



IN THE GARDEN

"The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed."
 Genesis 2:8

As we enter April, we are most of the way through Lent and a ways down the path

to the cross and the empty tomb. I pray that you have been able to attend to the journey with gratitude—

- ...for the solid ground beneath our feet
- ...for the air that we breath
- ... for the beauty we see
- ... for the water that we drink
- ... for the food that we eat
- ... for the people we encounter on the road
- ... for the help we get along the way
- ... for the risen Christ, our constant companion.

God has planted the garden, placed us in it, and is always walking through it with us. May we be ever aware of the presence of our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer along the way.

"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb..." John 19:41

Pastor Cindy Carlisle

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Lenten Luncheons **Wednesdays, 12 noon**

April 3 – St. Mark's Episcopal Church

April 10 –Lewistown Presbyterian Church

April 18, Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM, Dinner
 6:30 PM, Last Supper w/
 Communion served
 7:00 PM, Tenebrae

April 19, Good Friday 11:00 AM

Stations of the Cross @
 Sacred Heart Catholic

April 20, Saturday 9:00—11:00 AM

Family Easter Event

April 21, Easter Sunday Worship w/ Communion

Saturday, April 27 Kid Connection

May 12
 11:30 AM
 Lemonade on the Lawn

June 23-27
 Community VBS
 ROAR!

July 15-19
Overnight July 18-19
 Traveling Day Camp

SHEILA'S SOLUTION

Rev. Robert Zorn, Minister of Visitation

As the Christian world continues through the Lenten Season in preparation for the glorious Easter Sunday, we attend services, participate in studies and spiritually prepare ourselves with prayer and for some, fasting, I am reminded of a particular incident which remains in mind in spite of the passing years.

During the twenty-five years of our ministry in Lake Erie Presbytery, Carol and I and our three children lived in a small town in Warren County. The parish consisted of two churches located at sixteen miles distance from each other. We lived in the town which had the larger congregation and that provided a manse.

It was a town with many blessings, not the least of which was the location of five churches on or near its Main Street. The Presbyterian church was our charge and our family home. Its location was near the center of town and was quite an ornate frame building with beautiful stained glass windows. It had been built by the contributions of prosperous business people who had gained their wealth from the oil and timber resources of the area. Just a short distance from the Presbyterian church, a large brick Methodist church was built, and dueling church bells could be heard every Sunday morning. Within the same block, a more humble little church housed the Baptist congregation. A shortened pew from that church now sits on our front porch out here in Treaster Valley. A unique feature of the Baptist church was that sometimes they held baptisms in the river which flowed near their back door (remember, 'O Brother Where Art Thou?').

Just on the next block on a parallel street was the Roman Catholic church. It's fine facilities were often used for ecumenical functions. Still further up Main Street there was a small Free Methodist Church. At the time of our tenure in the town, they had a pastor who was blind. He had a large guide dog which was always at his side. One time at a

community service, held in the Presbyterian Church, the dog assisted the worship with a most welcome antiphonal expression that I have never observed in all the years of my attendance in church services.

One evening service there were three ministers on the Chancel of our church. I was there as host Pastor, the guest speaker was a retired Methodist district superintendent, and our sightless neighbor Pastor with his guide dog sleeping at his feet. As the long sermon continued beyond all expectations, the dog awoke and looked at the preacher, yawned, then lay back down to sleep. But the Pastor still continued. The dog was ever endeared by the townsfolk.

But the most memorable incident that I am reminded of every year is this. It was at the Ash Wednesday service at the Catholic Church. It was open to all of the townsfolk who chose to attend. Our nearest neighbors were parents of three young girls, the youngest of whom may have been only three years old. According to the custom, ashes were imposed upon all who wished to participate. All went well until after the service when little Sheila disappeared into the crowd. A frantic search found her at the holy water font vigorously rubbing her forehead with a damp Kleenex. She proudly announced, "Look, Mommy, I got it almost all washed off." She had probably never heard of original sin or total depravity. All she knew was that a little girl in a pretty dress should not have a dirty face. Perhaps in her childlike innocence she truly discovered the meaning of prayer and fasting to cleanse us all from sin.

