



LEWISTOWN

CHURCH

Presbyterian

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

6th Sunday of Epiphany
February 16, 2020

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: Blessings and Curses

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Rev. Sarah Sedgwick
Rev. Robert Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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February 16, 2020

10:30 AM

Prelude Jesus, Lead Thou On Young
 Come, Christians, Join to Sing Larson

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

Introit Fanfare Celebration Mazzatenta

Call to Worship

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

All: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Leader: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

* **Hymn #464** (blue) Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods; we have turned our hearts away from you. Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism disorders our love of you and each other. Forgive us, God, and mend what is broken that we may be one with you. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Sisters and brothers, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Sing praises with an upright heart as we learn the ways of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

During flu season, we respect the decision of anyone who chooses to not shake hands during the Passing of the Peace. If you prefer not to touch while extending peace, please place your hands together in a posture of prayer.

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**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon

Blessings and Curses

*** Song of Praise**

As the Deer

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after You.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship You.

Chorus:

*You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship You.*

2. You're my friend and You are my brother,
Even though You are a king.
And I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.
3. I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver,
And the apple of my eye.

Martin Nystrom, © 1981 ~ CCLI#1881909

***Affirmation of Faith**

Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory The Saints' Delight

Wood

Doxology #592 (blue)

Prayer of Dedication

* **Hymn #280** (blue) Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Charge and Blessing

Love the Lord,
choose the good,
**Hold fast to God,
So that you may flourish.**

And may the wisdom of God,
The love of Christ,
And the peace of the Spirit
Shine brightly in your lives,
**This day and always.
Alleluia! Amen!**

Closing Chorus #542 (screen)

God Be with You

*God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you will we meet again.*

Postlude

Postlude on Madrid

Lasky

**if comfortably able, please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit: Bell Choir; Director, Doug Garner

Anthem: Chancel Choir; Director, Doug Garner

Soloist: Sue Garner **Drummer:** Cole Cullen

Liturgist: Alex Garner

Next Week: Susan Ferguson

Acolyte: Lucas Garner

Children's Chat: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Sue Garner

Ushers: Ed Curry (head usher), Shelly & Kevin Kodish, Jean Burlew, Karen McCurdy, Donis Zagurskie

Children's Church: Ginny Westover

Next Week: Leah Riden

Infants/Preschool: Mercy Westover

Next Week: Pam Pecht

Deacon for the Month: Donis Zagurskie

Counters: Maryann Haines & Karen McCurdy

Next Week: Ed Curry & John Gregory

Scripture Readings **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21-37

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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.

PASTOR SARAH, JIM, AND MCKENZIE will officially move into the manse on Friday, February 21. McKenzie will start school the following week. In an effort to have their household items ready to be loaded in the moving truck, Pastor Sarah will be out of the office this week. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office for assistance. Anyone interested in unpacking boxes on Friday, February 21 or Saturday, February 22 is welcome to contact Pastor Sarah at 814-771-1891 or email pastorsedgwick@gmail.com.

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, the choir will be singing anthems from the African and African American traditions during worship in honor of Black History Month.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES will be offered two times on Wednesday, February 26, in the sanctuary. A 12 noon service and 7 PM service will be held. Attend either at your convenience. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and communion by intinction. Let us prepare our hearts for Lent!

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU! If you are interested in designing slides for the screen on Sunday mornings or simply using a laptop to move the slides forward during the service, please speak to Doug Garner or Cole Cullen. This is a great way to participate in our weekly worship together!

COME SEE THE MOVIE "A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:" A timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. After a jaded magazine writer is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about kindness, love and forgiveness from America's most beloved neighbor." We will be showing the film at Lewistown Presbyterian **Sunday, February 23 at 12:30 PM and Saturday, February 29 at 10 AM**. Childcare is available. Please RSVP with how many will be attending and their ages. 717-248-4561 or lewispres@comcast.net

OUR ALL CHURCH LENTEN STUDY begins March 1. The study is: *The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers: Healing and Freedom from Forgiveness.* The season of Lent provides a time for us to explore the necessity for forgiveness as we approach the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We can learn a lot about expressing our emotions and extending forgiveness through the lives of Jesus Christ and Fred Rogers.

You are encouraged to join one of several small groups to discuss "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" movie and lessons from Mr. Rogers. Small groups will meet once a week beginning the week of March 1. Sign up on the table in the narthex this month. Small groups will meet: Sundays at 9 AM, 12 noon, 4:30 PM and 6 PM (Youth Group), Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, Wednesday afternoon at 2 PM (Valley View), and Wednesday nights at 6 PM.

LENTEN KIDZ KLUB: MARCH 1 – APRIL 5. Children in Pre K – 5th grade will enjoy Bible adventures, games, crafts and songs every Sunday afternoon from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Families are welcome to join us for supper at 5:30 PM. This year's Kidz Klub is called **LOL** (Living our Lives, Loving our Lord)! Our verse is from Psalm 139, "*O Lord...you know everything about me. You are intimately acquainted with all my ways.*" Whether we're glad, mad or sad Jesus loves us! We'll be learning about the story of Joseph, and with the help of emoji's, take a look at all of Joseph's adventures. Kidz Klub will end with an emoji egg hunt on Sunday, April 5.

APRIL PAIGE IS LIVING AT SHIRLEY HOME. The address is 17050 Country View Lane, Shirleysburg, PA 17260 (her phone, 717-513-0293) if you would like to send her a card or make a visit.

GIVING REPORT AS OF 2/9/2020

Weekly Need: \$3,056.17	YTD Need: \$18,337.02
Received: \$2,160.00	YTD Received: \$17,170.01

WEEKLY REFLECTION PAGE

The weekly reflection page is a resource for your use to dig deeper into today's scripture and worship theme.

Question for Reflection

Today's readings speak of blessings and curses, life and death, good relationships and those that are broken. Moreover, the texts suggest that we have a choice in these matters. Where do you find life, and where do you not – and what role do your choices play? Where have you experienced broken relationships in your own life or in the church? How do Christ and the reign of heaven enable us to move beyond brokenness and live in mutual support?

Morning Prayer

Holy God, I greet this day with thanks and the determination to choose the good. Help me to walk with you in blessing. Let my "yes" be yes, and my "no" be no, as I share the light of Christ. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, it is night, and night is for sleeping; yet, my mind is racing fast. I give thanks for the blessings this day, and then I worry – there is so much left undone. But you are with me! You calm my anxiety, fill me with peace, and help me choose the way of rest. Amen.

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



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, February 16

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 3:00 PM Pastor Sarah’s Installation Service & Reception

MONDAY, February 17

- 11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

TUESDAY, February 18

- 6:30 PM Small Group Study – third floor

WEDNESDAY, February 19

- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, February 20

PANORAMA DEADLINE

- 11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

SUNDAY, February 23

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library
- 9:15 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Community Luncheon
- 12:30 PM Mr. Roger’s Movie – 3rd floor

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.