

A Service of Lessons and Carols

* **Opening Hymn #109** (red) Once in Royal David's City

Lesson 1 – Bill Sisson Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

God created humanity for relationship with himself and with each other. Their relationships were good and free from guilt or shame.

* **Hymn #398** (red) In the Garden

Lesson 2 – Olivia Smith Genesis 3:1 – 15

Human disobedience and mistrust led to separation between God and people. God promises that a son of humanity will destroy the power of sin and Satan.

Carol #100 (red) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lesson 3 – Dale Henry Genesis 22:1 – 18

Abraham foreshadows God's sacrifice of His Son, God provides a Lamb for sacrifice and promises that through Abraham all on earth will be blessed.

Children's Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Lesson 4 – Jimmy Zagurskie Isaiah 11:1 – 10

Isaiah tells of the ultimate reign of the Promised Messiah who will abolish oppression and warfare, and establish unchallenged justice, righteousness and peace for all eternity.

Anthem Let there Be Light Krippayne/Reynolds

Lesson 5 – Leah Noerr Luke 1:26-35, 38, 46-55

The angel announces to Mary that the time for the Messiah's arrival has come – and that she will be his mother. Mary rejoices!

Solo

Mary, Did You Know?

Lesson 6 – Lisa Snyder

Luke 2:1 – 20

Mary's baby, the Savior of the world, is born in Bethlehem and placed in a manger. Angels appear to shepherds to tell them the glorious news.

* **Carol #113** (red)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lesson 7 – Riley Cullen

Matthew 2:1 – 12

Magi, who had seen a star announcing the Messiah's arrival, follow the signs and prophecies to find him. When they do, they present him with prophetic gifts.

Giving our Gifts

Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lasky

* Offertory Prayer

* Doxology #592

* **Song**

Christmas Offering

1. Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star,
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar,
Hoping to find the child from Heaven.
Falling on their knees,
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus

*I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due.
O Lord, I bring an offering to you.
I bring an offering to you.*

2. The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love.
There is no shadow in your presence.
No mortal man would dare to stand before your throne.
Before the Holy One of Heaven.
It's only by your blood,
And its only through your mercy, Lord, I come.

Paul Baloche, © 2003 by Integrity Music ~ CCLI#1881909

- 1) In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

- 2) In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

- 3) There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

- 4) No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Lesson 8 – Devon Thomas

John 1:1-18

God, our Creator, has come to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Light of the World, reveals God and creates the way for us to become children of God.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Unison Prayer

God of love, we are humbled by the magnitude of your sacrifice for us. Guide us to live full assurance of your love. And, as you pour your love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, let it generously overflow so that we love others as you love us. In Jesus name, Amen.

* **Carol #106** (red)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Lesson 9 – Paul Olbrich

Colossians 3:1-17

*Because we are redeemed from the darkness of sin,
we should live as citizens of God's Kingdom –
demonstrating God's love and goodness to the world
and putting aside all sinful thoughts and habits that
separate us from God and from each other.*

Ordination and Installation of Officers

* **Hymn #103** (red)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational Closing #120** (red)

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Smith

* *If comfortably able, please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit: Children's Bell Choir; Leah Riden, director

Anthem: Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, Director

Soloist: Miranda Shoop

Liturgist Tonight: Alex Garner **Next Week:** Sue Garner

Acolyte: Bailey Cullen

Advent Candle Lighting: Maggie and Leland Creighton

Children's Sermon: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Sue Garner

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

Children's Church: Ginny Westover

Next week: Sue Garner

Preaching Next Week: Rev. Zorn

Infants/Preschool: Pam Pecht and Vicki Pecht

Next week: Linda O'Dell and Alex Garner

Deacon for the Month: Lynn Curry

Counters: Kari Cullen and Bill Sisson

Next Week: Lisa Snyder and Pat Brown

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.

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.

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 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. 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 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."

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.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church will be held on February 4. Reports for the Annual Report are due by January 19.

YOUTH GROUP:

- **No meeting:** There will be no Youth Group meeting this evening so that youth can enjoy the Christmas Eve service.
- **Community Luncheon:** The youth group is responsible for the community luncheon on Sunday, December 31.
- **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.

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.

POINSETTIAS: If you purchased poinsettias you may take them home after the service today or this evening after the Christmas Eve service.