*"Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.
They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior."
Psalms 24:3-5*

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Please keep our Pastor Nominating and Congregational Nominating Committees in your prayers

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Carole Auker, Lynn Curry, Ruth Fisher, Sue Garner, Diane Griffith,
Carl Haldeman, Kathy Hardin, Lisa Snyder, Larry Welshans with COM Liaison Rev. Scott Andrews

Congregational Nominating Committee

Elder Lisa Snyder (Chairperson), Elder Ed Curry (Vice-Chairperson), Deacon Doug Knudson
At-Large: Kari Cullen, David Eichenlaub, Kris Hill and Ginny Westover

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ginny Westover, Director

The distinguishing mark... The tell-tale sign... A badge of honor, of sorts. Until that conversation I hadn't given much thought to this faded patch of cloth but now my eyes seem drawn there and I find myself looking for others who wear the same. More important than the mark itself is the story behind how it got there. I hadn't given much thought to that either, until our recent study of Were You There? But I'm getting ahead of myself.



purpose is to get eye to eye with the child; to show him or her our face instead of our navel; to communicate a level playing field and put our personhoods on an equal plane. It's an intentional positioning for serving vs. controlling and a nonverbal means to communicate value and respect. The message is "You and

I... we're equal; not in terms of life experience or responsibilities, but in intrinsic worth and dignity." In the famous words of Horton the elephant, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

"That" initial conversation took place nearly a year ago when the members of the Christian Ed Committee were setting up for the Family Easter Event. Leah R. and I were lugging backdrops and chatting. "Where did you find such cute and comfy pants? Looks like you can wear them with anything!", I remarked to Leah as we hauled too big cardboard through too small door. "Walmart, I think. I needed to find something for work. All my other pants are so worn out at the knees."

Hmmm... "worn out at the knees" ...my mind's eye went immediately to my own preschool teacher wardrobe. The right knee of most of my pants was definite a lighter tone than the left. "Yep...seems to be part of the uniform...comes with the territory," I thought to myself. The reason for the worn out pant knee is easy to figure out. If you spend any amount of time working with young children you know how much of a day you spend down on one or both knees. It doesn't take too long for friction to wear and fade the fabric. The "why" is more important than the "how," though. Theoretically, one's pant knees could remain the same color that they were at the time of purchase if one choose to remain unbending or make the children stretch loose shoe laces, tricky puzzle pieces, unwieldy pencils and skinned knees up to you. However, most people I know who are physically able and intent on interacting well with children want to get down to the child's level. The

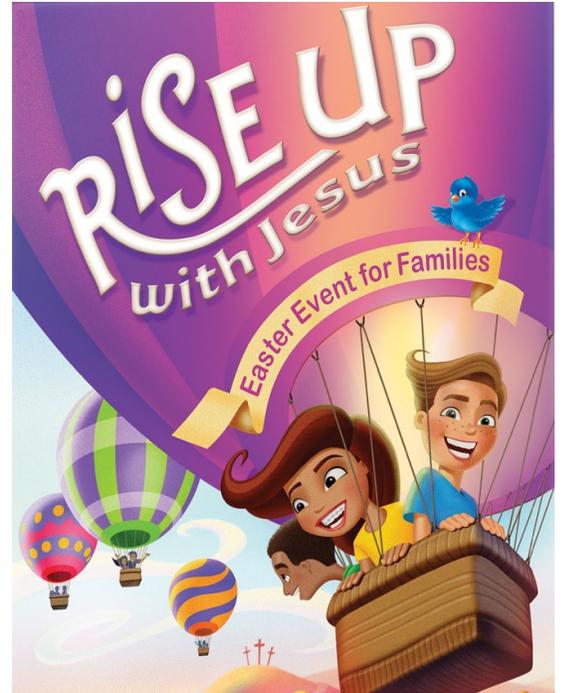
Essentially, the "why behind the worn pant knee is "empathy"; the ability to take the perspective of another person; to see life from their eyes; to feel with another. And here is where my thoughts turned to our current Lenten study, Were You There? From Day 1 we have been challenged to put ourselves in the "shoes" of a slave. To do this we must stay out of judgement (not easy!) and recognize the emotion of those writing/singing the spirituals. In order to make a connection we have to connect with something in ourselves that knows that emotion. It is a vulnerable, often painful and frightening, arduous task! Chapter questions have asked us to examine individual and collective attitudes and experiences of prejudice and injustice and to recognize our own need of salvation and deliverance. The small group discussions have been challenging and meaningful responses. By the time this goes to print we will be halfway through our Lenten journey. The good news of the cross and empty tomb is ever before, us, with the promise of forgiveness and redemption and motivation to be ministers of reconciliation in our neighborhood and in our world. Come Easter Sunday, perhaps we will all wear pants with faded knees, fabric worn thin from bending to the ground with humble prayers of repentance and praise.

