



THE PANORAMA

The Newsletter of The Lewistown Presbyterian Church



"Every good and perfect gift comes from above." James 1:7

Dear Friends,

During the month of November our worship together will focus on the above verse from the Letter of James. We will spend time together pondering the multitude of gifts God gives to each of us and to the Body of Christ at Lewistown Presbyterian.

It's a favorite time of year, for me, to remember God's gifts. It's also a time of year in which we can encourage one another to go beyond our same old response through our giving of time, talents and treasures.

As difficult as it is to admit, most times we fall short of giving our very best back to God. We give more of our time to participating in sports, watching television, working at our job and any number of other things than giving God our TIME in God's church.

We fall short of sharing our TALENTS to strengthen and expand the mission and ministries of God's church. We assume someone else will do the work in the church or we tell ourselves that we've done enough. What happens is that a handful of people are the ones to lead programs, usher, sing in the choir, serve as an officer and so on. Expecting just a few people to serve leads these people towards BURNOUT.

We fall short of stretching ourselves financially by increasing our pledge to God through the church budget. We hate the idea of feeling uncomfortable with increased financial giving, or again, we think someone else will take care of it. Our TREASURES end up being stored for personal gain.

The intent of this letter isn't to make anyone feel bad about the way they have used their time, talent, and treasures. My intent is to encourage ALL of us to stretch our faith in God while we consider ALL the ways in which God has taken care of us through a very interesting and difficult year.

The truth is this. . . we need ALL the members of our church engaging in mission and ministry outside attendance on Sunday mornings. We need ALL members finding rest and renewal by attending in-person or online Sunday worship.

We need MORE members and friends of the church stopping by during the week to attend a committee meeting, pulling some weeds, assisting with our monthly Community Luncheons or other church activities.

Not because God will punish us if we don't, but God has shown us through scripture and in the work of the Holy Spirit that when we are about God's business, all other things in our lives "fall into place." We were created to worship God and our chief end in life is to "enjoy God together."

Now more than ever our world needs Christians who align themselves first to God and God's community rather than asking God to fit in or find a place in what they believe is important.

About a year ago, I chose to serve as your interim pastor because I was drawn to the faithful life I

continued on page 2

PASTOR'S PAGE

(continued from the front page)

observed and found evidenced through the people of this church and the various ministries/missions.

I feel grateful to have been installed as your Pastor this past February and to follow in the faithful steps of those before me and who will come after me. I promised, at that time, to bring much energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Now, I'm asking you to do the same. Bring what God has lovingly given to you and share it with God's people. Let us help one another to fulfill our mutual calls to serve God's church and community by supporting one another as pastor and church members.

Come see us at church, even if you have stepped away for a while. God loves you. We love you. I love you.

God is good!

Pastor Sarah

SERMON SERIES IN NOVEMBER



How natural is generosity to who you are? What do you do with what you have? Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about hospitality, generosity, and stewardship? Join us in November as we consider "Every Good Gift" from God. We conclude our month with a Thanksgiving-themed service on November 22. On November 29, the First Sunday of Advent, we prepare our hearts for God's ultimate gift to us—Emmanuel, God with us!

- November 1: **Every Good Gift—Generous Giving (Holy Communion)**
- November 8: **Every Good Gift (Guest Preacher: Judi Bookhamer)—Generous Time & Talents**
- November 15: **Every Good Gift—Generous Empathy (Pledge Sunday)**
- November 22: **Thanksgiving Service**
- November 29: **Hanging of the Greens Service**
-



The Worship and Music & Fellowship Committees invite you to gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 22, at 6 PM to decorate for Advent and Christmas. Many hands make for light work!

Masks recommended while we work.