2018 ENVELOPE BOXES - Your offering envelopes are in the narthex (back of the church). Please take yours with you today. If you do not need them or if you would like to use Bill Pay to make your contributions to the church, please see Susan L. Ferguson, Treasurer after church or contact the church office.

THE GREEN CHRISTMAS envelope offerings will be used to provide funding for the Nursery/Preschool Program.

GIVING REPORT AS OF 12/17/17

Weekly Need:	\$ 3,265.14	YTD Need:	\$ 165,767.46
Last Week:	\$ 2,677.00	YTD Received:	\$ 164,704.46

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 24 – December 31, 2017

TODAY, December 24

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

MONDAY, December 25 Merry Christmas!

11:30 AM Community Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, December 31

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
10:30 AM Worship Service

PRAYER GUIDE

December 24, 2017

"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake."

~Robert Louis Stevenson

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
- Comfort & strength for those who grieve during the holidays
- The upcoming Christian Unity service

Pray for our Church:

Our People and Ministries

- For visitors to join us and to find a spiritual home here
- Our ongoing Natural Church Development process
- Confirmation Classes as they begin in January
- The upcoming leadership retreat February 2 and 3
- For unity, openness, honesty, and commitment
- For the Holy Spirit to enliven us to God's presence

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
- Neil Knable
- Jim Marthouse: ongoing recovery from marrow transplant
- Harold Miller: cancerous tumor
- Jennifer Elder: young mother battling a brain tumor

Other Health Concerns

- Charlie Warfel: at William Penn for rehabilitation
- Jim Leister: recovering from hip surgery after a fall
- Pat Brown: in a brace for broken vertebrae after a fall
- Brian Primozych: young father battling a rare kidney disease
- Franklin Moist: recovering at William Penn after a fall
- Keri Corkery: young woman who had a stroke
- George Cockerill: undergoing tests for heart issues
- 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 who are unable to leave their homes

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 in Care Facilities

- Valley View: Mary Lou Ingram, Jack Irrgang
- William Penn: Frank Moist, Charles Warfel
- 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
- 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
- The Veraso family transitioning out of their full-time role with Adventures in Missions and seek other employment.
- The LUMINA Center as they reach out to area children
- Miranda Shoop as she works at the LUMINA center

Our Families of the Week

- Doug and Michelle Knudson
- Andrea Wolfkiel

2018 SESSION COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The session, along with the pastor, provides primary leadership of church. Session responsibilities are coordinated by the following committees. Please feel free to committee members with any questions, commendations, or concerns:

Christian Education: Facilitates spiritual growth through classes, small groups, and special events. Coordinates Nursery, Children's Chat and Children's Church volunteers; oversees Youth Group, Small Groups, Sunday School, VBS, Traveling Day Camp and other programs, working closely with the Christian Education Coordinator. Elders are Susan Ferguson and Leah Riden.

Worship and Music: Works with the pastor to provide and facilitate meaningful worship services. Oversees choirs and choir directors, supervises ushers, coordinates acolytes and liturgists, arranges special music. Elders are Sue Garner and Cole Cullen.

Property: Maintains and improves church buildings and properties in order to facilitate effective ministry; supervises custodial and security staff and serves as official liaison with outside groups who use our building. Elders are Carole Auker, Dave Noss, and Glenn Snyder.

Stewardship: Oversees and directs financial and personnel resources, supervises the church treasurer, provides stewardship education, recommends and oversees budget, oversees endowment funds and special offerings. Manages all paid personnel. Elders are Lonnie Griffith, Lisa Snyder and Ruth Fisher.

Fellowship: Facilitates spiritually edifying relationships within the church body, provides funeral lunches, organizes receptions, and meals for other events, oversees the church kitchen, provides opportunities for church members to get to know each other and deepen relationships. Elders are Bill Sisson and Ruth Fisher.

Preschool: Facilitates and directs the work of the Lewistown Presbyterian Preschool and Nursery School; establishes curriculum in conjunction with teachers; reviews teacher performance; oversees school finances, including scholarships; encourages congregational support and relationships with students' and families. Elders are Tara Reeder and Leah Noerr.

Mission and Evangelism: Inspires and facilitates the church's outreach to the community and to the world by determining mission budget, maintaining relationships with mission coworkers, representing the church in the community, and organizing member participation in hands-on mission. Elders are Amy Smith and Karen McCurdy.