EASTER FAMILY EVENT

Bringing the First Easter Morning to Life! Saturday, April 20 9—11 AM



All Families! At Rise Up With Jesus, we will explore surprising details about Jesus' resurrection on that glorious Sunday morning 2,000 years ago. Hand-in-hand, we'll journey through captivating stations that drive home one irresistible truth: Jesus is alive today! Families will experience the miraculous truth of what really happened that morning when Jesus conquered death.



The sights, sounds, and smells of Easter morning will draw you and your family closer to God...and to each other! Stations include: Dark to Light, A Dazzling Discovery, Enter the Tomb, Move the Stone, Rise Up! and The Amazing Truth!

Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 E. Third Street, Lewistown (717-248-4561)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WRAPPED CANDY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED: Candy donations are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring only small pieces of wrapped candy that fit into a plastic Easter egg. Thank you so much for your donation. Please bring wrapped candy to the narthex or the counting room by Monday, April 15.

MAUNDY THURSDAY OBSERVANCE: Thursday, April 18, join us in the Baraca Room at 6:00 PM for a light meal followed by the Lord's Supper. We will proceed to the sanctuary for a Tenebrae service – a service of gathering darkness – during which we will reflect on the gospel accounts of Christ's arrest and crucifixion. This is a very meaningful service, which helps us reflect on Jesus Christ's sacrifice 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 11:00 AM on Good Friday, April 19. Following the service (approx. 11:45), all who wish to follow the cross through Lewistown will meet outside Sacred Heart for a prayer walk through our community. You are welcome to take part in either or both services.

LUMINA CENTER WORK DAY: Saturday, May 4, 8:00 AM. The center is in need of a deep cleaning and organization. If you are able to help organize, clean, paint/repair or help with carrying things out that are no longer needed, please contact the Lumina at lumina@acsworld.com or 717-248-2888 and let Katherine Ray, the new Director, know that you can help.

THE SUMMER RAINBOW SUMMER PROGRAM at the Lumina Center needs a nurse or retired health professional to be available for any injuries that may come up and to help with medicine distribution. Rainbow Summer is June 17-28.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

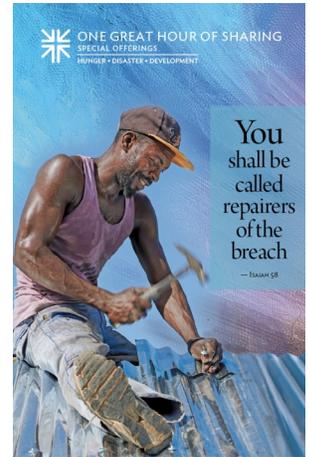
Palm Sunday, April 14

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression and injustice in society.

This special offering supports three important programs of the larger Church: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger, Self Development of People.



Remember to bring your family fish bank with you to Church on Palm Sunday!



DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR YOU

We encourage you to expand your understanding of the Bible and how the Bible relates to your daily life by reading daily devotionals. We recommend these following devotionals to help you grow in faith and understanding:

D365.org—a website, done in partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA), that offers a daily Bible passage, short commentary, and ways you can apply the scripture to your life. You can read the devotionals any time at this website, have the devotionals emailed to you daily, or download this website as an app from the App Store or Google Play.



luthersem.edu/godpause—a website, created by Luther Seminary, that provides Bible passages and short reflections that relate to daily life. You can read the devotionals any time of the year, or sign up to have the devotionals emailed to you daily.