CHRISTIAN ED

Ginny Westover, Christian Ed Director

Generous—what comes to mind when you hear that word? A larger than usual serving of mashed potatoes on your Thanksgiving plate? A sum of money? An offer to help clean up a yard? Maybe a **who** comes to mind at the mention of “generous.” Someone instead of something who went above and beyond, who gave sacrificially for your benefit. Until recently, I don’t recall ever pairing that adjective with God. God is good, God is love, God is transcendent, God is just, God is all the “omni” words. But, generous? We sing, “Holy, holy, holy”; but “generous”? (Admittedly, a string of three would require a new tune). Think about it: God is generous; generosity is part of who God is. Looking at the opposite quality may help. God is not selfish. God is not stingy. God “withholds no good thing...” Rather, God is lavish; extravagant, liberal, doing and giving “beyond what we can ask or think.” Do you believe that? Is that your experience of God at work in your life? I had to ask myself those same questions, and then one more. If I believe that God is generous—giving because loving to lavish good gifts on his children is who God is—why don’t I trust him? If God is generous with all things—grace, strength, forgiveness, patience, time, energy, physical needs, wisdom (and the list goes on)—and since his supply of these gifts is endless—why don’t I trust him to “supply all my needs according to his riches in glory through Christ Jesus?”

Soon after I started pondering the answer to these questions, I received a phone call from a friend. It was after 10:00 on a Sunday evening and I was getting ready to crawl into bed. “Is there any way that you could help me out? My daughter is coming home from school and is too sick to drive. Would you be able to drive me to her so I can drive her and her car home?” My mind whirled with reasons why helping would not be a good idea at this time. I started to speak out my reasons and was stopped short. “I am enough” I sensed the Holy Spirit say. My friend

was silent, waiting for my answer. “O.K., God” I breathed. And to my friend, “O.K., give me a few minutes and I’ll head your way.” Four hours later, I crawled into bed, saying, “Lord, I sure hope I heard you right and that I can trust you to give me the wherewithal to teach in a few hours!” I don’t think it was a “coincidence” that the “verse of the day” that next morning was, “Seek the Lord and his strength.” So I did and God proved himself generous! (I enjoyed an early bed time that night, too!).

I am glad that God generously and patiently instructs his children in the way of faith. There are many more areas where my faith needs to grow and the familiar words of “trust and obey” and “I surrender all” move from my head to my hands and feet. Time, comfort, money, stuff—these are all things I often hold tightly to rather than release to Jesus for him to use as he wants. Too many times I allow fear to be the voice I listen to and choose to hold back rather than step out. I can say with confidence, though, when I surrender and obey the voice of God’s Spirit rather than the voice of fear, God always comes through! Whether I need energy to do what he’s called me to, or creativity, or insight, or encouragement, God’s supply is generous! Taste and see!

We will have the opportunity to do just that throughout the month of November. We will be challenged in the best of ways by Pastor Sarah’s series on stewardship. The Tuesday night small group got a jump start on these topics and began “Every Good Gift” several weeks ago. We have seen God’s Spirit at work, stretching us and moving us to deeper trust and a deeper commitment to carry out the call that God has given us. I’m excited to see how God will challenge each of us to step into the gifts he has generously given to accomplish his purposes here at Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

NEW KIDZ ZOOM LINK, ID AND PASSWORD!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88365779417?pwd=RktDS0Qxcmk5eUZZaEpoazBhbXQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 6577 9417

Passcode: 9643



WHITTLING FOR KRISLUND!

Rev. Robert Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

In the narthex of our church is a display of hand created wooden flowers that have been made by Bob and Carol Zorn from various species of wood which grow locally. We hope that the sale (by donation only) of these flowers may make a small contribution to the "Krislund Fund" which is in progress at this time. We have a warm place in our hearts for church camping because we met in such a venue seventy years ago.

With apologies to Mr. Eric Sloane, and many thanks to Mr. Jack Wilson, whose gift of the book, *Reverence for Wood*, has encouraged us in many wood projects over the years.

We would like to make several observations concerning the various woods we use in the construction of the flowers. Some of the flowers are of the wood of the pine trees, which



**Rev. Bob Zorn
Whittling wood**

reminds us of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, which is why we celebrate. Some flowers are of butternut wood and show the signs of worm-holes, reminding us that often our lives are attacked by sin and situations which are detrimental to our lives. Some are of quaking aspen, which in the wild, with quivering leaves warns us of approaching storms and of the fragility of our lives. Sassafras points out that there are many flavors of our lives, like refreshing cups of tea. Lilac adds color and fragrance to the bouquet. Nor can we forget the red hue of the cedar, from which the old Rugged Cross may have been fashioned.

