



THE PANORAMA

The Newsletter of
The Lewistown
Presbyterian
Church

MARCH 2018

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER OBSERVANCES

HOLY WEEK

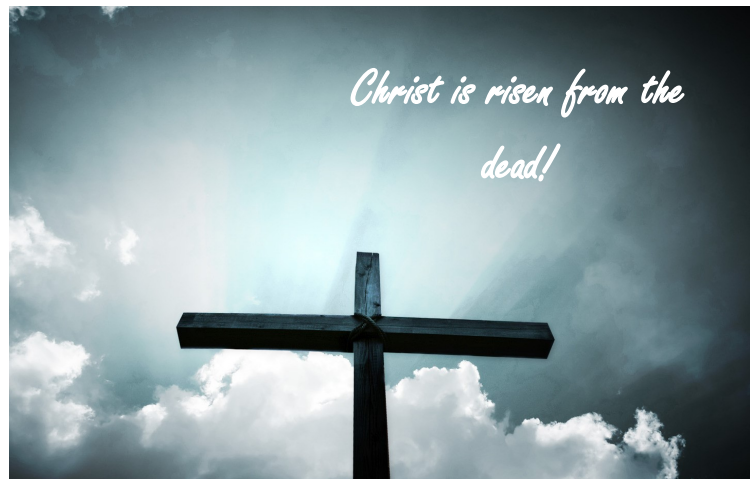
MAUNDY THURSDAY: We will remember the events of the last hours of Jesus beginning with a Soup Supper in the Baraca Room at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 29. We will also observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper around tables as we believe it was first experienced by Jesus and his disciples. We will then proceed to the sanctuary for a service of Tenebrae, during which we will hear the gospel accounts of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion as the lights are dimmed to the point of darkness. This is a deeply moving service and is a very helpful way to remember what Jesus did for us.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES: Pastors from a number of area churches will lead a Stations of the Cross service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 11 AM on Good Friday, March 30. Then, at 11:45 AM, all who wish to follow the cross through Lewistown will meet outside Sacred Heart to walk through our community, during which we will stop and pray for various ministries and community groups.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT: Saturday, March 31, 8:45 AM—11:45 AM (the day before Easter Sunday) Join us as kids and their families and friends travel through five stations uniquely designed to encourage thinking and get families talking about the final events of Jesus' life here on earth. We 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 AM. Walk with Jesus will incorporate our traditional Easter Egg hunt so there will be no separate egg hunt this year.

EASTER!



EASTER MORNING WORSHIP:

Early Service: We will meet at Mount Rock Cemetery at 7:30 AM for a short service to consider the wonder of the women who discovered the empty tomb and the joy of discovering that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Resurrection Celebration: Our worship service at our regular time (10:30 AM) on Easter Sunday will celebrate the risen Lord with joyful hymns and anthem, and a reflection on what the resurrection means for us!

PASTOR'S PAGE

From Pastor James Thomas

A man named Jonathan Rauch is credited with coining a new term in the May 2003 issue of the Atlantic Monthly. Rauch reported that when he was asked about his religious convictions, his initial impulse was to declare that he was an Atheist. But upon reflection, he decided to label himself an Apatheist, defining Apatheism as "a disinclination to care all that much about one's own religion, and an even stronger disinclination to care about other people's."



If you are observant, you have probably recognized Apatheism in yourself or in those around you, even if you didn't yet have Raush's clever terminology for it. Most Apatheists do not know that they are Apatheists — and most of them do not care. That is the point of Apatheism! But there is a growing number of Apatheists who live the contradiction of believing that Apatheism is the right way to "believe." They might insist that Apatheism is also a right way not to believe. But whether they care or not, their choices and attitudes are based in belief. Apatheists *believe* that God, religion, faith, etc. are not important enough to get worked up over. Some are even zealous in their apathy! The picture above is a good illustration of this attitude. If the man truly did not care, he would not have gone to the effort of writing on his hand and then holding his hand where the viewer could see it. In his original article in the Atlantic Monthly, Raush himself contradicts his claim to true apathy when he responds to Richard Rorty's wish for "a world of pragmatic atheists" with "best of all would be a world generously leavened with apatheists: people who feel at ease with religion even if they are irreligious; people who may themselves be members of religious communities, but who are neither controlled by godly passions nor concerned about the religious beliefs of others." While he says he doesn't care, he cares enough to believe that everyone would be better off if they joined him in not caring.

Interestingly, one can be a believing Apatheist (an apathetic Theist) or an unbelieving (or questioning) Apatheist (an apathetic Agnostic). Faith or lack of faith is not the issue. The issue is the level of faith. It is generally agreed that it is

not possible to be an Atheist Apatheist. Atheists tend to care very passionately about their belief that God does not exist. They often work hard to "help" others to come to agreement with their position.

