



Hello church friends! The sun is shining while I write this article, reminding me that we are moving out of the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic and into the light of normalcy. Most people keep referring to the post-pandemic time as a new normal and that would be true in the church setting.

Over the past 14 months or so, the Church universal has been forced to learn new ways to connect with God's people. We've seen these changes primarily in the way we offer worship, but evidence of necessary changes has been seen in Christian education, mission, and pastoral care activities, too.

I shared with the Session members at our meeting in May that now is a good time for us to evaluate our church "work" in light of how we want to move forward. We have been gifted an opportunity to review what we have done inside and outside the church walls and make changes, if necessary, as we begin a "new normal."

Some things will return to what we remember... our summer Community VBS program will be in-person at our church. Won't it be wonderful to see children and families learning how to be "torchbearers" for Jesus during the week of July 11? And for whatever reason a child or family can't join us in-person, we will provide "VBS in a Gym Bag."

Our worship on Sundays will have evidence of returning to what we know as we allow vaccinated people worship mask-free and have allowed printed materials in the sanctuary. You will see other things return... like the tastier communion shortbread!

Things that feel "normal" sound good to us, but like I mentioned, this is also a good time to evaluate whether keeping "normal" ways are healthy for us to do. We have adapted to change, that's for sure, and maybe in some ways we don't have to go back to "the way things used to be."

Historically, the local church loves to be in the space of "the way things used to be." It may be a comfortable spot, but it isn't always the healthiest spot. Not only may it not be the "healthiest spot" it might not be obedient to the Holy Spirit's call.

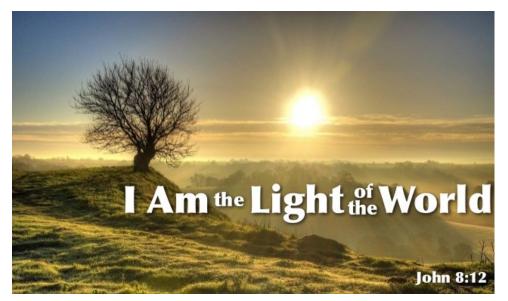
As the Session and church committees discern a "new normal," perhaps you will be willing to discern with us, or at least pray for us. The Session and committees will be looking at these four questions:

- + How are we allowing the Holy Spirit to lead God's church?
- + What in the church has become more "busy work," and less "church work?"
- + Are we leading God's church with human guidelines or Spirit guidelines?
- + What has been paused during the pandemic that could remain paused or end as we return to a "new normal?"

To God be the glory! Pastor Sarah

SPRING GROVE

Rev. Robert L. Zorn, Pastor Emeritus



The middle of the month of May each year finds us traveling far from Treaster Valley to visit and decorate the graves of family members. All four cemeteries are located in the adjacent corners of Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. The cemetery in which my parents and grandparents are buried is on a little round hill. From the west side, the view is upon our family home. The view east shows the little one room, brick schoolhouse where my first eight years of public education, and that of my brothers and sisters, took place. Farther east down Jimtown Hill and down a little stream, there stood another identical schoolhouse. It was known as the Spring Grove Hollow School. By the time I had entered first grade at Cochran School, the Spring Grove building had been abandoned. In due time, the local school board deeded it to a aroup of residents of the Hollow who established a Union Sunday School in the building. This was the place where I was to "preach" my first sermon.

Spring Grove Hollow once had many inhabitants. The men all worked in the local coal mines or in the yards of the beehive coke ovens, which lined the valley for more than a mile. When one of my former hiah school classmates and Superintendent of the Spring Grove Sunday School heard that I had entered Waynesburg College as a pre-ministerial student, he invited me to come and give the evening sermon. I readily accepted the invitation and began my homiletical offering entitled, "Jesus, The Light of the World."