Our Daily Bread—a hard-copy publication that presents daily inspirational stories, personal applications, and wisdom from the Bible. Copies of **Our Daily Bread** (both regular and large print versions) are available in the narthex of our church.

VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL

Children's Chat

- 7 Pastor Cindy Carlise
- 14 Sue Garner
- 21 Ginny Westover
- 28 Elaine Siddons

Deacon for the Month

Michelle Knudson

Acolyte for April

Noerr family

Infants and Nursery

- 7 Leah Riden
- 14 Mercy Westover
- 21 Elaine Siddons
- 28 Zoe Finan

Children's Church

- 7 Communion
- 14 Griffiths/Cunningham
- 21 No Jr. church—Easter
- 28 Griffiths/Cunningham

Ushers for April

Lisa Snyder (head usher)
Ken & Ruth Fisher
Cole Cullen
Cullen/Garner children

April Community Luncheon

Session Committee

Liturgists

- 7 Lynn Curry
- 14 Danny Garner
- 21 Sue Garner
- 28 Leah Riden

Counters

- 7 Ed Curry & Lonnie Griffith
- 14 Bill Sisson & Maryann Haines
- 21 Lisa Snyder & Jack Wilson
- 28 Kari Cullen & John Gregory

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY SCHOOL

Margie Henry, Assistant Preschool Teacher, Lead Nursery School Teacher

The month of February is recognized as the time of love with Valentine's Day occurring smack in the middle. You could feel the love throughout the preschool; friends sharing words of kindness and goodbye hugs at the close of classes abounded. We learned the song, *It Starts in the Heart*. The children built hand bridges with each other demonstrating that love connects us all.

We started February off with meeting magical characters in: The Frog Prince, The Princess and the Pea, and The Elves and the Shoemaker. Castle creations, mattress stacking and leaping over numbers like frogs all added to the magic of the moments. Week two had the children exploring a variety of stories in the form of a song (ballad), some filled with exaggeration (folktale), and some that give an explanation of a phenomenon (fable). In the read aloud: Froggie Went a Courtin' students dressed-up and role played the wedding of Froggie and Miss Mouse. Love was definitely in the air!

Valentine bags were prepared with cards distributed with much fanfare. It was memorable to see the amount of precise attention students gave to handwritten notes to their fellow classmates. Pastor Cindy came into the classroom and read: Run Away Bunny reinforcing God's forever love.

The central theme of: 'I Build, I Create' had students building skyscrapers out of blocks to the heavens, creating friendship bracelets, and constructing a no rhythm instrument band with humming, tapping and snapping sounds. Ice skating on paper plates to "One Dinosaur," which is a song that grows as words are added, had everyone performing feats with feet!

And what would Dr. Seuss week be without Green Eggs and Ham, and we do like them Sam I Am! In fact, we made the green eggs ourselves, egg shells and all. Also, the Cat in the Hat was not the only hat in the house! Threes practiced cutting by



making a red and white "cat in the hat." There were even waskets in baskets. Pre-K practiced number recognition by picking a number from the card deck and counting out the corresponding goldfish to put in the bowl.

Wacky Wednesday turned out to be wacky indeed. Building tinker toys on a upside down table was wacky. Making green eggs and ham was wacky. Mrs. Westover's hair color matched the green eggs and ham, talk about wacky. But the creativity was awesome!

As the month continued around school delays and cancellations we learned about the nuts and bolts of machinery. Sawing cardboard boxes proved a collaborative effort as boxes needed to be held in place for the sawing to continue. Screwdrivers, nuts, washers and bolts held together a variety of creative construction projects. Sentence construction began with a word and grew as students added descriptive details and actions. This kind of construction required thinking hats instead of hard hats.

Penguin Day included learning how hard it is to walk with a baby penguin (balls) on our feet like the Emperor Penguin daddy does. We discussed God's design for a penguin; the bird that can't fly! On penguin day it was easy to see things in black and white. We even designed shaped penguins from hexagons, ovals, circles, rectangles, squares and triangles. Children and parents enjoyed seeing their artwork displayed in the Penguin Pile on the bulletin board.

Last but not least, thank you to the parents and grandparents who came to the students' choral presentation during church services on February 10. Your commitment is very much appreciated. Also, those individuals who contributed cakes for the Luncheon held February 24, again we are much obliged.