Raush is pleased to report that the "regular church-goers can, and often do, rank quite high on the Apatheism scale... Some people choose it deliberately and some people don't care enough to choose anything else. There are a lot

of reasons to attend religious services: to connect with a culture or a community, so socialize, to expose children to religion, to find the warming comfort of familiar ritual. The softer denominations in America are packed with Apatheists."

However, I maintain that it is also not possible to be a Christian Apatheist — although many people fall into a category that seems to fit that description. Jesus himself speaks clearly against Apatheism.

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done (Matthew 16:24-27).'"

By definition, Christians care about God! By definition, Christians care about people. If we care about God and we care about people, we will want to introduce people to Christ. If we care about our own souls, we will not want to lose them. If we do not care, we must seriously ask what is wrong with us! Eternity is in the balance! Can we really not care if we have any inkling of trust in the Word of God which tells us that God will call us and our neighbors to account? Can we truly claim to believe in Jesus Christ and ignore His clear warnings? Whether we believe, choose not to believe, or fail to have the energy to choose anything, Scripture says that we will still answer to God. This is something to care about!!

LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Rev. Robert Zorn

At this writing, a thick blanket of snow and ice covers our whole valley. Hopefully the frozen February will soon give way to muddy March. Folklore has it that the month of March is usually a very windy month. So, it may provide many opportunities for kite flying.

Many years ago Carol gave me two books which gave me great encouragement in my preparation for the ministry. The books were entitled: The High Calling and The Gauntlet. The featured clergy person was Rev. London Wingo. In one of the parishes, pastor Wingo encourage the youth of the church to have a kite flying contest. Local businesses paid to have their advertisements printed on the kites. All the kites were sent aloft. Prizes were awarded in several categories, and all of the donated money was used to further the youth missions.

Once my brother and I built our own kite. It was over five feet tall, and we covered it with the strongest paper we could find. We got our string by ripping out the seams of old feed sacks and rolling it into a hug ball. On a late March afternoon we took the kite and string out into the

meadow and proudly watch as the colorful kite climbed high into the sky. Evening chores soon took us from our game, we tied the string to a fence post and left the kite sailing silently over the farm. After milking, we found the kite still flying. Even after dark, when the flashlight could no longer spot it, we knew the kite was still flying because we could feel it tugging on the string. Sometime during the night the wind fell, and so did the kite.

I believe that there are some valuable lessons we can learn by flying a kite. First, we can learn that there is a power which is unseen, but powerful enough to lift our dreams and aspirations to high realms. A second lesson is that we must hold the string to capture the power of the wind. And, third that even though we cannot see it, there is an uplifting Spirit which call us to a closer relationship with God and with each other. So to have a richer, fuller faith, let's go fly a kite.

"O Lord my God, thou art very great—who rides on the wings of the wind. Who makes the winds your messengers."

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The **Yellow Easter Envelope** will be used to support the work of the Mifflin/Juniata Abuse Network. The mission of The Abuse Network, Inc., is to assist and educate victims and community members about violence and abusive behaviors to promote a more peaceful, violence-free community. **Services Provided:** 24-Hour Hotline, Shelter Service, Advocacy, Accompaniment, Support Groups, Empowerment & Options Counseling, Community Education/Training/Involvement, Information & Referral. Services are free & confidential.



One Great Hour of Sharing Envelope: Now is the time to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, the offering envelope is in your box of envelopes.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

From Ginny Westover, Assistant Teacher

"I'm a little snowman, look at me,
Here are my buttons; one, two, three!
These are my eyes and my carrot nose,
Give me a hat, please; Brrr! It's cold!"

Our three year old class enjoyed singing this song; especially when they were watching the snowflakes fall outside our window and when "Brr! It's cold!" applied. Our weather arrow has been spinning around the weather chart this month, landing on "snowy" one morning, "sunny" by afternoon, and "rainy" the next day. School delays and cancellations have caused schedules to be in a bit of a flurry, but we have tried to maintain a predictable daily pattern despite the erratic winter weather.

Both nursery school and preschool classes have been working hard on letters and their sounds during first circle time. Big, brown, bashful, Barney the bear, backed into the classroom and bounced onto the big, blue bean bag with a backpack full of "B" objects for the students to guess. (bet you weren't baffled a bit!) Preschoolers have been practicing beginning and ending sounds and matching letters to the correct sound.

Our four and five year olds had some extra practice writing their names and the names of their classmates during the days that our "post office" was set up at play time. It is a very exciting moment for student and teacher alike when a child asks, "How do you write _____?" The teacher responds, "What letter says _____?" and the student prints it correctly! There were some very proud students who toted Valentines into the classroom on party day and announced, "I wrote these names myself!" (kudos to the patient parents!)