Just getting to school/church was an adventure in itself. To get to the building, one would have to drive through the shallow stream and up a steep lane. Worshippers from Hulltown, Jackson Hill and Jimtown mostly walked and crossed the stream on a bridge which consisted of two logs with boards nailed across them. Inside, the heat was provided by a pot belly stove. The pews were the school desks. Most of the men sat on benches near the stove where they could spit their tobacco juice into the coal bucket. Much to my surprise and chagrin I found that the church was illuminated with six dim oil lamps. My carefully prepared notes were useless. But when the congregation sang, and the deacon prayed, and when the hands were clasped, the darkness was dispelled and a flow of sincerity broke forth, shedding light on all present.

Instead of giving a sermon that night, I received one. I learned, and still believe that Jesus, The Light, does not come only through stained glass windows or at the touch of an electric switch, but Jesus, The Light, appears when faithful people suffer hardship, overcome adversity, endure discomfort and still join in sincere worship.

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1: 4, 5

CHRISTIAN ED

Ginny Westover, Christian Ed Director

Summer is in sight! Schools have closed the books on a uniquely challenging year and kids of all ages are looking forward to beginning a new chapter in 2021. Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted across the country, many of us are eager to redeem lost time with friends and loved ones and enjoy more open travel and time to hang out. Here are a few of the goings on that will be happening in the Christian Education realm. As you plan your summer, please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in one, some or all of these opportunities!

KIDZ ZOOM ZONE

KIDZ ZOOM ZONE will continue to meet at 9:30 AM on Zoom through the summer with IFA (Investigating Facts in Acts). That said, we will NOT meet on June 20 or June 27.

Know a kiddo in grade K-5 who loves the adventure of detective work? Why not invite them to join the fun from 9:30 to 10 on Sunday morning? Discovering the ways the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of believers who were part of the early Church is never boring! And with hands on activities for each lesson, Zoom Zone is not just "more screen time". Try it and see! Join Zoom Meeting for Kidz Zoom <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89183651105?pwd=ZEFoZkp5a3h6RGtYL0xuSVZ3MzRqUT9</u> Meeting ID: 891 8365 1105 Passcode: Church2021

YOUTH GROUP

"What's Up With the Spirit?" is the big question this group of 6—12th graders will take a look at on Sunday nights. Our meetings begin at 6 PM with some energetic games and wrap up at 7:30 after exploring and discussing what the Bible has to say about the evening's topic (snacks are always a given). Here's the calendar for June and July:

- June 6 Movie Night
 - 13 We will welcome new 6th graders! Scavenger Hunt and more!
 - 20 Father's Day NO YOUTH
 - 27 "Safe and Sealed" the Holy Spirit's guarantee
- July 4 NO YOUTH
 - 11 VBS NIGHT (Youth helping; no meeting)
 - 18 "Best Teacher Ever" the Holy Spirit's work in us
 - 25 "Fruit Fresh or Canned?" the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives

LEWISTOWN COMMUNITY VBS Sunday eve, July 11 through Thursday eve, July 15 Pool party on Friday evening, July 16

The Olympics are being held in Tokyo AND at Lewistown Presbyterian Church! Don't miss this unique opportunity to be a part of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to our friends and neighbors! This is our year to host the Community VBS!

"Torchbearers" - "Taking the Gospel Global" is the name. What will be your part in the game? Every job matters! Whatever you can offer is needed! We are grateful to have both the Lumina Center and our beautifully fenced in yard to enjoy this year. In addition to in-person gathering, we will also be providing "VBS in a Gym Bag" for those who were unable to attend.



Please contact Elaine Siddons, Ginny Westover, Susan Ferguson or Leah Riden to see how you can get involved!



MY NAME IS GRACELYNN BECKENBAUGH. I am 14 years old and was born on September 21, 2006. I go to Mifflin County Junior High School and I am in the eighth grade. I attend youth group at the Evangel Baptist Church. I was baptized when I was a baby. I grew up attending Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

I believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that God sent His one and only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross so that we would have the chance to not perish but have eternal life with Him. I believe God calls us to love others and obey Him. I believe that there is only one God who works in three ways: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God is present in my life during my struggles and successes. During my struggles I know God is there to walk with me and pull me through them. He is also there during my successes because without God I would not be there. He leads me to that point.

