



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

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

April 8, 2018

Easter Series: Love and Truth
The Message of 1 John

Week 1: New Life is True Life

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:7-10

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Pastors: James Thomas and Robert Zorn

* **Hymn #263** (blue) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

* **Greeting of Peace**

* **Song** Indescribable

(Choir will sing v 1 and chorus; congregation join on repeat)

1. From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea,
Creation's revealing your majesty.
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring,
Every creature unique in the song that it sings.
All exclaiming:

Chorus:

*Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
And you know them by name.
You are amazing God;
All powerful, untamable,
Awestruck, we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God.*

2. Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light;
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?
None can fathom.

Chorus:

*Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
And you know them by name.
You are amazing God;
All powerful, untamable,
Awestruck, we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God.
Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
And you know them by name.
You are amazing God;
All powerful, untamable,
Awestruck, we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God. You are amazing God.*

Children's Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem Above the Hills of Time Strommen

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Meditation on "Blackburn" Eliot

* Doxology #591 (blue hymnal)

* Prayer of Dedication

* **Song** In the Bulb There Is a Flower

1. In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
The butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

Natalie Sleeth, © 1986 by Hope Publishing Co. ~ CCLI#1881909

Scripture Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

Sermon

New Life is True Life

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, during this Easter season, we are reminded again of the cost of our forgiveness and humbled that we did not pay the price ourselves. We thank you, Jesus Christ, for giving yourself for us.

You call us to respond by living in the light of your love and truth. Yet we find ourselves drawn to darkness. Our hearts are darkened by distain and judgement toward others. You call us to live in fellowship with you, yet we run from your call upon our lives. You show us the way of righteousness, but we choose to follow our own paths.

Forgive us and give us sight to see the wonder of your love and truth. May we choose to believe your truth over the claims of this world. May we set aside our preference for temporal distractions and open ourselves to your eternal love. Renew us by your Spirit that we may live in fellowship with you.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

* **Hymn #303** (blue) Jesus, Lover of My Soul

* **Benediction**

* **Closing Chorus** He is Lord

*He is Lord, He is Lord,
He is risen from the dead
And He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow
Every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

Wood

**If comfortably able please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit & Anthem: Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, Director

Liturgist: Bill Sisson

Next Week: Ginny Westover

Acolyte: Noerr children

Children's Sermon: Kari Cullen

Next Week: Sue Garner

Children's Church: Leah Noerr

Next week: Sue Garner

Ushers: Glenn Snyder (lead usher), Lisa Snyder, Dale Henry,
Esther Henry, Bob and Jean Patton

Preaching: Pastor James Thomas

Infants/Preschool: Karen McCurdy and Riley Cullen

Next week: Brett Buchanan and Alex Garner

Deacon for the Month: Ginny Westover

Counters: Brad Siddons and Bill Sisson

Next Week: Lisa Snyder and Dale Henry

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.

NEXT SUNDAY: Michael Ozaki, Associate Pastor of the State College Presbyterian Church will be preaching in our morning worship service. Devon and Jim will be visiting Devon's parents next weekend.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE hygiene kits and school kits are being collected for distribution to those in crisis situations. Information about what to put into a kit and how to assemble them is available in the narthex. Volunteers from Huntingdon Presbytery will deliver them to the PDA distribution center. **Note:** Kits must be received by April 29.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

- **Youth Group:** Youth group for youth in grades 6-12 is held every Sunday evening from 6-7:30 on the third floor of the church. All you are encouraged to attend – and to bring their friends for fun, food, fellowship and most importantly, growth in relationship to God.
- **Adult Sunday Morning Study** led by Pat Brown meets in the church parlor on Sundays at 9 AM. They will pick up where they left off before Lent in their study of Ten Women of the Bible by Max Lucado.
- **Sunday Afternoon Study** meets on the first Sunday of each month in the parlor, following the worship service.
- **Tuesday Evening Group** has moved location and will now be meeting on the third floor of the church at 6:30 PM. Group suppers have been discontinued, but there will be dessert each week! Their new study is “Prayer; Does it Make Any Difference?” by Philip Yancey. All are welcome!
- **Wednesday Morning Group:** This group meets at the manse at 6:30 AM. This week, April 11, we will finish The Forgiveness of Jesus. A new study by Ray Vander Laan, A Clash of Kingdoms will begin on April 18. This study is part of the very popular “That the World May Know” series in which Vander Laan guides participants to a deeper understanding of the context of scripture to allow them to apply it more faithfully to their own lives. This study considers Paul’s ministry at Philippi and his encouragement to live as citizens of the Kingdom of God.
- **Sunday Evening Group** meets from 6:00 – 7:15 PM at the manse. Tonight is game night. Then we will begin a new study by Andy Stanley on April 22. The study, called Address the Mess, encourages participants to embrace, rather than avoid, the challenging aspects of life to find how God may be at work in them. The Christian life is not always easy or neat. Address the Mess will help participants be honest about the challenging aspects of their lives. The group will not be meeting on April 15.

MISSION TRIP: Plans are being made for an adult mission trip to Puerto Rico for hurricane relief. The trip will take place in the fall and details will be announced in early summer.

GIVING REPORT AS OF 4/1/18

Weekly Need:	\$ 3,265.14	Yearly Need:	\$ 42,466.82
Last Week:	\$ 4,924.00	YTD Received:	\$ 39,031.30

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.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

1 John 1:1- 2:2

^{1:1} That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April 8 – April 15, 2018

SUNDAY, April 8

- 9:00 AM Adult Small Group – parlor
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Adult Small Group – manse

MONDAY, April 9

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

TUESDAY, April 10

- 6:30 PM Adult Small Group – Third Floor

WEDNESDAY, April 11

- 6:30 AM Adult Small Group – manse
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, April 12

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting

SUNDAY, April 15

- 9:00 AM Adult Small Group – parlor
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Youth Group

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

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