



THE PANORAMA

The Newsletter of
The Lewistown
Presbyterian
Church

FEBRUARY 2018

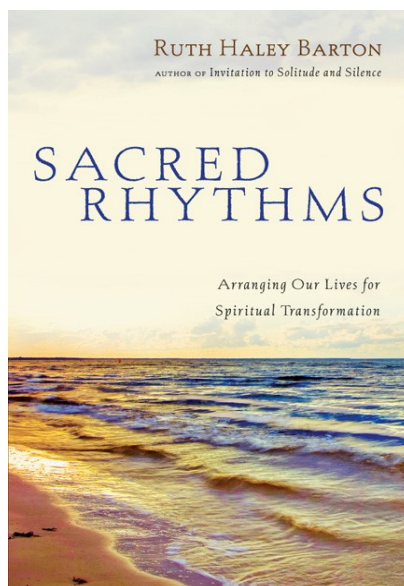
PASTOR'S PAGE

From Pastor James Thomas

I am excited to introduce our all-church Lenten study, Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton. Barton founded the Transforming Center (www.transformingcenter.org) to help Christians grow closer to God and experience God's presence. She is a spiritual director, teacher, retreat leader, and author of numerous books. Sacred Rhythms is a DVD curriculum based on a book by the same title in which she "provides guidance for you and your group in a way that links the disciplines of the Christian faith to the most compelling desires of the human soul."

As you probably already know, the results of last spring's Natural Church Development survey indicated that our greatest need for growth as a church is in "Passionate Spirituality." NCD research indicates that "the important thing is not a church's style, but the degree to which faith is actually lived out with commitment, passion, and enthusiasm. This is what sets growing churches apart from non-growing ones... The secret of passionate spirituality is (a) to develop a threefold orientation of being based on the Word, directed by the Spirit, and focused on the world, and (b) to bring these three dimensions into balance." Please note that this is not about style. It need not change how we do

things, but it should change why we do things. Passionate Spirituality is about our hearts. The old acting question, "What's my motivation?" is the question we are being encouraged to consider. We desire to develop a deep, passionate motivation to love and to serve God. We believe that this is what will lead us to the next stage of church health.



The needed change cannot occur just through learning or through effort. It calls for transformation of our hearts. Talking (or preaching) alone about growing a relationship is not very effective in building our walk with God. The key to spiritual transformation is through practice of the spiritual disciplines.

Disciplines are exercises that must be experienced in order for them to have their desired effect. To that end, we have invited a spiritual director to our session retreat at Camp Krislund on

February 2 and 3 to guide your leadership in not only learning about God's presence in our lives, but seeking to experience God's presence and direction for us. We have the same goal in presenting Sacred Rhythms as our Lenten study for the congregation. This curriculum is not just about learning, but also about experiencing the disciplines described. In each lesson, Barton directs participants to practice what she has taught.

PASTOR'S PAGE (continued)

From Pastor James Thomas

The back cover of the Sacred Rhythms Participants Guide describes the study:

"Drawing on the imagery of the natural rhythms of the created order, Sacred Rhythms explores the practices that spiritual seekers and growing disciples have used throughout history to grow closer to God. In a similar way, the disciplines of the spiritual life are the basic components of the rhythm of intimacy that feeds the soul, keeping Christians open and available to God's surprising initiative in their lives."

I suspect that this may create some discomfort for some. Modern Presbyterians are not well known for our openness to "God's surprising initiative!" We like things to be orderly and controlled. However, Christians throughout the centuries have nurtured their relationship with God using the disciplines we will be studying and practicing through Sacred Rhythms. History is rich with accounts of even the most Reformed of believers who have experienced God not just in their minds but also deeply in their hearts through spiritual practices. These practices have great value to our souls and to our capacity to faithfully experience and follow God. We deprive ourselves of something wonderful when we ignore them.

Please be assured no-one will be forced to do anything they do not wish to do. Each participant will be encouraged to engage at their own comfort level. By design, the disciplines are varied because people are varied. Some practices might prove to be exceptionally meaningful for you and not very meaningful for someone else. Something else may seem silly to you, but will be deeply meaningful for someone else. Willingness to join the journey is the key to success, even though the exact journey will be different for different people.

Our Creator made us for relationship. Our Lenten focus last year was on our relationships with each other. This year our focus is on relating to God. Jesus himself defined eternal life in a prayer to the Father: "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3) In Greek there are two words for "know." The first is *oida* which means knowing about something. The second is *ginosko*, which is the word used here. It expresses a different kind of knowledge which "implies an active relation between the one who knows and the person or thing known... *oida* expresses the fact that the object has simply come within the scope of the

'knower's' perception." *Ginosko* is a relational word. In using this word, Jesus stated that we are to live in relationship with God.