We, like the trees, are of many characteristics and shades and have been created by God for many purposes. May the beauty of the Lord be seen in our lives.

WALKING FOR KRISLUND!

Dear Church Family,

With deep gratitude, McKenzie and I thank those who donated to our "Walk for Krislund" fundraiser during the month of October. We raised \$240! We were happy to help support a place that is near and dear to our hearts. We pray this campaign will strengthen Krislund Camp to continue to serve faithfully.

I'd also like to thank you all for your love and support this year. I was deeply touched by the card and financial gift I received from the Session to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month. Most importantly, I am grateful for all the ways you encourage me on a daily basis to serve God with my very best. I thank God to be serving with all of you!

Love,

Pastor Sarah



PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Ginny Westover, Preschool Director

Family and friends—two of our most precious gifts! These subjects were the theme of this past month's learning in our preschool classroom. October began with a focus on the human family. Early in the month the children came to school lugging poster boards filled with pictures of mom, dad, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and pets. Stickers, glitter and other four-year old's artistry framed camping trips, beach vacations and sporting events. Then, one by one, the children took turns coming to the front of the class to talk about their family poster. Some spoke with great flourish and rapid-fire detail; others with slow deliberation. Some needed a prompt of encouragement to get started and others needed an encouraging nudge to bring their story to a close. Everyone was excited and proud to talk about their family! We learned that families come in all shapes and sizes but they all have one very important trait in common: family members love and take care of each other.

This is true of our school family too. At the beginning of every school day, the children make a commitment to practice using kind words, helping hands, listening ears or a confident voice. They know that they are helping to make our classroom a safe and happy place. We teachers are happy to say that the children are doing a great job! Our kindness tree is leafing out with many examples!

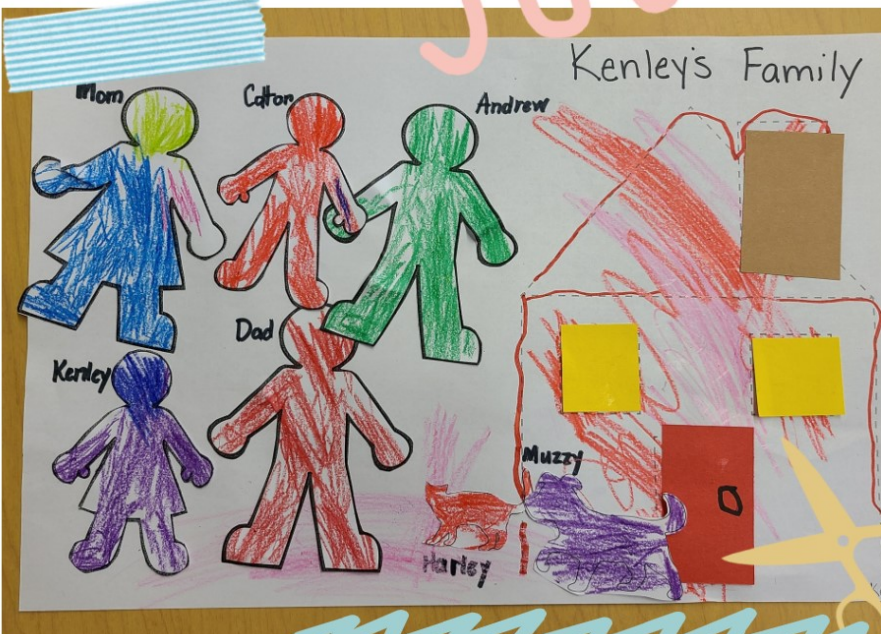
Lots of leaves went up on the kindness tree on Applesauce Day! We heard many "yes, please's" and "thank-you's" as the children took turns washing, chopping and cranking to help make the applesauce. And, a big "Thank You!" went out to Miss Sue for helping and being our chief cooker and scrubber! Our hearts were filled with wonder and thanks when we cut open an apple, too. Who, but our great God could design a beautiful star in the middle of an apple or put a whole big apple tree into one, tiny seed?! We talked and drew and sang about all the yummy treats you can make with apples and had fun tossing apples (plastic ones!) into a basket. We "picked" (with tweezers!—to strengthen gripping muscles) and sorted "apples" (different colored mini pom-poms), and then worked together to remember and sequence the applesauce making process. Working with our friends made these experiences even more fun!