Having a relationship with Jesus Christ is important to me. This is because without Jesus I would not be where I am today. He has helped me through my struggles and saved me from my sins. Through reading stories of how Jesus works and how He helps his people, He has helped me. He is the one that I know will never leave my side, even if I stray away from his.

To be confirmed and become a member of the church means a lot to me. To become more involved in the life of the church I plan on helping out whenever I can. Whether that is helping out at a church luncheon or helping someone that needs it.

Throughout my life I want to use my gifts to serve God. Some things I could use my gifts for is music. I could play music to worship God and for others to worship God. I could also use my gift of helping people. Participation in church and the members of the church help me live out my faith They help me learn more about God and the life of the church.

Going to church and youth group help me believe and trust in God. Listening to Christian music and praying also helps. Seeing God work in my life and other people helps my faith grow stronger.

When I was baptized the church and my family made a promise to raise me to know Jesus Christ. Today I promise to continue my faith and love for Jesus Christ. When I take communion, I remember Jesus' love for me.

This is my statement or faith and what I believe about Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.



MY NAME IS BAILEY CULLEN, I'm 14 years old and I'm in eighth grade at the Mifflin County Junior High School. My parents are Cole and Kari Cullen. I've been going to church at Lewistown Presbyterian church for about eight years. I participate in the youth group and I believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

I believe that the Father is God and a representation of the Holy Spirit's power and work. The Son is Jesus Christ, God's one and only son, and a representation of God's love and power on earth. The Holy Spirit is God's power and what God is and what His power is.

God has been at work in my life just like He has in many others. God gives me support during rough times in my life and helps me support others in their rough times. He has helped me through times at school where I'm struggling socially or even just with schoolwork. He has even been at work when I didn't need Him, but He still shows his love for me. He is at work keeping me listening to music. He is always at work in my life and yours.

My relationship with God is very important to me. My parents taught me that it is important to represent

God and praise Him and his goodness. I know that I should listen to my parents and I should listen to God's Word.

To be confirmed to me is to be a part of the church and confirm my life for the church, the Holy Spirit, and God's work. Once I am confirmed I plan to assist the church when assistance is needed. That may involve helping with vacation bible school, luncheons, the nursery, or any other place that needs assistance. I plan to continue participating in youth group and other groups involved with the church. I hope to continue to attend church after high school and later in my life. I would like to play music with a worship band or group later in my life and maybe go to a new church if I move.

Here at the church, I have done many things and many things have been done for me to expand my faith. Some of these things could be as simple as Ginny buying me my own bible, or meeting new friends through the church. Lots of good deeds people have done for me in the church have kept me in the light of God.

This is my statement of faith. I love God, His people, His ways, and the church.



MY NAME IS MCKENZIE DONAHUE, and I am 15 years old. I go to school at Mifflin County Junior High School. I am in 9th grade. I participate in the youth group and help sometimes with the Community Lunches. I enjoy babysitting, too. I live with Pastor Sarah and her husband, Jim, in the manse.

When I was little, I did not really know that God was real. I never went to church until I met Sarah. I met Sarah through the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. I did not know anything about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. I went to church with Sarah almost every Sunday. My mom and siblings did not think about going to church until I invited them to come with me. In January of 2014, my brother, sister, and I were baptized at First United Presbyterian Church in DuBois.

There was a time though when my family and I stopped going to church. I also had to stop seeing Sarah. We were going through some family issues. I eventually moved in with Sarah and Jim. I remember that day being the best day ever. I began going back to church again and got to live with someone who is like a second mom to me. Jim also helps me a lot. Their extended family is my family, too.