Our Lenten focus is designed to help us build our relationships with God. Sermons and worship services through Lent will focus on the themes of Sacred Rhythms. But participants will not receive the full benefit of this study without practicing the disciplines. We are offering a number of small groups in which participants will experience this curriculum together. Again, the design of this recognizes that each person is on their own journey, and there will be no judgment about where a person is on their journey nor about how well a person practices any of the disciplines. We will be discovering our own paths, but doing so together. The important thing in our relationship with God is not where we are, but the direction in which we are going. We want to create opportunity for each person to grow closer to God and we believe that Sacred Rhythms is a great way to do that.

Small groups will begin during the week of February 18, and run through Holy Week. The following small groups are being offered:

- ◇ 9 am Sundays in the Baraca Room
- ◇ 11:40 am Sundays in the church Parlor
- ◇ 6 pm Sundays at the manse
- ◇ 6 pm Tuesdays at the Hills
- ◇ 6:30 am Wednesdays at the manse

Please join us for this life-changing opportunity to experience God together!



THE WORK CONTINUES

Rev. Robert Zorn

At the time of this writing (mid January) snow covers the fields and forests of our valley. This is the first snow of the winter and it certainly changes the appearance of our landscape. Actually, in spite of the cold weather, the snow cover is welcomed. Now when we look out, we cannot see the stones that need to be moved or the leaves as yet un-raked or fallen sticks that need to be taken to the brush pile. In other words, the snow provides a good excuse to avoid the many outdoor chores that still await. So I can read, play computer games or watch TV without feeling guilty.

But second thoughts remind me that the tasks will still be there when the snow melts and spring comes. So instead of being lazy through these long winter weeks, I should be preparing for a new season. I could be building bird houses, sharpening tools and blades, tuning up engines, and pruning trees and bushes.

Does winter also give opportunity to excuse ourselves from church programs and activities? It seems easier to give into the temptation to be absent from meetings, classes and worship. Yet the work continues; and the church's mission remains. Let us continue to show forth God's love as we work and worship together.

Another advantage of the snow is that has enabled me to try out the cross-country skis for the first time since we have moved back to Treaster Valley. I slung the skis on my shoulder and trudged out to the nearby open field. I made my way laboriously to the top of the hill and removed the skis from my shoulder and placed them on the ground, pointing them generally in the direction I wanted to go. A little push and they began to slide side by side. The crunching sound they made soon became a whistle, and then a light whisper. Little curls of snow swirled behind them as they continued down the hill, through the gap in the fence row, and slowed to a gentle stop on the level by the road.

It was a beautiful "run." So I walked down the hill and picked up the skis and determined that the next time I would have the courage to RIDE them down.

Our church is going places this year. There is much more pleasure to be found as a participant, rather than as a spectator.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:24, 25



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 31**, (the day before Easter Sunday) and then invite a friend to join you on a thought-provoking and meaningful Easter journey. Kids and their families and friends will travel through five stations uniquely designed to encourage thinking and get families talking about the final events of Jesus' life here on earth. They will experience the excitement surrounding Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, the significance of the Last Supper, the darkness at Gethsemane, the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and the joy of His resurrection. Hands on learning with take home activities to continue your journey with Jesus at home. Walk with Jesus begins at 8:45 am and will conclude at 11:45. **Please Note:** Walk with Jesus will incorporate our traditional Easter Egg hunt so there will be no separate egg hunt this year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMUNIQUE

From CE Director, Ginny Westover

In our house, once the Christmas tree is undecorated and dragged outside, the transition to the next holiday is a smooth one. Snowmen remain on their shelves, pine greenery stays put, and surviving red poinsettias prepare the way for Valentine decorations. Add an assortment of red hearts, and voila! We're ready for Cupid! What we weren't ready for was the realization that the beginning of Lent and Valentine's Day occupy the same calendar date this year! Fortunately, there is still some time to get ready.

One of the common ways to prepare to enter Lent is to spend some time pondering what we will "give up" for the forty days leading up to Easter. Perhaps we can remake this idea this year, so that instead of looking for things to "give up" we can look for ways to "open up" space in our lives to draw closer to God.

As a church this month, we will begin a Lenten study called, Sacred Rhythms, designed to do that very thing: help us create space in our lives to enter into a deeper intimacy with God. What better time to begin to do this than during the days of Lent? Unlike the usually busy weeks of Advent, Lent offers a longer and more contemplative time to develop habits and practices that draw us closer to God. In her book, Ruth Haley Barton invites readers to experience a rhythm of spiritual practices that keep us open and available to the presence of God. I'm excited about this study, and look forward to growing together as a congregation Sunday morning under Pastor Jim's preaching and in small groups throughout the week.

