



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

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

December 15, 2019
3rd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Seeking the Joy in the Journey

Scripture: Isaiah 35; Matthew 11:2-11

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Pastors: Sarah Sedgwick and Robert Zorn

Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Listen!

Joel Raney

Passing of the Peace

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace. Let us exchange signs of Christ's peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Chat

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Seeking the Joy in the Journey

*** Song**

Forever

1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King;
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus:

*Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
Forever God is with us, forever.
Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
Forever God is with us, forever, forever.*

3. From the rising, to the setting sun,
His love endures forever.
And by the grace of God, we will carry on,
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Tomlin, © 2001 worshiptogether ~ CCLI #1881909

Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Reflection on "Veni, Emmanuel"

Lasky

Doxology #592 (blue)

Prayer of Dedication

Congregational Meeting

Election of Church Officers

* **Hymn #5** (blue)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Charge and Blessing

* **Congregational Response #576** (blue)

Gloria, Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Recessional on "I Saw Three Ships"

Wagner

**if comfortably able, please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit: Bell Choir; Director, Doug Garner

Anthem: Chancel Choir; Director, Doug Garner

Liturgist: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Annalise Haines

Acolyte: Abi Riden

Children's Chat: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Miranda Shoop

Ushers: Lonnie Griffith (head usher), Christopher Griffith,
Harold & Gerri Aitkin, Larry & Janie Welshans

Children's Church: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Cantata; no children's church

Infants/Preschool: Mercy Westover

Next Week: Annalise Haines

Deacon for the Month: Janie Welshans

Counters: Dave Noss & Maryann Haines

Next Week: Ed Curry & Lonnie Griffith

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Brochure. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a meeting of the congregation at the end of the worship service **TODAY** to elect officers.

ADVENT RESOURCES: Whether you like to color, craft or just cozy up with some good reading material, we've got something to encourage you through this Advent season! Stop at the table in the back of the sanctuary and take a look!

HONORING PASTOR ZORN: Please join us on **Sunday, December 29**, during our service and at the community luncheon as we honor Pastor Zorn's dedicated years of service as our Minister of Visitation. Cards of encouragement/congratulations will be collected.

A FAMILY EPIPHANY EVENT: Come celebrate the arrival of the wise men to Bethlehem and the transforming presence of Jesus, **Saturday, January 4 from 10 AM – noon**. Our time will include: The Magi story re-enacted and four stations featuring a star craft, creation of a home blessing box, experiencing the story through our senses, and a play dough activity will be provided. Before our time ends, we will enjoy star cookies, a King's cake, and camel food! There will also be a photo booth for fun pictures. All ages are welcome!

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE: The Fellowship Committee has provided a tree in the narthex and invite you to write on the provided ornaments the name of someone on your mind this season. Someone who has died; someone who lives far away; someone who is hurting; or maybe someone for whom you are grateful.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available today in the narthex.

GREEN CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES have been designated for the Preschool Scholarship Fund.

WEEKLY REFLECTION PAGE

You are encouraged to use the Advent activities and reflection questions throughout the week to prepare your heart to receive the good news of Christmas.

Unwrapping More of His Love in the World

God made you for such a time as this. Find one person you can help today in a time of need.

A Moment for Reflection

What worries do you need to surrender to God, knowing He is firmly on His throne?

*It was not suddenly and unannounced that
Jesus came into the world.*

*He came into a world that had been prepared for Him.
The whole Old Testament is a story of special preparation...*

*Only when all was ready,
only in the fullness of His time, did Jesus come.*

Phillips Brooks

Feel free to share some thoughts on the reflection question with Pastor Sarah by emailing her at pastorsedgwick@gmail.com



PRAYER GUIDE
December 15, 2019

Our Community

- Those struggling with addictions, and their loved ones

For Our Programs and Growth

- Our interim Pastor, Rev. Sarah Sedgwick
- Pastor nominating committee as they carry out their work
- Our Church staff, Deacons, Elders, Choirs, Volunteers

Health Concerns

- Kathy Hardin: tests this past week
- Rebecca Sisson: pain from a fall
- George Garner: terminally ill
- Linda Miller: recovering from a fall, at William Penn rehab
- Kyler Sheetz: 6-year-old, malignant melanoma
- Brad and Elaine Siddons: continued prayers
- Bill Carter; at home
- Levi Foltz: 2-year-old with a tumor
- Evelyn Wilde: healing from a fall

Those in Care Facilities

- Valley View: Mary Lou Ingram, Jack Irrgang
- Ohesson: Etta Majestic, Mary Barger, Shirley Ferguson, Alice Black
- Elmcroft: Lavonne Ball
- Shirley Home (Shirleysburg): Carl Knepp
- Hearthside (State College): Mary McClellan
- Locust Grove Retirement Village: Doris Hoverter

Those in the Military

- 01/LT Allison (Harklerode) Conforte
- BM3 Tyler M. Earnest
- SFC William Corson
- SGT John Dietz
- SSGT Tyler Treaster

Our Mission Partners

- Leah and Francis Daytec in the Philippines
- Camp Krislund
- Shelter Services providing hope and help to the homeless
- Habitat for Humanity
- Backyard Ministries sharing the gospel with children
- Adventures in Mission and BuildinGuate
- The LUMINA Center

Families of the Week

- Jean Clark
- Tyler Smith

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, December 15 – Deacon's Offering

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service & Congregational Meeting

MONDAY, December 16

11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

TUESDAY, December 17

6:30 PM Small Group Study – third floor

WEDNESDAY, December 18

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 19

6:00 PM Christian Ed Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, December 22 -

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service – Chancel Choir Cantata

GIVING REPORT AS OF 12/8/19

Weekly Need: \$ 3,173.08 YTD Need: \$ 155,488.92

Received: \$ 4,647.00 YTD Received: \$ 153,157.61

DEACONS' OFFERING: The loose offering in the collection plate **TODAY** is designated to the Deacons' Fund.

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.



**Special Meeting of the
Congregation of the
Lewistown Presbyterian Church
December 15, 2019**

AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Sarah Sedgwick

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Elder Lisa Snyder, Nominating
Committee Chair

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER – Rev. Sarah Sedgwick

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

December 15, 2019

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SESSION

(three year term)

Sue Garner (2nd term)

Tara Merry

Brad Siddons

Derek Warke

Mercy Westover

BOARD OF DEACONS

(three year term)

Kathy Hardin

Cathy McClenahen

Bill Sisson

Larry Welshans (2nd term)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ken Fisher

Dave Noss

Paul Olbrich

Elaine Siddons

DIRECTORS OF USHERS

Shelly Kodish

AUDITOR

Bruce Nielsen (2022)

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday, February 2, 2020, immediately following the worship service. Annual reports must be submitted by January 10, 2020.