One day toward the end of the month, our daily message asked the question, "What is a friend?" Our picture cards helped us discover some answers.

We learned that friends like to spend time together. Friends like to do things together like riding bikes, kicking a ball, digging in the sand and sharing a snack. When we talked about how friends treat each other, students were quick to say, "nice." "They share and say kind things." "Friends help each other." "They can help you feel better when you're sad." "**Loyal**" was the way our "wonderful word of the week" described a friend; "keeping promises, being faithful, doing what you say you will do." It is a joy to see this kind of friendship growing among the children! We hope that many will be loyal, lifetime friends!

Perhaps the most fun example of a loyal friend came into the classroom on four furry legs. It was no easy task trying to explain the whining and snuffling sounds coming from behind the closed office door, but our explanations must have satisfied, because the children were delightfully surprised by the entrance of dogs, Fudge and Danni, into the classroom! The pups came on two separate days, so the fun-learning could just keep going! Bichon poodle, Fudge, loved on each of the children with kisses and wags of his pom-pom tail, and mini Jack Russell Danni, gave endless ball-tossing turns with her boundless energy and obsessive fetching. Both dogs slept and slept when they got home! We enjoyed sharing pet stories during circle time and sharing the pictures the children had drawn of their favorite pet or pet they would like to have during snack time. We decided that pets are good friends, too!

Who is the very best friend anyone can ever have? Jesus! He always loves us, no matter what! In Chapel times this past month we learned about the first family and two individuals who enjoyed friendship with God: Noah and Abraham (we may save any further singing of "Father Abraham" until after the mask regulations are lifted! Whew!!). We learned that both of these men trusted God and did what God had told them to do. Little by little we're learning how love, trust, and obedience go together in our relationship with God. We sing a song at the beginning of each Thursday circle time that talks more about a friendship with Jesus. The chorus goes like this: "For the Lord is good and faithful; he will keep us day and night. We can always run to Jesus! Jesus, strong and kind." Always. No matter what. A friend who is closer than even the closest friend or family.



HOW WILL THE CHURCH BE LIGHTED?

A Stewardship Story

Several centuries ago, in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he could leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church.

No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here" the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

That's a poignant story, isn't it? And it makes a very significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church. The poet Edward Everett Hale put it like this:

I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

What if every member of your church supported the church just as you do? What kind of church would you have? What if every single member served the church, attended the church, loved the church, shared the church, and gave to the church exactly as you do? What kind of church would you be?

[Author Unknown -- from Dan Griffiths, via johnlynnbright@gmail.com]



BACKYARD MINISTRIES



It is getting cold outside! Many children in our community are in need of warm hats and mittens. If you would be able to help keep our Backyard kids warm this winter, please consider purchasing (if you like to shop) or donating towards this much needed opportunity for us to love others! If you want to shop, please call me at 717-250-5957, and I will give you a size, and whether it is a girl or boy. Donations are greatly appreciated from those who would rather let us do the shopping. As of right now, we have 56 children who need our help!

"The needy shall not be forgotten."

LPC Backyard Ministry Representative, Lynn Curry



BRIGGS DENVER STEININGER!



Briggs Denver Steininger was born Friday, October 23, 2020. He is the son of Bobby & Emma Steininger. Briggs weighed 9.5 lbs. and was 22 inches long! Proud grandmother is Suzan McClure. He is also loved by Aunts & Uncles, Maggie & Tedmond Mitchell and Leah & Scott Noerr; and cousins Caleb, Dylan, Chelsea, Leland, Maela and Ethan. Congratulations and thankfulness for God's hand upon Emma and Briggs through his arrival. ❤️

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2020 Church Nominating Team has begun meeting to prayerfully select nominees for open Elder and Deacon positions, the Auditing Committee, and the 2021 Church Nominating Committee. Please pray for them as they work and prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve at "such a time as this."