The Youth and children will study the same subject, with a few variations. During our regular Youth group meetings on Sunday evenings, young people in grades 6-12 will use Stephen Smith's book, Soul Shaping, to give us practical wisdom and meaningful experiences for our spiritual journey. Clay and other media will creatively engage our hands and hearts.

Children in Jr. Church (K-5) will experience similar, age-appropriate lessons on prayer, listening to God's voice in the Scripture and Sabbath rest. Then each Sunday afternoon during Lent, from 4-6 PM, this same age group will meet on the third floor for Kidz Klub, a high energy, hands on, Bible-based time of FUN and LEARNING! This year we will journey to Jerusalem for the annual Feast of Passover! Along the way we'll make our own unleavened bread, prepare a Passover meal, and re-visit God's miracles in Egypt. By our last Kidz Klub, kids will have a greater understanding of God's work of redemption; how Jesus was the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world, and how our own celebration of Communion fits into that story. Supper is provided every night at 5:30 PM. Kidz Klub begins on Sunday, February 25. Be sure to look ahead and mark your calendar for the Easter family event, "Walk with Jesus" on March 31, and catch the details on another page of this Panorama (*see the bottom of page 3*).

An all-church pot-luck dinner at the Lumina Center will take place the first Sunday of Lent, February 18. The Christian Education Committee has chosen this time to invite a representative from Camp Krislund to come and explain the many opportunities Krislund offers our church, our families, and our children. We will spend the time from 4-6 PM enjoying food, each other's conversations, some family-friendly games, a sneak peek at Kidz Klub, and a presentation from Camp Krislund.

As you can see, there will be many opportunities to enter into and experience the weeks we call Lent. My hope and prayer for myself and all of us is that our observance of Lent will become more than just a seasonal exercise, and develop instead, into a lifestyle of purposefully ordering our lives for spiritual growth. Growth in our depth of love for Jesus and our depth of love for each other.

YOUTH IMPACT

COMING March 2-4 (Friday—Sunday) at the Harrisburg Hilton. This high-energy weekend of worship, speakers and special seminars is a highlight of many of our Youth. Please return registration forms and \$50.00 to Ginny by February 11.



LENT AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH



LENT

Lent is a period of fasting as a reminder of the steps and sacrifices Jesus took. Services begin with Ash Wednesday and end with Easter Sunday. Join our church family as we walk through Lent together. All events are at Lewistown Presbyterian Church in the Sanctuary unless otherwise listed.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14, 6:30 PM

Sunday Worship: Sundays, February 18 — March 18, 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25, 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29, 6:30 PM, meet in Baraca Room for light supper and communion, then go to the sanctuary for Tenebrae

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 1
7:30 AM Sunrise service at Mt. Rock Cemetery

Easter Morning: 10:30 AM Worship

Black History Month officially began being recognized starting as part of the 1976 United States Bicentennial. President Gerald Ford spoke urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." To help showcase some of these great accomplishments the choir anthems during the month of February come from the African American Traditions, namely spirituals. The term spiritual is derived from the term spiritual song, found in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Spirituals were originally taught in the oral tradition as there wasn't sheet music written to pass the music from generation to generation. Describing the hardships of slavery, many songs are expressions of Christian faith, while others are thought to contain instructions to fugitive slaves on how to avoid capture while on route to freedom.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

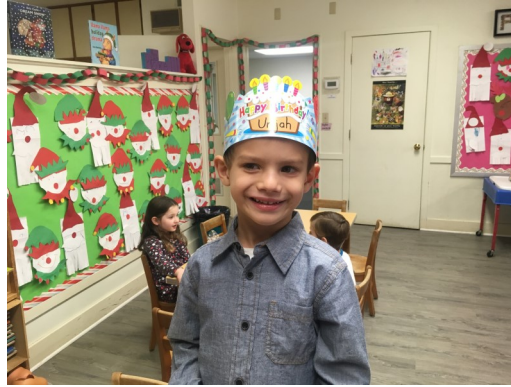
African American Spiritual
Arr. James Koerts



PRESCHOOL NEWS

From Ginny Westover, Assistant Teacher

The winter months may seem long and boring in some places, but not in the Nursery School and Preschool classrooms! Whether we're counting snowmen or marshmallows, or dancing like penguins, there's always lots of fun learning going on! Some new classroom toys added to the excitement; but to talk about those we'll need to re-visit December for just a bit.