The more and more I went to church I learned that God is real. Some people may have some trouble knowing whether God is real or not, but I believe God is real. He has been with me through the toughest events of my life. I know God loves me no matter the situation. He helped me through these situations.

My relationship with Jesus is important because he shows me how to live life as a Christian believer. Jesus Christ died for my sins and gives me everlasting life. Because Jesus loves me, I try to share the same love with other people.

I do not know everything about the Holy Spirit. I know that the Holy Spirit is in me. I know that the Holy Spirit helps me make good choices. The Holy Spirit answers prayers I speak and prays for me when I can't find the words to say.

I may not know everything about Christianity after this Confirmation class, but I want to keep learning. I still have more books in the Bible to read. While I'm reading the Bible, I'm sure I'll learn more. I hope as I continue to learn about Jesus that I can teach someone about Jesus by what I say and do.

When I think about my participation in a church community, like Lewistown Presbyterian Church, I know I enjoy weekly worship and seeing people. When I take communion, I think about how much Jesus loves me. I feel comfortable visiting the elderly in their homes and the nursing home. I think this is a way I can participate in church. Helping others is important to me.

I am glad God has led me to Lewistown Presbyterian Church at this point in my faith journey. I commit to being a part of our church family to the best of my abilities.



I, CALEB NOERR, believe in the Holy Trinity, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. I believe in their work in the day to day lives of all people. I believe in the teachings of The Church, and the work of mission.

I believe in the teachings of the Bible, and the acts of The Trinity. God has been at work in my life daily. He helps me through my struggles. He loves me and I know this.

A relationship with Jesus Christ is important to me. It is important so that I may love and be kind to others, and in turn love God. A better relationship with Christ would help with these things.

To be confirmed would mean to become part of the Church and the Church family. To be involved in the life of the Church, I would love to be worship

assistant more often, help with serving meals, and help with anything that is needed in the preschool.

Serving the Church is helpful to me in my beliefs because it teaches me fellowship and mission. I will dedicate my time and talents to the Church and mission and furthering my relationship with God.

Going to Church and participating in the Church has helped me to believe and trust in God. God's goodness has been shown in the ministry and outreach of our Church. He works through each one of us to show his love.

I believe that the Church exists in mission, and I believe in the Presbyterian way of worship. Without mission, the Church would not exist. God calls each person to live out their faith differently. I will dedicate my talents and gifts to helping other people and the Church.

I believe in God, who created all things. I believe in the Holy Bible, the Word of God. I believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and that He is the Son of God. Born to the Virgin Mary in a manger, given gifts from wisemen and shepherds. Jesus walked on water, healed a blind man with mud, and turned water into wine. He was blessed by the Holy Spirit.

He suffered on the cross, died, and descended into hell. On the third day after his death, he rose again. Christ suffered and died on the cross, then ascended into Heaven. At this moment, the sins of the world were atoned for, and forgiven. God has redeemed His people.

In conclusion, when I am confirmed into the Church, I will be a whole-hearted member. I am a believer of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



MY NAME IS BO ROBERT REEDER. I am 13 years old, turning 14 years old on September 3. I live with both my parents, Rob and Tara Reeder, my sister Margo, and our Goldendoodle, Jovie.

I am finishing seventh grade at Mifflin County Middle School. I am an excellent student with my favorite classes being Language Arts and Social Studies. My passion outside of school comes from playing sports. I play baseball, basketball, and will be starting my first season of football this year. I also enjoy spending lots of time in nature. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending time with my Pop, Dad and Uncle in the woods.

I have been attending Lewistown Presbyterian Church all my life, and so has my sister. My Mom and Nanny and Pop Curry have also been members their whole

lives, and also my great-grandparents. My Dad came here from St. John's Lutheran Church when they got married. I was baptized in this church on March 30, 2008 by Pastor King.

God is always present in my life. I believe that God has created all things in our world. He gives us all

that we have and all that we need. Without Him, we have nothing, and we are nothing. God is the most important piece of all people. For me personally, he has blessed me with a great family, some good athletic talents, with being a good student, and being a good, loving, helpful and caring person.