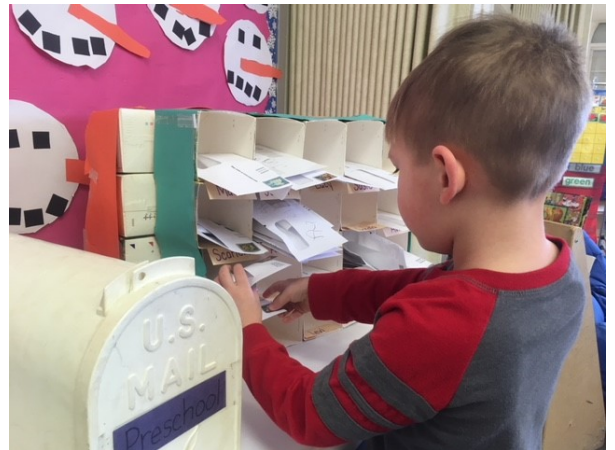
Mathematical learning happens every day in both nursery school and preschool classrooms from sorting, classifying and counting tabletop activities to circle time problem solving and rhythm clapping games. The classroom "store" provided an enjoyable introduction to money and economics. (and "recycling" on the day the store closed) This month, hearts of all sizes have been the objects we've counted, sequenced, and thought critically about. (who has the valentine now?)

By far the most fun and popular math activity in recent weeks has been our "snowball fights". Way back in December, when the children were especially aware of their (and their friend's) behavior, some were sure that certain people

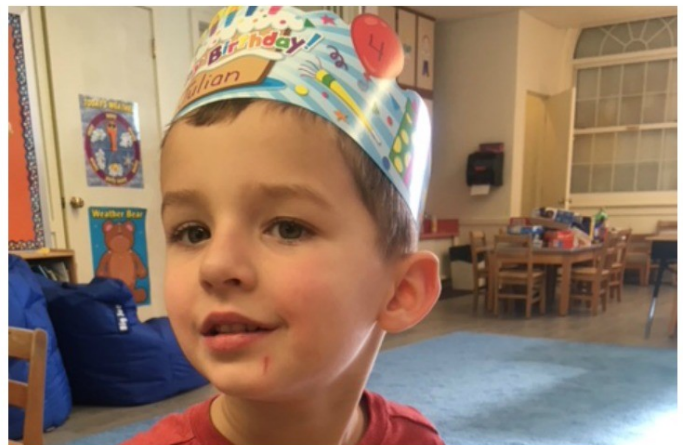
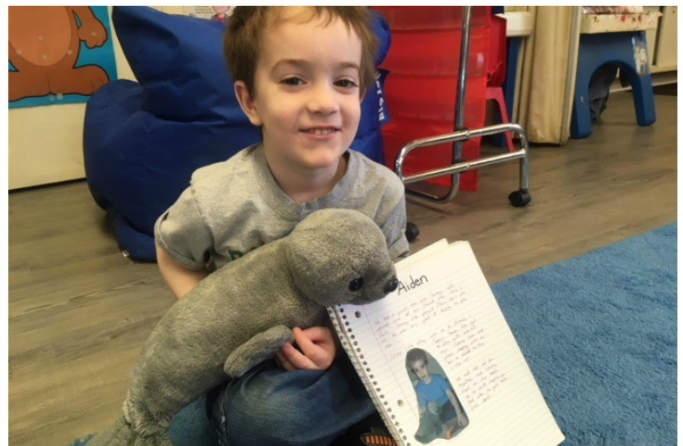
would end up on the Naughty List for instigating such frivolity. Once they realized that "snowballs" in the classroom was a sanctioned way to learn, their consciences were at rest and they could join in the fun. Numerals flashed and the corresponding number of snowballs was counted and thrown; or carried under the chin and dropped in a tub; or tossed into a bucket. What fun! And nobody's hands got cold or wet!

Sometimes the cold, wet days of not being able to get outside and run off energy exhibits itself in "not o.k." behavior. Those are the days we try to remind each other about the story of the wise man and the foolish man that we learned in Chapel time with Pastor Jim. When we choose to obey God ("Be kind to one another.", for example) we are wise and life goes better. When we choose not to live God's way, we are foolish and the results are not pleasant. That's true, no matter what the weather!