During the month of December, Preschool classes put their individual and collective "thinking caps" on and exercised reasoning skill muscles for part of the first circle time. Each day the children took turns guessing the contents of a wrapped present. Some gift boxes were very small; some were pretty large, but each box contained enough for everyone. You could almost hear the brain cells working as the box passed to each child. Then came the lip pursing, eye scrunching, and brow furrowing process of deciding what was inside. Some sniffed the box, most shook the box; all stared intently, trying to determine the contents. "Shopkins" was a popular guess (but only a wishful answer) as was candy and tiny cars. The children got quite good at asking questions for clues (Can you eat it? Is it made of metal?, etc.). Our speech therapists got pretty good at making correct guesses! On the day of our Christmas party, two great big boxes appeared; one for the morning class and one for the afternoon. What fun it was to tear off the paper and find new cardboard blocks (morning) and a tent with campfire, hotdogs, marshmallows and roasting sticks! (afternoon) And what fun we have had playing with these new toys! Thank you, Berry family and Miss Miranda!

We returned to school after the holidays, happy to see our friends, eager to play, and excited to learn! Everyone had a chance to bring a favorite Christmas toy for show and tell. Even the most reserved child did a great job telling us who gave them the gift and showing us how they play with it. We (especially Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Westover) learned a whole lot about Hatchimals. Santa packed quite a number onto his sleigh it seems! The Spidey ball helicopter made a big impact (and not just on the ceiling), as did the ever-popular Barbie (Barbie the Equestrian, Barbie the Vet, and Barbie the Dreamcamper Driver). We all wished we had time to each take a ride on the red hopping donkey and try out the remote control tractor and Ninja skateboarder... And we all enjoyed petting the tiger (she purrs!) and listening to a harmonica solo. Entrance into

public speaking and being a good audience, deemed a success!

Who could have guessed that we would be drinking hot chocolate and "ice skating" (on paper plates) in sixty degree weather?! Eating ice cream helped balance our body temperature, though (thanks, Elijah!). We can count marshmallows in any weather; and practice a

whole lot more math while we're at it, too! Preschool children discovered who had an equal number of the spongy confections, who had less, and what a big number we get when we add everyone's together! (as an fyi, we vetoed the suggestion of seeing how many marshmallows could fit in a preschooler's mouth...)

We also practiced counting with snowmen; playing number recognition games and counting snowmen's buttons. When it came to Penguin day, rather than counting ice cubes we focused on "P" and other winter "p" words, like polar bear, parka and pinecone. We decided that parrots would freeze in the Antarctic; and even though popcorn and pretzels probably would too, they still might taste pretty good. The chocolate dipped, banana penguin "popsicles" were for sure a yummy snack!

All classes have been working on their names, whether it's recognizing them in places other than their mat, writing all but their first letter in lowercase or matching the beginning letter of their name with their name card. New dry erase boards have added to this learning process. Thank you, Mr. Curry! It has been wonderful to see all the progress!

Chapel time happens after the deadline for the Panorama article this month, but at story time, Pastor Jim read from the Storybook Bible and explained that baby Jesus, who we learned about at Christmas time, grew up and became a man. We learned that Jesus' cousin, John, told people that Jesus was the One who would take away the sins of the world. Some chose to follow Jesus, others did not. We've been talking a lot about making good choices in all of our classes, lately. Pastor Jim read about this same subject from a book called, Your Magnificent Chooser. He reminded us that learning to love and obey Jesus is the best choice we can ever make.

These paragraphs only begin to fill you in on all of the activities that have been happening in the school classroom this month! We might be settling in for a long (and erratic) winter, but you can be sure it will NOT be boring here!

PRESCHOOL PICTURES



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Our church ministries are led and facilitated by congregationally elected officers who are responsible for the various elements of our life and ministry. The Pastor (Head of Staff) works with the session to provide leadership of the programs and ministries of the church. The session is responsible for setting and maintaining the vision of our church through prayer and discernment as led by the Holy Spirit. Deacons are called to provide care to church members. Our Pastor of Visitation and Head of Staff both work with the deacons to facilitate and encourage their work. If you ever have comments or questions about an aspect of our work and ministry, do not hesitate to discuss them with an elder or deacon assigned to oversee the relevant part of our church. The following is a list of committee responsibilities and the elders assigned to each committee. Session committees are always open to new members! If you would like to serve on one of our committees, please contact one of the committee members.

SESSION COMMITTEES

Property

Assigned Elders for 2018: Carole Auken (chair), Dave Noss, Glenn Snyder

Function:

Maintain and improve buildings and properties owned by the church in order to facilitate effective ministry

Tasks:

Provide for the Care and Maintenance of Church Buildings and Grounds
Supervise Custodian and Security Staff
Official church liaison with Mt. Rock and Derry-on-Juniata Cemeteries
Official church liaison with groups who use the buildings (e.g.: 12-Step groups, Joy Seekers, Backyard Ministries, building rentals, etc.)
Official church liaison with Boy Scout Troop #4
Conduct annual manse inspection and report results to the presbytery

Christian Education

Assigned Elders for 2018: Susan Ferguson (chair) and Leah Riden

Function:

Facilitate spiritual growth through age-appropriate classes, groups, and events

Tasks:

Oversee Sunday School program, Vacation Bible School, Junior Church and childcare.
Recruit and schedule Junior Church and Sunday morning childcare volunteers
Schedule children's chat volunteers
Oversee and facilitate Vacation Bible Schools, including Krislund Traveling Day Camp
Oversee and support church youth groups
Oversee and facilitate confirmation classes
Provide adult education and adult small group opportunities
Provide Communion Education for children
Facilitate Lenten Kidz Klub and other special youth and family educational offerings
Coordinate and schedule Infant Nursery volunteers
Work closely with and oversee the Christian Education and Youth Coordinator

Worship and Music

Assigned Elders for 2018: Sue Garner (Chair) and Cole Cullen

Function:

Facilitate meaningful worship in cooperation with the pastor

Tasks:

Facilitate adult and children's choirs, and oversee choir directors
Arrange for special music during worship services from within or from outside the church
Schedule and supervise Lead Usher, ushers, and greeters
Provide for special observances within the liturgical year
Provide special music events such as concerts and recitals
Oversee and schedule liturgists
Oversee and schedule guest ministers
Appoint and oversee task groups to prepare and serve communion
Seasonal sanctuary decorating
Training and scheduling of acolytes

Continued on the next page

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Stewardship

Assigned Elders for 2018: Lonnie Griffith (chair), Lisa Snyder and Ruth Fisher

Function:

Oversee and direct (under session's authority) financial and personnel resources

Tasks:

- Provide Stewardship Education and encourage congregational giving
- Plan and recommend an annual budget for session approval
- Promotion and maintenance of Endowment Funds
- Oversee denominational special offerings
- Nominate to Session "President of Corporation" and "Secretary of Corporation;"
- Manage recommendations to Session
 - concerning investment of endowment funds
 - concerning financial seminars
 - concerning bequests
- Supervision of church treasurer, particularly regarding
 - Bill payment schedule
 - Monthly treasurer's report
- Conduct meetings of the Corporation of Lewistown Presbyterian Church
- Work to facilitate and maintain good and healthy relationships between the church and staff, between staff members, and between staff and committees
- Provide for staff meetings
- Establish and maintain job descriptions and conduct staff performance reviews
- Encourage the staff through appreciation dinners, gifts, etc.

Fellowship

Assigned Elders for 2018: Bill Sisson (chair) and Ruth Fisher

Function:

Facilitate spiritually edifying relationships within the church body

Tasks

- Provide opportunities for church members to get to know each other through large and small group dinners, pot luck meals, fellowship events, game nights, etc.
- Oversee and facilitate men's and women's ministries
- Develop and maintain programs that encourage fellowship and growth
- Organize trips that facilitate fellowship (games, plays, musicals, lectures, etc.) with particular focus on those that encourage spiritual growth.
- Provide opportunities to celebrate special events in the life of the congregation (staff anniversaries, church anniversary, new staff, celebration of volunteers, etc.)
- Provide receptions for recognition Sundays (e.g.: graduates, new members, etc.)
- Provide funeral luncheons
- Provide meals for special events (presbytery meetings, ministerial assn. services, etc.)
- Oversee coffee hours and lemonade on the lawn
- Monitor and order kitchen and serving supplies including paper goods

Nursery School/Preschool

Assigned Elders for 2018: Leah Noerr (chair) and Tara Reeder

Function:

Oversee, facilitate and direct the work of the Lewistown Presbyterian Nursery and Preschool

Tasks:

- Establish and maintain school curriculum in conjunction with the teachers
- Assist the Stewardship Committee in hiring new teachers
- Review teacher job performance and job descriptions, and maintain teacher contracts
- Establish tuition and fees in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee
- Oversee and distribute Scholarship Funds
- Establish and monitor the school's budget
- Encourage congregational support and knowledge of the Nursery School and Preschool and relationships with the students and their families
- Hold regular staff meetings with the teachers
- Coordinate school calendar with teachers including dates for orientation and graduation
- Update and distribute student handbook
- Provide opportunities for congregation to contribute to scholarship fund

Continued on the next page

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Mission and Evangelism

Assigned Elders for 2018: Amy Smith (chair) and Karen McCurdy

Functions:

Inspire and facilitate the church's outreach to the community and to the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage people to join and become involved in the work and ministry of the congregation

Tasks:

Determine mission-giving distributions
Overall mission support and education
Maintain regular two-way communication with our mission partners
Provide for and facilitate short-term mission trips for youth and adults
Publicity and advertising
Coordinate Community Luncheons
Coordinate participation in local outreach efforts such as the Faith Festival, Kid Connection, Safe Trick or Treat, CROP Walk and Relay for Life
Regularly update our church directory
Work toward church growth and renewal, including special programs
Work with pastor to provide new member classes
Track non-member participation and make invitations to church membership
Facilitate prayer ministries, including prayer meeting, prayer requests, and prayer chain
Coordinate the church's participation in the Community Christmas Project