He is full of love, grace, and forgiveness. His ability to love everyone unconditionally is as great as His power to forgive anyone who will accept Him. We have all done things that we shouldn't have and sinned, and still have the ability to be forgiven by Him if we just ask. God loves us no matter what. I think this is God's greatest power and gift to all of us. I believe God will always love me and will forgive me for all of my mistakes if I just ask Him.

My baptism was just the beginning of my relationship with God. Through it, I needed the help of my family and others in the church family to help me to learn the ways of being a good Christian. My participation in communion reminds me to continue to thank Jesus for his sacrifice to all of us, and to ask for forgiveness of my sins.

Now, my confirmation into the church makes my relationship with God and my church family permanent. It is my final step at becoming a member of the church, but not my final step at continuing to learn the ways of God. I will keep learning about my faith my whole life, and still not know it all, but know that God will be helping to guide me in everything that I do.

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

On Sunday, May 23, we received our five confirmands as new members of the church. What a joy to see these young adults share their faith in Jesus Christ and a strong desire to serve God's Church. A wonderful reminder of the Holy Spirit working in and through us!

Welcome, Gracelynn, Bailey, McKenzie, Caleb, and Bo. If you haven't, please take time to read their Statements of Faith – you will be blessed by doing so!



Bailey, Bo, and Gracelynn working on Confirmation assignments at Camp Krislund



New members joining the church on Pentecost

Coming soon to a TABLE near YOU!



The Neighbor's Table is coming to Lewistown Presbyterian Church every Wednesday from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM on August 4, 11, 18, 25, and September 1. Gather around a table with our local neighbors as we enjoy dinner, worship, and a special message from our LPC Mission Partners: The Lumina Center, Backyard Ministries, Shelter Services, Habitat for Humanity and Krislund Camp and Conference. Dig deep into conversation as we learn new ways to serve our neighbors with our time, talent and treasures.

This experience is being hosted by the Mission and Evangelism Committee. If you enjoy delicious food,

meeting new people, and are interested in a different style of worship, contact the church office and sign-up! Old or young; single or married; families, too, all have a seat at **The Neighbor's Table!**

2021 GRADUATES—CONGRATULATIONS!



Reece Cullen graduated from Mifflin Co. High School with honors. He plans to attend the Behrend campus of Penn State University, where he will study Digital Media, Arts and Technology. He would like to focus on game programming.



Nick Smith graduated from Juniata College with a degree in Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences with a secondary emphasis in Data Science. He is working for the Iowa DNR at a fish hatchery in Muscatine, Iowa.



Jimmy Zagurskie graduated from Juniata High School with honors. He plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology to study Civil Engineering Technology in the fall.



Ali McCurdy graduated from Huntingdon Co. Career and Technology Center as a Certified Phlebotomist.



Hailee Weader graduated from Univ. of Pgh Bradford with a BSN and is now working as a cardiac ICU nurse at Geisinger Hospital in Danville.

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Ginny Westover, Preschool Director

A total of sixteen little bodies bounced their wav across the chancel over the course of two late May evenings, dressed in their and sporting a "good clothes" personalized, preschool version of a mortarboard on their heads. Setting the tempo and the tune for these five-year-old feet was "The Moving Up Song," declaring in child voice, "The future's looking good to me! I'm ready to go, ready to go!" Then a few words, a slideshow, some songs, diplomas and picture taking, and just like that, another year of preschool came to a close.

This 2020-2021 school year was unique, to be sure! The Pandemic prompted many pivots and not a few punts as we navigated our way through early learning standards amid cuts in class size, mandatory mask wearing, quarantines and other CDC guidelines. It was a year that required flexibility, creativity

and lots and lots of grace. We are so grateful for the partnership we experienced with our church family and with our preschool families as we mutually gave and received these gifts! The year was full of challenges but also full of learning, growth, and lots and lots of joy.