I suppose we could blame that ole groundhog, Phil, for keeping us cooped up inside, but spring will get here in due time, whether or not we like the weather of the moment. Personally, I'm still hoping for one, good, snowman-making snow! (I just try not to say it in front of Mrs. Powell ;))



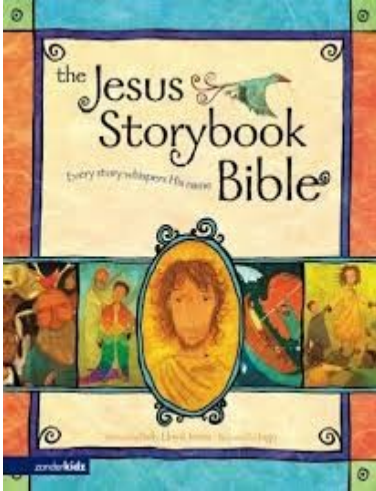
PRESCHOOL PICTURES



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMUNIQUE

From CE Director, Ginny Westover

The Jesus Storybook Bible has been one of my favorite children's resources for a long time now, but it was only recently that I read the 19th century poem written at the top of the "Acknowledgements" page. Its author is Josiah Conder. This is the poem:



*"Tis not that I did
choose Thee,
For Lord, that could
not be;
This heart would
still refuse Thee,
Hadst Thou not
chosen me...
My heart owns
none before Thee,
For Thy rich grace I
thirst;
This knowing, if I
love Thee,
Thou must have
loved me first."*

Ruth Haley Barton echoes these thoughts in the first chapter of Sacred Rhythms, our all-church Lenten study, when she writes about our longing to know more of God. "The stirring of spiritual desire indicates that God's Spirit is already at work within us, drawing us to Himself. We love God because He first loved us. We long for God because He first longed for us. We reach for God because He first reached for us. Nothing in the spiritual life originates with us. It all originates with God" (p25). What an encouragement to seek God, knowing that He has initiated our seeking and is continuing to pursue relationship with us!

That God initiates and pursues relationship with people of *all* ages has become a wonderful encouragement and motivation to me. I've anticipated and prayed for God's Spirit to work in us during this study of spiritual disciplines, but recently I was reminded to be careful not to underestimate the power of God's Spirit at work in the life of a child. Philippians 2:13 is as true for a believer who is four as it is for a believer who is forty four ("God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." NLT). God does not wait until a certain age to begin to use those whose hearts are given to Him.

Our children are precious gifts to their families and to our church family! And while they

do not yet possess the maturity or life experience to hold adult-size leadership positions, our children *can* lead us into a deeper, purer faith. They can also be used by God to accomplish great things for the Kingdom! One doesn't have to turn too many pages of scripture to read stories of children whose closeness to their Father in heaven is to be aspired to, if not slightly envied (Think young Samuel, shepherd boy David, and Naaman's servant girl, to name just a few Old Testament examples). There is a wonderful openness present in the heart of a child; a predictable spontaneity; a vulnerability and honesty that knows no pretense, and a deep desire to be loved. When asked by his accolade-seeking, power hungry disciples, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus went so far as to say, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:1-4). Humble dependency is the natural state of affairs for a child. A child's trust in others is simple and abandoned. Pure faith is not a learned part of a child's character. He or she simply cannot survive without trusting those around them. A child is completely dependent on others to provide for what he/she needs to live. While a child has no choice but to be dependent, Jesus says we, as adults and younger adults, must change from our determination to take care of ourselves, to make things happen and maintain control, to a lifestyle of humble trust and dependence on God to provide everything that we need (both material and immaterial).

As we continue in our study of Sacred Rhythms, we would do well to pay attention to our children and observe and ask how God is working in them. They may very well be experiencing God's Spirit in ways that we might miss. We dare not deter their openness and enthusiasm toward God's ways or cause them to stumble in their spiritual journey. Matthew 18:6 paints a disastrous end to such a course. However, the results of welcoming and encouraging a child's spiritual growth is as monumentally beautiful as causing him or her to stumble is deadly: "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Let us together welcome the work of change and growth that God desires to do in our lives and in the lives of our children this Lenten season.

Lenten KIDZ KLUB

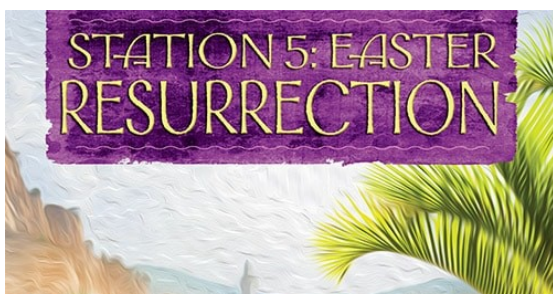
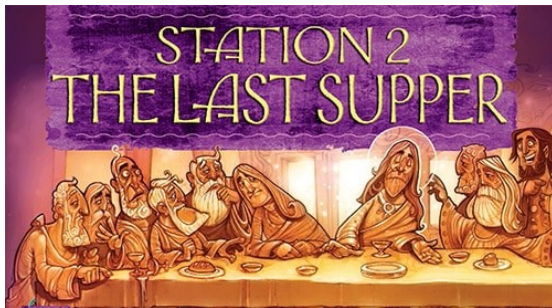
Every Sunday thru March 25
4:00-6:00 PM

Your children and their friends (age 3 – grade 5) are invited to join the journey to Jerusalem for the annual Feast of Passover! Along the way we'll re-visit God's miracles in Egypt, make our own unleavened bread, and prepare a Passover meal. 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.

