 Box 481, APO, AP 96376
- SSGT Tyler Treaster: 7294 Puckett Dr, Neroes Manor, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547

Those Battling Cancer

- Blain Hackenburg: stage 4 lung cancer
- Mike Macchiaverna: recently diagnosed with leukemia
- Levi Foltz: 2-year-old with a tumor
- Joyce Nicholas: liver and lung cancer

- Brad Siddons: undergoing preventative chemo treatments
- Barb Stahl: completed all chemo treatments and declared to be cancer free, yet still dealing with chemo side-effects
- Gina Eargle: undergoing treatments
- Alex Pierce: 17-year-old who had tumor in chest
- Neil Knable
- Jim Marthouse: ongoing recovery from marrow transplant
- Harold Miller: cancerous tumor
- Jennifer Elder: young mother battling a brain tumor

Other Health Concerns

- Pat Brown: in a brace for broken vertebrae after a fall
- Taleea Sholey: 12-year-old who recently underwent successful surgery to remove a mass on her brain
- Brian Primozich: young father battling a rare kidney disease
- Franklin Moist: recovering at William Penn after a fall
- Keri Corkery: young woman who had a stroke
- Shannon Lower: received a double lung transplant
- Naomi DeBello: 14-year-old with congenital heart issues
- Rich Harper: adjusting well to MS treatments
- Mary Barger: strength & courage following a stroke
- Shirley Ferguson: chronic pain and limited mobility

Those in Care Facilities

- Valley View: Mary Lou Ingram, Jack Irrgang
- William Penn: Frank Moist
- Ohesson: Etta Majestic, Mary Barger
- Shirley Home (Shirleysburg): Carl Knepp
- Hearthside (State College): Mary McClellan
- Berry's (Oakland Mills): Doris Hoverter

Our Mission Partners

- Leah and Francis Daytec in the Philippines
- Shelter Services providing hope and help to the homeless in our community
- Backyard Ministries sharing the gospel with children
- Adventures in Mission and BuildinGuate and their work with the people who live in the dump near Antigua, Guatemala
- Veraso family beginning new ministries in West Philadelphia
- The LUMINA Center as they reach out to area children
- Miranda Shoop as she works at the LUMINA center

Our Families of the Week

- Todd and Johnette Jones
- Don and Donis Zagurskie

**POINSETTIAS IN OUR
SANCTUARY THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON
HAVE BEEN DONATED**



In Loving Memory of:

- **Paul & Melissa Lehman**, by Bruce & Barbara Nielsen
- **Charles & Dorothy Nielsen**, by Bruce & Barbara Nielsen
- **Bob Notestine**, by Lois Notestine
- **Emma Greenwood**, by Rev. Robert & Carol Zorn
- **Ella Taylor**, by Rev. Robert & Carol Zorn
- **Louise Koller**, by Rev. Robert & Carol Zorn
- **Bradford G. Brown**, by Pat & Rachel Brown
- **Church family**, by Donis & Don Zagurskie family
- **Stacy Stimely Burd**, by Donis Zagurskie
- **Our Parents**, by Dan & Cathy McClenahen
- **Robert Bowman**, by his wife, Nancy Bowman
- **“Coach” Bob Bowman**, by his Loving family
- **Grandparents, Theodore & Alice Hirakis**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **Uncles Emanuel, Milton, George & Ted Hirakis**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **Marcia Fleming Hirakis**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **Leonard & Jean Zagurskie**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **Grandparents, Woodrow & Gertrude Fleming**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **John H. Ferguson**, by Shirley & Susan Ferguson
- **Emily Gould**, by Susan Ferguson
- **Jeffrey Smith**, by the Smith Family
- **Mother Charity Spickler**, by Carolyn Sims
- **Adam L. Earnest, Jr.**, by Bob & Jean Patton
- **Blanche Narehood**, by the Narehood Family
- **Anna Kitty Packer**, by Saturn, Mikey & Austin Wirrick
- **Anna Kitty Packer**, by Venus, Benjamin & Chris Shade
- **Anna Kitty Packer**, by Jean Clark and April Paige
- **Peggy & Whitey Shilling**, by Ed & Lynn Curry
- **Harriet & Jack Curry**, by Ed & Lynn Curry
- **Carl & Audrey McCurdy**, by Jack, Karen & Ali McCurdy
- **Jerry Carruth**, by Jack, Karen & Ali McCurdy
- **Mr. & Mrs. John W. Miller**, by Jane Mauery
- **Linda Benner**, by Jane Mauery

- **Our parents, Rev. Dick & Marie Oostenink; and Stan & Marie Fisher**, by Ken & Ruth Fisher
- **My friend, Dr. Dan Creighton**, by Ken Fisher
- **Rev. Bruce Hinderliter**, by his Family
- **Richard (Bud) Dixon**, by Joyce Dixon
- **Our Parents**, by Larry & Janie Welshans
- **Elizabeth & John Belfiore**, by Art & Pauli Belfiore & family
- **Jeanne & George Saylor**, by Art & Pauli Belfiore & family
- **Aunts Doris Rhoades & Marjorie Caldwell**, by Art & Pauli Belfiore & children
- **McClintic & Ruth Aitkin**, by Harold & Gerri Aitkin
- **Edward & Georgia Chapman**, by Gerri & Harold Aitkin

And in Honor of:

- **John Irrgang**, by Pat & Rachel Brown
- **Rachel Brown**, by Pat Brown
- **Ginny Westover**, by Pat Brown
- **Sherri Powell**, by Pat Brown
- **Our Family**, by Larry & Linda O'Dell
- **Church family**, by Don & Donis Zagurskie family
- **Family & Friends**, by David Noss
- **Doug Garner & the Choir**, by Dan & Cathy McClenahen
- **Joan Loewen, our organist**, by Dan & Cathy McClenahen
- **Donald Hirakis**, by Don, Donis, Zoe, Ciaran, Karissa & Jimmy Zagurskie
- **Susan Ferguson**, by Shirley Ferguson
- **Children's Choir**, by Bob & Jean Patton
- **Children & grandchildren, Tara, Rob, Margo & Bo, and Wade, Maxi, Jack & Lily**, by Ed & Lynn Curry
- **Our Family**, by Jack, Karen & Ali McCurdy
- **Children Tim, Jenn & Tracey**, by Ken & Ruth Fisher
- **Susan, Callie, Chris, Simon, India, Philip & Andy**, by Phyllis Hinderliter
- **Our Choir**, by Larry & Janie Welshans



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 17 – December 24, 2017

TODAY, December 17

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Open House @ the manse
- 5:00 PM Pot Luck Supper
- 6:00 PM Children’s Musical

MONDAY, December 18

- 11:30 AM Prayer Ministry
- 6:00 PM Joy Seekers
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, December 20

- 6:30 AM Small Group Study @ the manse
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 10:30 AM Worship Service – Lessons and Carols
- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion

If you would like to schedule a meeting or event at the church, please call the church office so that we can avoid conflicts and properly publicize church related events.

A number of 12 Step Groups meet in the church building throughout the week. If you or someone you know is interested, call the church office or check the listing at the Third Street church entrance for a list of meeting times.

GIVING REPORT AS OF 12/10/17

Weekly Need: \$ 3,265.14	YTD Need: \$ 162,502.32
Last Week: \$ 3,237.00	YTD Received: \$ 162,027.46