It will be interesting to hear what these preschoolers remember about this Covid year when they reach high school. Even their current perceptions of this year are intriguing. When





asked what she liked best about preschool, one little girl said, "Well, EVERYTHING!" But it's not unusual for one of our kiddos to act out of character when they see Mrs. Mitchell or me outside of the classroom. No matter that we spent nearly every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday together for the past nine months; Walmart and OIP environs turn into us unrecognizable persons. Veritable strangers. Even the most gregarious kiddos can arow suddenly shy and hide behind their grown-up. They just can't make sense of the present context. After all, we live in the preschool classroom! So while most of our students may not remember our names or the details of their preschool years, we hope they will remember feeling loved and valued for who

they are.

Not too long ago, I read the following words. More recently I printed them out and posted them on our "teacher board" in the classroom. "Children will forget what we taught them, but they will never forget what we said and how we made them feel during their most impressionable years." We trust that our Pre-K graduates will always remember feeling loved and valued as the precious children they are. Remembering their ABCs and 1,2,3's will be icing on the cake!





Cleaning house? Please consider donating items to our **Preschool Benefit Yard Sale**



When: Saturday, July 3 from 7 AM till noon

What: Clean and gently used items only, please. No large furniture or appliances. No stuffed animals or clothing.

Who: All proceeds benefit the Lewistown Presbyterian Preschool Any unsold items will be donated to charity.

Where: Lewistown Presbyterian Church, 17 East Third Street. Donations accepted the week of June 27 – July 1 at the church (Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM—3:30 PM)

If you need another time or a Sat/Sun drop off, please call ahead Questions? Call Lewistown Presbyterian Church office (717) 248 – 4561

FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

	Jan - Apr 21	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
BUDGETED INCOME	62,700.24	198,990.00	31.51%
INVESTMENT INCOME	39,609.95	139,560.00	28.38%
Total Income	102,310.19	338,550.00	30.22%
Expense			
BENEVOLENCE	4,568.99	30,000.00	15.23%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	24,715.28	82,979.00	29.79%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	890.37	4,700.00	18.94%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	2,042.28	2,000.00	102.11%
PROPERTY	15,512.22	50,365.00	30.8%
ADMINISTRATION	6,167.62	25,722.00	23.98%
PERSONNEL	42,345.68	139,984.00	30.25%
FELLOWSHIP	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%
PRESCHOOL	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	96,242.44	338,550.00	28.43%
	6,067.75	0.00	100.0%

CHANCEL CHOIR

As the Chancel and Bell choirs take a summer break, we want to say **THANK YOU** for all your time and energy providing worship music in a new pandemic way!

Special appreciation to our Choir Director, Doug Garner; Organist, Joan Loewen; and Tech Director, Cole Cullen.

The Worship & Music committee welcomes YOU or someone you know to provide special music for our Sunday worship services in June, July or August. Contact Pastor Sarah or the church office and let us know when you would like to sing or play your instrument.

Just a little

to say Thank you

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Psalm 100



Lewistown Presbyterian Church 17 East Third Street Lewistown, PA 17044

Address Correction Requested



202 Lewistown Community Bible School 6-8 p.m. **In Person** Sunday-Thursday @ Lewistown Presbyterian JULY 11-15 Church POOL PARTY Let the Bible In the plans games begin! Friday, July 16 TAKING THE GOSPEL GLOBAL *** From AGE 4 **VBS** in a going into **Gym Bag GRADE 6** an option First United Methodist, Sacred Hearth Catholic, Calvary Lewistown, St. John's Lutheran and Lewistown Presbyterian welcome all of YOU to Bible School this summer! Please contact us if you would like more information.

Phone: 717-248-4561 Email: lewispres@comcast.net Visit us at Website: <u>www.lewistownpresbyterian.org</u> Find us on Facebook!

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