Members of the committee include: Ed Curry (Chair), Mercy Westover (Vice-Chair), Kathy Hardin (Deacon rep) and Elaine Siddons, Dave Noss, Paul Olbrich, and Ken Fisher (at-large members).

THE DAYTEC'S—PHILIPPINES

October 2020



Hello beautiful friends,

I'm sending little snapshots of our life whenever I can, to share the gritty reality, to show how near to us our God really is, and to hopefully encourage your hearts in the big and small moments.

I am praying blessings over each of you this week.

One of my favorite songs of the moment has a line that says,

"The One who sung the stars into the sky is the One who knows every day of my life. The One who wears the heavens like a robe, is the One who chose to make me His home. You know my mountains high, you know my valleys low, everywhere that's in-between, You will go."

I've been singing it this week on repeat, sometimes with tears.

There are mountains high and valleys low, sometimes shifting from moment to moment.

Two years ago we met a little Mangyan girl named Karen, from Ambang village. She was brought to the local health center with high fever and seizures. She was unresponsive and hanging onto life by a thread. She was transferred to the nearest hospital over an hour away, and we, along with many others, prayed, and prayed, and prayed for her to live.

She was diagnosed with Meningitis, and miraculously survived.

We worshiped.

We began to walk beside her family, along with MAP missionaries, helping them to feed their children

and to know how to care for them, to be able to discern when to come get help.

Karen's father came to us the next time she was sick, even when the hospital dismissed them and sent them the long seven hour walk back to their village.

She was critically ill, but she survived.

We worshiped.

So many times we have sat with Karen and her loving father, as she vomited worms out of her belly, while she was seizing and unresponsive. We've watched her recover, run and jump, smile and laugh, play tricks on her siblings, bounce back. We sat back and marveled, and we worshipped.

Several days ago Francis walked back to the village of Ambang, a 45 minute drive and several hour hike through jungle and across rivers. He was going to meet our Mangyan friend Wilson, to deliver food and to bring coffee saplings to transplant in another Mangyan village as a new livelihood project.

When he arrived, he was told that just a few hours before, Karen had died. She is gone.

Months ago, her family had moved their hut even further up into the mountains, like so many other families, out of fear of Corona virus. One week ago, Karen began to have debilitating headaches, and her family chose to not come down the mountain or go to the hospital. The fear of Covid paralyzed them and decided for them.

When she began to become incoherent and unresponsive, they chose to stay. And Karen died.

Continued on the next page

THE DAYTEC'S—PHILIPPINES

Continued from page 9

Francis sat that morning with Karen's dad, who we've rarely seen without his daughter on his lap. He is a kind and gentle man, his big calloused hands sitting still and useless in his lap. His head hung down. He had buried his daughter an hour before, just hours after she breathed her last breath.

There were no "You should have's...." only tears as two fathers sat together and grieved. There are no words that help when a child has died.

There is presence. There is shared grief. There are groans that only the Holy Spirit can translate, and He responds with the comfort of the Father.

We're grieving with these parents, and the ache and the weight are fathomless.

We've walked through more valleys of death that we can count, the vast majority of them being deaths of children.

The cycles of poverty, oppression, ignorance, and injustice in the developing world make it an uphill battle for children to survive to adulthood.

Through many of these deaths I've had to grapple and wrestle, and ultimately choose if I still believe God is good and merciful. That He is who He says He is.

My faith has gone from shallow, mountain-top, glittering in the sunlight, to rugged, tears-on-my-tongue, blood-streaked, tested.

There is a limp in my walk from the wrestling matches I have had with God. My roots are growing deeper in the valleys than they did on the mountaintop and I have far to go.

I've seen Him raise the dead, heal the near-dead, do the impossible. And then sometimes He does not.

I've sat with dead children on my lap, screaming from my heart, barely able to whisper, "Why?! How is this You being good?"

So often I hear Him say, "You do not see now, you do not understand yet. I am good. Hold onto Me... Come deeper. Come closer."

Do not back away. Come closer.

When I do not understand, I come closer. When I

am filled with grief, anger, ragged and bleeding, I come closer.