BOARD OF DEACONS (current moderator: Gerri Aitkin)

Function:

To provide pastoral care to church members, particularly those in special need

Tasks:

Deliver flowers to shut-ins
Send cards to encourage those experiencing joys or challenges
Maintain regular contact with those on their care lists
Update care lists as needed
Provide help to those in special need
Occasional financial help
Provide and coordinate meals for those who are recovering or in need
Be aware of assistance providers in the area and make referrals as needed

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY

Children's Chat

4 Kari Cullen
11 Leah Riden
18 Lynn Curry
25 Annalise Haines

Liturgists

4 Daniel Garner
11 Alex Garner
18 Ruth Fisher
25 Olivia Smith

Counters

4 Lonnie Griffith and Ed Curry
11 Brad Siddons and Jack Wilson
18 Maryann Haines and Dave Noss
25 Lisa Snyder and Dale Henry

Deacon for the Month

Larry Welshans

Children's Church

4 Miranda Shoop
11 Leah Riden
18 Lynn Curry
25 Annalise Haines

Infants/Toddlers/Preschool

4 Susan Mowery & Riley Cullen
11 Leah Noerr & Margo Reeder
18 Diane Griffith & Jimmy Zagurskie
25 Cathy McClenahan & Alex Garner

Ushers

Dave Noss (lead usher)
Barbara Nielsen
Roger Barr
Larry & Linda O'Dell
Ken Fisher

Acolyte

Bailey Cullen

FINANCIAL REPORT

From Church Treasurer, Susan L. Ferguson

Lewistown Presbyterian Church					
End of the Year Report					
		Jan - Dec 2017		Budget	% of Budget
Income					
	BUDGETED INCOME	215,843.49		214,200.00	101%
	INVESTMENT INCOME	132,972.26		136,375.00	98%
Total Income		348,815.75		350,575.00	99%
Expense					
	BENEVOLENCE	26,923.03		30,000.00	90%
	MINISTRY OF THE WORD	105,149.81		107,309.84	98%
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	4,157.41		5,600.00	74%
	MUSIC AND WORSHIP	2,287.08		2,350.00	97%
	PROPERTY	57,510.97		43,803.00	131%
	ADMINISTRATION	30,072.44		28,907.25	104%
	PERSONNEL	88,272.12		90,947.89	97%
	FELLOWSHIP	1,800.20		1,500.00	120%
	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	0.00		550.00	0%
	PRESCHOOL	33,841.97		34,607.02	98%
	CAPITAL RESERVE	5,000.00		5,000.00	100%
Total Expense		355,015.03		350,575.00	101%
NET		(6,199.28)			

SESSION NOTES

A special meeting of the Session of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church was held 12/7/17, at 7:00 PM in the Baraca Room. The purpose of the meeting was the examination and reception of a new member and to approve the 2018 Budget and accomplished the following:

- Approved into membership of the church Ray Wilde by letter of transfer from the West Kish Presbyterian Church. Ray was welcomed during the worship service on December 10, 2017.
- Pastor Thomas led a time of devotions using 1 Timothy 3:14-16. Followed by sharing joys and concerns and a time of prayer.
- Approved the 2018 Budget including the 2018 Terms of Call to be recommended to the congregation.

The regular meeting of the Session of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church was held 12/14/17, at 7:00 PM in the Baraca Room and accomplished the following:

- Pastor Thomas led opening devotions using Isaiah 42:1-10, followed by a time of joys and concerns with prayer.
- Pastor Thomas led a time of officer training.
- Voted to approve the new officers. Elders: Ruth Fisher (2nd term), Leah Noerr, Karen McCurdy, Leah Riden and Lisa Snyder. Deacons: Zoë Finan, Doug Knudson, Miranda Shoop and Donis Zagurskie (previously ordained).
- The service of Ordination and Installation of new officers will be 12/24/17 during the 10:30 AM service.
- Approved Marnie Hart's request for use of the church for her wedding on 6/15/18 – Rev. Dr. Sam Andreades of the Faith Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lancaster will be invited to officiate.
- Received a thank you note from the Presbyterian Mission Agency for \$910.00 contribution for Hurricane Disaster Relief.
- Approved participation in a Service of Christian Unity to be held 1/21/18 at the Mifflin County Middle School with a number of other local congregations
- Changed the Annual Meeting to 2/4/18.
- Gave permission to observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Session Retreat
- Elected Karen McCurdy to serve as Elder Commissioner at the 1/27/18 at the State College church.