PRESCHOOL PICTURES



NURSERY SCHOOL PICTURES



SHELTER SERVICES

We envision all people living in a safe environment where they can reach their full potential.



TURNING TALENTS INTO GIFTS

Have you ever looked at a wide-reaching problem and asked yourself, "I'm one person, what can I do?"

Eleven year old Genesis came up with an answer. She decided to use her love for baking as an avenue to help the homeless. Genesis has begun a project to make and sell as many homemade cookies as possible, and then donate the monies to the Shelter. She did not concern herself with our yearly budget or how great the cost—she simply used her talent and got started with what *she could do*. She presented her first 'installment' of her fundraiser to Shelter Services last week and promises there will be more to come. What talent are you using to bless others?



PAIN-FREE GIVING

Please consider partnering with Giant Stores to provide a donation to the Shelter. By purchasing a shopping bag you are also helping

meet the needs of the homeless. We offer 24 hour per day staffing; Case Management for all residents, foods for three meals daily, toiletries, a clean bed and more. Your donation makes all this possible.

PEACE OF MIND

Thanks to Kish Electrical, Allensville Mennonite Church and Anna Dale Thomson Foundation, Shelter Service has been able to bring our fire safety system into the modern world.

We so appreciate all that care for, and help meet the needs of, the homeless. It has added immense peace of mind to all of us that our emergency system has been upgraded and is fully functioning.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

We were able to serve 211 persons in 2018 with housing, clothes, food, toiletries, case management and referrals.

- Three more persons were given three-day hotel stays because their background deemed them ineligible for a family shelter
- Eleven additional were given transportation to return to their hometown
- 46 others were from out of the area and were giving 30 day housing and helps
- 10 were Huntingdon County residents
- 25 were residents of Juniata County
- 115 were Mifflin County citizens. Two individuals with limited mobility and one sight impaired individual were able to be served thanks to a new fold out couch on our first floor

We also housed 5 families after their apartment building burnt down. Our Thrift Store was also able to provide household supplies to help them start over in other homes. Along with Rhodes Memorial Church, we were able to provide a family of six with a washing machine and bless nine other families with Christmas dinners and gifts for their children for Christmas. We were also able to equip the Shelter kitchen with a new range. The residents and staff say a big—THANK YOU!

Because of private funds, designated by the donors, we gave over \$12,000.00 to prevent homeless crises. Shelter Service delivered oil to five households with children; prevented eviction for four families by assisting with a utility bill, helped the needy pay for life sustaining, physician prescribed medications, provided transportation to medical appointments, and purchased work equipment such as steel-toe boots for new employment.

Unfortunately, the need continues:

We had to replace a furnace, repair plumbing, restore a damaged floor, replace a door... and on it goes.

It is thanks to the citizens, businesses, agencies, churches and caring community members that we can confidently say—"We have been able to serve so many needy citizens because of your support!"

*We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.
1 Thessalonians 1:2*

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on February 14 and March 3, 2019, heard reports and discussed ministry issues, including:

- It was reported that the current membership of the church is 229.
- Heard that the staff is compiling an Operation's Manual for the Church.
- Approved for following:
 - Pastor's Continuing Education and Vacation.
 - Lenten Program using "Were You There" by Luke Powery. Kidz Klub is being planned to correspond to sermon series based on Exodus.
 - Collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on 3/10/19.
 - Paying the registration fee for the Youth Triennium using Session Funds
- Preschool registrations for next year are being received and the Committee is looking into extending this year's school year for the snow makeup days for the classes.
- Dates have been set for the Community Vacation Bible School to be held at First Methodist Church from 6/23 – 6/27/19.
- The Faith Festival will be held in conjunction with Kid Connection (4/27/19 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) The Mission and Evangelism Committee will host the church booth.
- At a Special Meeting on March 3rd, Session reviewed and approved the Mission Study prepared by the Pastor Nominating Committee. It will be submitted to Presbytery COM for approval.