Hands-on Bible learning, games, songs, and more! Supper will be provided each night at 5:30 PM. For more information, call the church office at 717-248-4561 or email lewispres@comcast.net



EASTER FAMILY EVENT



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. 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. You will experience the excitement surrounding Jesus' Palm Sunday appearance in Jerusalem as, along with those gathered there, you anticipate the arrival of the new king.

Then join Jesus and the disciples at the table for the celebration of Passover and listen in on their conversations during the meal. Experience the love Jesus demonstrated at the Last Supper and the example He left us to follow.

You will feel the stillness of an olive grove in late evening as you follow Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray; and you will feel the shock of his betrayal and arrest. Discover the eternal gift that Jesus gives to us through his death on the cross. Let your sadness turn to joy at the empty tomb when Mary relates the details of her experience with the risen Christ.

There is hands on learning at every station, and materials to take home to continue the discussion with your family and friends.

Walk with Jesus begins at **8:45 am** and will conclude at **11:45 am**. **Please note:** The Walk with Jesus Family Easter event will incorporate our traditional Easter Egg hunt, so there will be no separate egg hunt this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



EASTER TULIPS: The Worship and Music Committee has ordered tulips for Easter. If you would like to sponsor a pot or pots of tulips, please call the church office at 717-248-4561. The price is \$7 each. The deadline is **Sunday, March 4**. Tulips may be picked up after the worship service on Easter morning.

WRAPPED CANDY IS NEEDED: We are in need of small, individually wrapped candy to fit inside plastic Easter eggs for the Family Event on March 31. Please bring donations to the church by March 25.

LENTEN STUDY: Our all-church Lenten study this year is Ruth Haley Barton's Sacred Rhythms. This study is based on the premise that we function best when we establish regular practices that connect us with the flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world around us. Sacred Rhythms will not only provide an opportunity to learn about spiritual disciplines, but also to practice them. As we learn and experience together, we will be able to discern with the Holy Spirit our individual path of growth with God. Available groups are:

- **Sundays at 9 AM** in the church parlor, led by Pat Brown
- **Sundays at 11:40 AM** in the church parlor, led by Susan Ferguson and Mary Bull
- **Sundays at 6:00 PM** at the manse, led by Jim and Devon Thomas
- **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM** at Ruth and Ken Fisher's home
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 AM** at the manse, led by Pastor Thomas

Benefitting from Sacred Rhythms is very dependent upon the DVD curriculum which will be shared in our small groups. If you are unable to attend any of these groups, but would like to experience the curriculum, please contact the church office for a copy of the DVD to use in your family or in a group you would like to form.

LENTEN LUNCHEON SCHEDULE: The Lewistown Ministerium is sponsoring Lenten Luncheons on Wednesdays during Lent again this year. We begin at noon at the sponsoring church and end well before 1 PM. Each church will provide a meal and worship or a devotional thought. The schedule of host churches for the remaining luncheons:

- **March 7:** Salvation Army
- **March 14:** Grace United Methodist
- **March 21:** Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH: A new prayer meeting has begun at 11:30 AM on Thursdays in the counting room. The focus of prayer is the life and ministry of Lewistown Presbyterian Church. The meeting consists only of prayer and is kept to under twenty minutes. All are welcome.

OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED IN PRAYER:

- You can e-mail requests to lewispres@comcast.net
- Join the prayer chain by calling Margie at 248-0427 or email mcsmith12@verizon.net
- Join us at 11:30 AM on Mondays in the Baraca Room as we pray for the requests on our prayer page
- Use the prayer guide in the bulletin in your daily prayers

GIFTS OF LOVE: The mission committee is organizing the collection of Hygiene Kits and School Kits to be distributed through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Information about what to provide and how to package the items is available in the narthex. Volunteers from the Huntingdon Presbytery will deliver the kits to the distribution center.

OUR PROJECTION SYSTEM will now be used to highlight church announcements and activities during the gathering time before the service. If you would like to highlight an event or provide pictures of an activity, please get the pertinent information to Doug Garner by the Thursday before the Sunday you would like it to be displayed.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD: The suggested donations for March are: pork & beans, Ivory soap, tomato soup, canned luncheon meat, macaroni & cheese, cereal, canned/boxed juices and paper products.