When I wade through death and injustice that makes me want to look away and stop feeling, I catch glimpses of His heart and see that His pain and grief, His love over His children eclipses mine billions of times over.

I'm crying because He cried first. I'm hating brokenness and injustice because He hated it first. I'm loving beautiful people because He loved them first. He loved me first.

Instead of "Why?" I've begun to ask, "Show me your heart."

He wants to meet with us in the middle of the pain.

When I come closer, I am met by the heart of a Father who is Love unimaginable. A Love that is more fathomless than the deepest pain.

I am feeling only a shred of what He feels; The grief, the pain, the joy, the love.

I want my heart to remain soft and compassionate, and not grow hard. I want to be strong but not tough. I want to feel deeply but not fall apart.

We want to keep going and not become shells of burned-out workers. The only way is to hold onto Jesus as our anchor, to run hard into His heart and listen to His voice, to let Him shoulder the weight of every heartache we cannot carry alone.

We will keep loving deeply, keep sitting in the dirt with the broken and crying as we share in their pain, keep on rejoicing with those who are healed, keep on hoping and fighting for life..... because He did first, He still does, and He won't stop.

He's really, really good.

Today we grieve, and still we worship.

Francis, Leah, Julia, Avea and Justice Daytec

Living Grace Ministries

Oriental Mindoro, Philippines

www.FrancisandLeah.weebly.com

FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

BUDGETED INCOME AND EXPENSE September 30, 2020

	Jan - Sep 2020	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
BUDGETED INCOME	121,923.08	201,121.00	60.62%
INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>97,926.82</u>	<u>135,672.00</u>	<u>72.18%</u>
Total Income	<u>219,849.90</u>	<u>336,793.00</u>	<u>65.28%</u>
Expense			
BENEVOLENCE	8,776.99	30,000.00	29.26%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	55,771.54	82,462.00	67.7%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	2,404.73	5,700.00	42.19%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	127.88	2,750.00	4.65%
PROPERTY	33,090.73	47,740.00	69.31%
ADMINISTRATION	16,418.91	25,873.00	63.46%
PERSONNEL	95,998.63	136,968.00	66.47%
FELLOWSHIP	438.36	1,800.00	24.35%
PRESCHOOL	1,497.97	3,500.00	42.8%
CAPITAL RESERVE	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Expense	<u>214,525.74</u>	<u>336,793.00</u>	<u>62.24%</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>5,324.16</u>	*9/30/2020 marks 75% of the year to date	
Received a Payroll Protection Loan \$38,600.00			

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-IN'S

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2020: The Deacons have provided a basket in the narthex to collect Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Please bring in your cards by Sunday, December 13, and the Deacons will deliver them. If you are unable to bring the cards to church, please let the church office know and a Deacon will pick them up for you. We will be collecting cards for:

Lavonne Ball
Donald Black
Nancy Bowman
Nancy Carter
Jean Clark
Shirley Ferguson
Audrey Hassinger

Doris Hoverter
Mary Lou Ingram
John Irrgang
Carl Knepp
Lois Notestine
Thiry Olbrich
Joan Renaldi

April Paige
Shirley Setzler
Brad Siddons
Marsha Soult
Lowell & Dottie Stephens
Virginia Warfel



Addresses for you to send cards:

Rev. Cindy & Dave Carlisle
8 Crabapple Court
Lake in the Hills, IL 60158

Rev. Larry & Nancy Chottiner
642 Alcott Drive
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Dr. Eric & Becky Hinderliter
1311 Climbing Rose
Cary, NC 37518

Phyllis Hinderliter
76 Partridge Circle
Carlisle, PA 17013

Rev. James & Devon Thomas
382 Shaw Road
Ridley Park, PA 19078

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!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rev. Sarah Sedgwick	1
November Sermon Series	2
Hanging of the Greens	3
Christian Ed	3
Rev. Zorn	4
Walking for Krislund	4
Presbyterian Preschool	5
Preschool Pictures	6
Stewardship	7
Backyard Ministries	8
New Birth	8
Nominating Committee	8
The Daytec's	9
Financial Report	11