FINANCIAL REPORT

From Church Treasurer, Susan L. Ferguson

	<u>JAN - FEB 2019</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>% OF BUDGET</u>
INCOME			
BUDGETED INCOME	37,510.44	211,915.00	17.7%
INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>11,490.78</u>	<u>135,850.00</u>	<u>8.46%</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>49,001.22</u>	<u>347,765.00</u>	<u>14.09%</u>
EXPENSE			
BENEVOLENCE	4,126.20	30,000.00	13.75%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	11,410.57	86,647.00	13.17%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	447.30	5,700.00	7.85%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	556.92	2,450.00	22.73%
PROPERTY	5,364.61	54,800.00	9.79%
ADMINISTRATION	4,837.11	25,531.00	18.95%
PERSONNEL	19,042.80	137,187.00	13.88%
FELLOWSHIP	396.09	1,800.00	22.01%
PRESCHOOL	<u>68.41</u>	<u>3,650.00</u>	<u>1.87%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>46,250.01</u>	<u>347,765.00</u>	<u>13.3%</u>
NET INCOME	<u>2,751.21</u>	<u>0.00</u>	

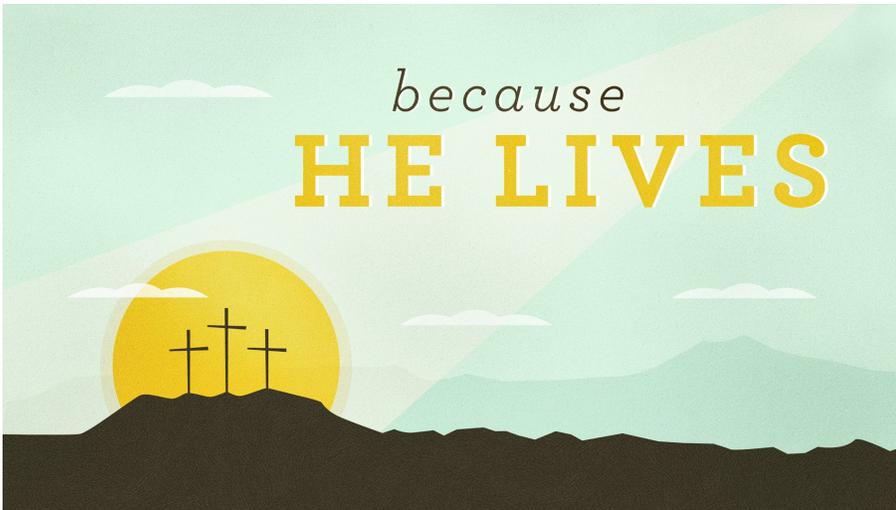
APRIL 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3: WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST	1 11:30 am Prayer Ministry	2 6:30 pm Small Group—Youth room 7:00 pm	3 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch St. Mark's 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Worship Committee	4 11:30 am Prayer Ministry 6:00 pm Deacons' Mtg. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm Committee Night	5	6
7 Communion 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Bell Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Small Group -library 4:30 pm Kidz Klub	8 11:30 am Prayer Ministry	9 6:30 pm Small Group—Youth room 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting	10 7:00 pm Choir 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch Lewistown Presbyterian	11 11:30 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Session Meeting	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Small Group -library 4:30 pm Kidz Klub 6:00 pm Youth Group	15 11:30 am Prayer Ministry	16 6:30 pm Small Group—Youth room	17 6:30 am Small Group—parlor 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch Sacred Heart 7:00 pm Choir PANORAMA DEADLINE	18 11:30 am Prayer Ministry 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service	19 Good Friday 11:00 am Stations of the Cross @ Sacred Heart Catholic	20 EASTER FAMILY EVENT 9-11 AM
21 Resurrection Sunday 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Bell Choir 10:30 am Worship	22 11:30 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm PNC	23 6:30 pm Small Group—Youth room 9:00 am Backyard Ministries cookie collection	24 6:30 am Small Group—parlor 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch Salvation Army 7:00 pm Choir	25 11:30 am Prayer Ministry	26	27
28 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group	29 11:30 am Prayer Ministry	30 6:30 pm Small Group—Youth room				

Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 East Third Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Address Correction Requested



Please contact us if you would like more information.
Phone: 717-248-4561
Email: lewispres@comcast.net
Visit us at Website: www.lewistownpresbyterian.org
Find us on Facebook!

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