ADDITIONS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

THE DAYTECS



We've seen such beautiful growth here in our team (our medical staff as well as home church community) over the past year. Our focus has been on nurturing and cultivating deep

truth in our team, working through inner healing, bondage breaking, discipling with them, and in turn watching them take it and apply it to the lives around them. They are exploding with growth! Our home has become a healing place for people who are miscarrying, hurting, desiring to walk in freedom from sexual addictions, and also a postpartum home for women who do not have a support system, or are recovering from surgery. A Mangyan Tribal family of eight stayed with us in December for three weeks after the mother, Dalia, had surgery to deliver her baby and remove a ten pound tumor. They are from a village three hours away. Every doctor said she and baby would die. We believed they would live. They are both miracles. We did checkups every week for six months and arranged for surgeons and specialists to see her. They were here over Christmas and it was so humbling, so beautiful to be able to share life together and be reminded of what is most important in life; Loving God and loving people. They came to visit us yesterday and Dalia clung to me sobbing, her tears soaking my shirt. "Mahal na mahal Kita, kapatid." she whispered over and over. "I love you so very much, my sister." I cried with her. We are sisters.

Francis continues to do outreach in many villages every week, some local, some many islands away. We continue to partner and bridge the relationships of the local pastors. There was so much division, quarreling, and brokenness

between the pastors/churches. We now are seeing healing and love, restoration. A few weeks ago, they asked if we could host the local pastors and families for an evening of fellowship. There were over 70 people at our home for dinner! They worshipped together and began to repent to each other for bitterness and unforgiveness. Tears fell. It was so beautiful! They are planning to come to our home again in the next several months for an overnight fellowship. We are delivering lots of babies in the clinic and many of them are from Maranao Muslim families who have fled the ISIS invasion of Marawi down south. We love that God has brought them to us so that we can show them His love. We have been taking baskets of groceries and visiting them in their homes, sharing the love of Jesus. Last month we also were honored to give hospice care to our neighbor who was dying of cancer. His family was so raw and broken, unsure of how to care for him, and his oncologist did not offer any care. We brought oxygen, changed his catheter, provided pain med injections every few hours and sat with them, praying and crying with them until He passed away. His daughter is now coming to our home several times a week and for home church on Sundays, hearing the gospel and asking lots of questions. What a joy.

We have Australian friends, a couple, who are planning to move here in this next year to partner with us long-term. They have vision to start a Refuge for women in sex trafficking, and love our vision and ministry in Puerto. They have come many times in the past three years to work with us.

We are excited to see what God continues to do in the next year with new partnerships. We are so thankful for our church family there at Lewistown Presbyterian Church, and we pray for you all often. Thank you for giving, for praying, for continuing to hold on to us. We could not be the Hands and Feet of Jesus without all of you holding us up. Blessings on you this year! Grace and Peace.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2017 was an awesome year for the children's choir! We welcomed several new members into our group and are so happy to have them. We are a very young choir and we are enjoying making new friends. Our choir is full of energy so we have started to even learn some

cool dance moves to go with our songs. This makes it even more fun! I want to give a big thanks to all of the parents who made sure their children were at practice; without you there would be no choir! Having your children sing in the choir is a commitment and I am so thankful for you.

ADDITIONS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

This past December we performed our Christmas Musical, Happy Birthday Jesus! The children's choir had so much fun learning the new songs and singing some of our Christmas favorites. We had several children's choir alumni join our musical and it made the performance even more special. Thank you for joining us! I want to thank all of our church family members who helped set up, clean up and cook for the potluck dinner. It was a lovely

evening. I want to send a thank you to our sound staff for making sure we had working microphones. Also, thank you to everyone who attended and cheered our fabulous children on. They were so proud to perform for you. I am looking forward to another year of singing and ringing!

Respectfully Submitted,
Choir Director - Leah Riden



MARCH FAMILIES OF THE WEEK

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

Matt, Stephanie, GraceLynn and Dakota Beckenbaugh

Stephanie works at Dr. John Bauman's dental practice in Lewistown. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. Matt is employed with Penn State and likes to hunt. They have two children, GraceLynn and Dakota. Stephanie started attending our church as a child, and remembers our church as being friendly and welcoming.