- Approved the purchase of Airphone LE-D Audio Door System through Vigilant Security, Inc. Funds to come from the Memorial Fund.
- Thanks were given to all those who participated in Keepsake Christmas Saturday which deemed a very successful event.
- Approved the use of the church for funeral services if ever needed by families who participate in Lumina programs or LPC children's programs.

The regular meeting of the Session of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church was held 1/11/18, at 7:00 PM in the Baraca Room and accomplished the following:

- Pastor Thomas led opening devotions using Ephesians 4:11-24, followed by a time of joys and concerns along with prayer.
- Elected Elder Ferguson as clerk for 2018.
- Acknowledged the deaths of Andrea Jean Wolfkiel who died 1/4/18 and Charles W. Warfel who died 1/9/18.
- Approved the request from Cora Beaver-Shelly to remove the Beaver-Shelly family from the church rolls.
- Received thank you notes from the church staff
- Agreed to participate in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days of Hope.
- Acknowledged the participation of 7 youth in the newly formed Confirmation Class.
- Agreed to move the January Deacons offering to 1/28/18 due to the Unity service.
- The All-Church Lenten Study using Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Bloom will begin in February.
- The installation of the security camera system will be accomplished this month.
- Approved Big Brothers/Big Sisters request to use the building for the committee meetings 2-4 times a year.
- Agreed to limit take-out luncheons to 4 per person. Requests for take outs should be given to their server.
- Service clubs will be asked to help with the luncheons.
- Thanks was expressed for those who participated with the Christmas Day luncheon. Many expressions of gratitude were shared.
- Children's Church will be held each Sunday (including communion Sundays). The children will return in to time to be with their parents for communion.

SESSION NOTES *(continued)*

- Lenten Kids Club will focus on the Lord's Supper. This will include training for both children and their parents to be held the Sundays during Lent beginning on 2/25/18. The time will be from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.
- A Church Family Potluck will be held at the Lumina Center on Sunday 2/18/18. Krislund representatives will be invited to join. The Fellowship Committee agreed to help with the meal.
- Approved that communion be served the last night of Kids Club.
- Walk with Jesus, a family-oriented event to teach children about Holy Week will be held 3/31/18 from 8:45 AM – 11:45 AM
- Approved the youth's participation in:
 - Winter Jam 1/19/18 leaving at 3:30, return at midnight
 - Retreat at Krislund 1/26/18 – 1/27/18 combined with the McVeytown Youth
 - Participation at Impact 3/2/18 – 3/4/18
- Received the year-end financial report
- Approved the corporation officers to be presented at the Annual Corporation Meeting:
 - President – Lonnie Griffith
 - Secretary – Lisa Snyder
 - Treasurer – Susan Ferguson
 - Assistant Treasurer – Ruth Fisher
- Approved Susan Ferguson, Ruth Fisher, Lonnie Griffith and Lisa Snyder to be the church check signers also removing Ed Snyder as a signer.
- Approved these Lent and Easter services:
 - Ash Wednesday (2/14/18): at 6:30 PM
 - Maundy Thursday (3/29/18): Soup Supper, Communion and Tenebrae
 - Easter Sunrise (4/1/18): at Mt. Rock Cemetery – 7:30 AM
- Received the current numbers of 22 Preschool and 2 Nursery School enrollments for the 2018-2019 school year.

FEBRUARY FAMILIES OF THE WEEK

To get to know each other better, we asked our families of the week to tell us about themselves:

Lavonne Ball

Lavonne worked at Viscose and Arrow Shirts before she retired. She taught Sunday School at our church. She thinks that we have a great church, and is glad to be part of our church family.

Dan and Ruth Ann Baxter

Ruth Ann has been helping her husband, Dan, at home since he received a kidney transplant from their daughter, Amanda, a year ago. Ruth Ann also likes bird watching and feeding birds daily. Dan worked at First Quality and now works part time at Lowes. He enjoys shooting at the Decatur Sportsman's Club. Ruth Ann was raised a Presbyterian in our church, including participating in the youth group. Dan joined our church after they were married here. Their daughter was also baptized at our church, and will be married later this year.

Roger and Linda Barr

Roger owns Barr Funeral Home in Lewistown. Linda worked at the funeral home before she retired. They have three children, Maxi Curry, Leslie Sweeney, and Doug Bair. Linda enjoys spending time with their five grandchildren. Roger also likes to watch movies and local sports. Roger is the third generation of his family to be members of our church. He remembers

when he and his family used to sit in the sanctuary balcony during worship, and Judge Lehman and Marjorie Caldwell were Sunday school teachers.

Hailee Weader

Hailee is a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, where she made the deans list in her first semester! Last summer she worked at Lozier in McClure. She likes softball and volleyball, and played on these teams at Mifflin County High School. She also enjoys reading and art.