Art and Pauli Belfiore

Pauli works as a library clerk at the Mifflin County Library in Lewistown. She also sings in our church choir, and with 8TTB Sisters, a group of seven women singers. She plays the clarinet in the Lewistown Community Band. She likes to cook, read, and spend time with their grandchildren and their dog, Charlie. Art has taught high school music and band for thirty-seven years, including the last twenty-seven years at Mifflin County High School where he is director of the award-winning marching band, the concert band, and the jazz band. He also plays tuba in the Lewistown Community Band. He enjoys college football, the Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers, and working

outside with his hands. Art and Pauli like travelling, walking, riding bikes, and watching television together. They have four children, Julie, Kari, Allison, and Ben, and three grandchildren. Pauli and Art were married in our church, and they especially appreciate the people in our church and the Christmas eve service.

Donald and Alice Black

Donald worked as the manager of the Lewistown office of American General Insurance Company. He also served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Alice was a registered nurse at Lewistown Hospital. They have two children, Joyce and Tim. Donald joined our church in 1963 when he first arrived in Lewistown.

Wade and Kitty Walters

Kitty works at Phillips Ultrasound in Milroy, and Wade works in security at the Mifflin County Courthouse. Wade enjoys bicycle riding and hunting. Kitty sells jewelry at fairs, and likes horseback riding. They have two children, Zane who will be married in June, and Nick who is working toward passing the bar exam in Pennsylvania. Wade misses the people at our church.

BACKYARD MINISTRIES

Coming Up in Backyard Ministries: In March, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunts. Praise God that we already have commitments for more than 10,000 eggs from our church partners. In April, we will begin Backyard Clubs in many neighborhoods. We are now building teams for clubs so please contact us if you would like to volunteer. Also, we are hiring teams for our Pittsburgh ministry, please spread the word.

Our Featured BYC Kid this month is a beautiful little girl from Johnstown named Valentina. Valentina was very excited this week to give me a hug and to tell me that she got a 99% on her test in school. She was very excited. Please pray for blessing on the life of this precious little girl.

Stories from the Backyard: Bill has cancer. Hospice comes and administers his treatments each week. Patricia is struggling to deal with the passing of her 15 year old daughter a few years ago. Tracy is a friend from Mount Union who is struggling to deal with the passing of her son in November. These are just three of the dear friends we check in on every week. We offer love, kindness, concern, scripture and prayer. It is as simple as that. All we have to do is show up. God does the rest. Please pray for our more than 1000 neighborhood friends who we check in on regularly and for our neighborhood missionaries. "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.

BYM Support: You can sponsor a BYC kid for \$20.00 a month (or \$240.00 a year). **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.*

FINANCIAL REPORT

From Church Treasurer, Susan L. Ferguson

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH			
	JANUARY 2018	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME			
BUDGETED INCOME	17,748.45	217,582.00	8.16%
INVESTMENT INCOME	5,756.75	139,100.00	4.14%
TOTAL INCOME	23,505.20	356,682.00	6.59%
EXPENSE			
BENEVOLENCE	71.80	30,000.00	0.24%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	7,841.90	103,652.00	7.57%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	374.99	5,600.00	6.70%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	0.00	2,350.00	0.00%
PROPERTY	4,059.75	52,231.00	7.77%
ADMINISTRATION	1,171.39	27,902.00	4.20%
PERSONNEL	6,051.34	92,900.00	6.51%
FELLOWSHIP	145.15	1,800.00	8.06%
PRESCHOOL	3,017.26	35,247.00	8.56%
CAPITAL RESERVE	415.82	5,000.00	8.32%
TOTAL EXPENSE	23,149.40	356,682.00	6.49%
NET INCOME	355.80	(Note: January 31 marks 8.33% of year to date)	

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

Children's Chat

4 Maryann Haines
11 Lynn Curry
18 Susan Ferguson
25 Sue Garner

Liturgists

4 Brad Siddons
11 Doug Garner
18 Olivia Smith
25 Ruth Fisher

Counters

4 Lonnie Griffith and Ed Curry
11 Kari Cullen & Maryann Haines
18 Bill Sisson & Brad Siddons
25 Lisa Snyder & Dale Henry

Deacon for the Month

Lynn Curry

Children's Church

4 Gerri Aitkin
11 Lynn Curry
18 Leah Riden
25 Sue Garner

Infants/Toddlers/Preschool

4 Rachel Cunningham & Riley Cullen
11 Pam Pecht & Vicky Pecht
18 Karissa Zagurskie & Jimmy Zagurskie
25 Linda O'Dell & Alex Garner

Ushers

Lonnie Griffith (lead usher)
Ryan & Laurie Fultz
Marilyn Miller
Ed & Lynn Curry

Acolyte


Leland Mitchell

SESSION NOTES

The regular meeting of the Session of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church was held 2/18/18, at 7:00 PM in the Baraca Room and accomplished the following:

- Pastor Thomas led opening devotions using 1 Corinthians 13:4-13, followed by sharing of joys and concerns and prayer.
- Received notes from Back Yard Ministries, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Adventures in Mission thanking us for our support.
- Expressed thanks for the leadership of Gordon Carpenter from Leadership Connections during the 2/2-2/3/18 Session Retreat at Krislund.
- Approved the baptism of Cillian Joseph Finan, son of Zoë and Ciarán Finan on Easter Sunday on 4/1/18
- Noted that Phil Loewen will preach and Rev. Zorn will administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on 3/4/18 while Pastor Thomas is on vacation.
- Agreed to move the March Session meeting to 3/15/18 because of Pastor Thomas' schedule.
- Agreed to collect hygiene kits and school kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program through the end of February.
- The All-Church Lenten Study using Ruth Haley Barton's Sacred Rhythms will begin in February.
- Elder McCurdy was granted permission to look into the PCUSA Earth-Care Program.
- Elder Riden agreed to find out if she can serve as Elder Commissioner to the 4/17/18 presbytery meeting which will be held at the Milroy Church. Elder McCurdy agreed to be the commissioner if Elder Riden is unable to attend.
- Pastor Thomas shared information distributed by the State College church about energy saving lighting options.
- The worship committee asked that announcements and images for projection during a Sunday service must be sent to Doug Garner by the Thursday evening prior to the service. Announcements will be projected before the prelude begins.
- Agreed to pay \$90.00 dues requested from the Lewistown Ministerium from the session fund.
- Agreed to contribute \$50.00 for the Week of Caring from Benevolence Local Appeals.
- Pastor Thomas shared the following community events:
 - ◊ Week of Caring will be July 30–Aug 3
 - ◊ Lenten Luncheon Schedule:
 - February 21: Lewistown Pres.
 - February 28: First United Methodist (in conjunction with their community meal)
 - March 7: Salvation Army
 - March 14: Grace United Methodist
 - March 21: Sacred Heart (at the Sacred Heart school cafeteria)
 - ◊ Good Friday – March 30
 - 11 AM: Stations of the Cross (led by various pastors) at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
 - Noon: Cross Walk through downtown Lewistown with stops for prayer at various organizations.
- Approved changes to Benevolence Budget:
 - ◊ \$1,500.00 of the amount previously designated to Varaso Family will now go to Adventures in Mission
 - ◊ \$1,500.00 will go to BuildingQuate
 - ◊ \$1,000.00 is reserved for a yet-to-be-determined mission project
- Designated that the offerings given in the Yellow Easter Envelopes go to the Abuse Network
- Agreed to support Backyard ministries by providing 500 filled plastic eggs for Easter and to ask the congregation to provide cookies each month for Backyard's ongoing ministry
- Agreed to participate in Kid Connection this year on 4/28/18
- Plans are in place for brass and woodwind accompaniment on Palm Sunday
- Lenten Kids Club will begin on 2/25/18.
- Agreed to host this year's Community Vacation Bible School. Planning meeting to be held 2/26/18.
- Received the January Financial report
- Received a report from the Nursery School/Preschool Committee that enrollments for the 2018-2019 school year currently stand at 31 for Preschool and 7 for Nursery School. This is ahead of where they were last year.

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 pm Stewardship 7:00 pm Committee Night	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Youth Impact March 2-4 </div>	3
4 Communion 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:00 am no Confirmation Class 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:40 pm Adult Study (parlor) 4:00 pm Lenten Kidz Klub 6:00 pm Adult Study (parlor)	5 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:30 pm Small Group @ Fisher's home	7 6:30 am Group Study in the parlor 12 noon Lenten Luncheon at Salvation Army 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Deacons' Meeting 4:00 pm Lenten Kidz Klub 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 6:30 pm Small Group @ Fisher's home	14 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 12 noon Lenten Luncheon at Grace UM 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 pm Session PANORAMA DEADLINE	16 <i>No school</i>	17 Scouts Fundraiser Breakfast 8-12 9:30 am—5 pm Confirmation Class Retreat
18 Deacons' Offering 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Adult Study (parlor) 4:00 pm Lenten Kidz Klub 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 6:30 pm Small Group @ Fisher's home	21 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 12 noon Lenten Luncheon at Sacred Heart 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Teen Bible Study 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Community Luncheon 12:30 Adult Study (parlor) 4:00 pm Lenten Kidz Klub 6:00 pm Youth Group 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 6:30 pm Small Group @ Fisher's home 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting	28 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 Maundy Thursday/ Soup Supper/ Communion/ Tenebrae 6:30 pm	30 <i>No school/ Good Friday</i> 11:00 am Stations of the Cross @ Sacred Heart Noon Cross Walk (SHRCC)	31 Family Easter Event 8:45-11:45 am

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!