Ginny and Mercy Westover

Ginny is Director of Christian Education/Youth, and Nursery School/Preschool Assistant Teacher at our church. She worked previously in preschool in California, and also home schooled her children. She likes to be outside and hike, play ball with their dog, and ride horses. Her daughter, Mercy, enjoys riding and showing horses competitively. Mercy also likes baking, reading, training and showing miniature horses, helping with children at church, and singing in the church choir. Mercy is a senior in home school. Ginny has especially liked Bible schools and youth mission trips and other mission trips in which she has participated at our church. She greatly appreciates our church family.

VARASO FAMILY TRANSITION



Dear Lewistown Presbyterian Church family,

Last Spring we were waiting, totally dependent and desperate for God to come through for us in two areas—our housing, with the desire to move to West Philly; and secondly, with a dramatic increase of our financial support needed to be able to continue in full time ministry. We saw God show up in a miraculous way by providing a home in West Philly and sparing us the expected headache of having to rent for a year and move twice to accomplish it. We hoped that a new location would provide partnerships that would help sustain our financial needs. However, with our best efforts and all attempts made to stay on staff with AIM for full-time ministry, both circumstances and God's peaceful leading have made it clear that our path forward will be to serve God and people He loves through paid employment. We will be able to remain on staff with AIM until June 1 in order to create a smooth and healthy transition. While the details of God's plans and provision are still blurry, we have sensed that He would reveal the path below our feet with each step of faith forward. We covet your prayers as we move forward and welcome any questions that you might have. We have been so grateful for your generous and faithful support. We hope it will give you joy to get to send that gift to another ministry and hope that our lives and God's goodness to us will continue to be a blessing, encouragement and inspiration to you, knowing our hearts are bound to yours.

With love and thanks, The Varaso family

BACKYARD MINISTRIES

Our **Featured BYC Kid this month** is a little girl from Altoona named Katelyn. We met Katelyn's family this summer as they moved from Maryland into one of our neighborhoods. Katelyn loves Backyard Club and is always excited to see us. Please pray for Katelyn and her family.

Coming Up in the Backyards: In January, BYM will continue to make weekly visits to neighborhood families. Our goal this year is to knock on at least 1000 doors each week. Pray for these visits that the families would experience the love of God, that God would give us opportunity for spiritual conversations, and that we would have the patience to wait for these opportunities to arise. We are also very excited to begin weekly ministry in Larimer, a neighborhood in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. Please pray for our neighborhood missionaries who faithfully make these visits each week: Justin Rohrbaugh (Johnstown), Kim Boyd (Johnstown), Jason Mauk (Johnstown), Mitz Zook (Lewistown), Lynn Curry (Lewistown), David Taube (Pittsburgh), and Elizabeth Ebling (Altoona).

Stories from the Backyard: For over a year, Mike and his friends would just look at me when I came through their neighborhood each week. Mike would never take the food I had or engage in conversation. A few months ago Mike took some bread I offered. A few weeks later I dropped something off and Mike said, "Thank you sir." Now each week Mike recognizes me and accepts the food I offer. We have begun to build trust with Mike, pray that relationship and spiritual conversation will follow. "Those in need will not always be forgotten." Psalm 9:18


Current Ministry Needs: BYM has a constant need for **cans of soup**, Bible activity and coloring books, **toothbrushes**, and toothpaste. We also need volunteers for our kid's programs. Items can be dropped off in Belleville at Yoder's Tees, in Altoona at 418 26th Avenue, or at any of our BYC programs.

**To get involved or for more info like us on Facebook or contact us at Backyard Ministries, 418 26th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 or kdellape@gmail.com or (814) 502-8008*



Chili for Backyard Ministries. Lynn Curry prepares food the 4th Tuesday of every month for Backyard Ministries. If you are interested in helping Lynn, please contact the church office.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Lewistown Presbyterian Church Sharing the Light of Christ's Gospel with the Heart of America since 1785</p>				1 7:00 pm Committee Night	2	3 Session Retreat Krislund
4 Communion 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting 11:40 pm Adult Study (parlor) 6:00 pm Youth Group	5 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home	7 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 pm Session	9	10 Scouts Fundraiser Breakfast 8-12
11 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Deacons' Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Adult Study (manse)	12 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 PANORAMA DEADLINE	16 <i>No school</i>	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent Deacons' Offering 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Adult Study (parlor) 4:00 pm Family Potluck @ Lumina Center 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Adult Study (manse)	19 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home	21 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Teen Bible Study 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Community Lunch 12:30 Adult Study (parlor) 4:00 pm Lenten Kidz Klub 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult Study (manse)	26 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:00 am Backyard Ministry food prep 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting	28 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			

Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 East Third Street
Lewistown, PA 17044
Address Correction Requested



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Contact us at 717-248-4561, or lewispres@comcast.net. Check out our web site www.lewistownpresbyterian.org or find us on Facebook!