



THE PANORAMA

The Newsletter of The Lewistown Presbyterian Church



2021

Hello church friends! I hope you are thriving and surviving as we wind down summer and prepare for the start of Fall activities, such as school. I'm writing to you a day before my family heads to the Outer Banks for a late summer vacation with my parents, my brother and sister-in-law and our children.

Taking breaks, in whatever form they arise, is so important to maintain our well-being. Our lives are spiritually blessed when we take a break from the busyness of our lives and turn our attention to our relationship with God. Jesus Christ was a great model for taking breaks as we read of the numerous times he "stepped away" from the crowds and his disciples to be alone.

In worship, we've been talking about ways in which we can enrich our spiritual disciplines so that they create opportunities to draw closer to God, our Creator. It's often easier said than done! But, I challenge us all to carve out moments, individually and as a family, to just breathe, listen and seek out ways that connect us to the Living God who is around us and in us.

During worship in September, we will be reading passages from Mark. In the 7th chapter, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" The disciples had all the right answers, but were they the right ones?

A full understanding of who God is through God's Son Jesus Christ is only possible when we spend time in the presence of God's Spirit engaging in conversation through prayer, listening and reading God's Word. Jesus wants the disciples and each of us to know who he is not from what others tell us but in the way Jesus speaks in and through us.

That discovery only comes from engaging in a relationship with Jesus, on our own, but also in a worshipping community. A faith community helps us to see Jesus' presence in a different, new way. It allows us to draw on the strength and knowledge of God's people, when we feel limited, lost or confused.

As students go back to school to learn, perhaps it's our time as adults to go back to learning more about Jesus Christ. Maybe now is the time to go to Sunday School, join the Tuesday night small group or gather a group together on another night to do a FREE Right Now Media video lesson.

Maybe now is the time to look at your family and say, "Let's go serve our neighborhood with our church family." Maybe now is the time to reignite our passion for God, so that when we are asked, "Who do you say Jesus is?" We can answer with the most accurate description because we know the one they are speaking of so, so intimately.

Let us break away from what distracts us from our relationship with Jesus. When it comes down to it, nothing else will prepare us for heaven than our relationship with the one who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

Let's keep learning!

Pastor Sarah

WHEN THE SERPENT ENTERS OUR LIVES

Rev. Robert L. Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

As I have often mentioned in previous articles, the birds and critters around our home out here in Treaster Valley provide us with continuous entertainment. Recently, we have had an episode of mild excitement as well. The birds have had a penchant for building their nests at various locations on our small back porch. Our log house has overlapping logs which provide little "shelves" at each corner. First, a Carolina Wren nested in a shoe that had been put up to dry. She successfully raised her brood. Then, she or another of her sisters chose the rungs of our stepladder, hung just inches from our back door, as her nesting place. She scolded us every time we went out or in the door. These little birds also flew away.

Later in the summer, a robin decided to nest on one of the higher logs, but still, only eight feet from our back door. She must have been getting weary of homemaking; because instead of the usual deep, bowl shaped nest, this one more resembled a saucer. The four little ones were visible from the day that they hatched. Sometimes, two adult robins could be seen carrying in the food for their little ones. They grew rapidly and soon were showing stubby feathers. We hoped that they too would soon be successfully on their way.

One day we heard a great commotion around the robins' nest. The adult robins were shrieking and flying all around. When we went out to investigate



the trouble, we saw that a large blacksnake had used the log ends as a ladder and was right at the nest of the baby birds. I pulled the snake down with a stick and found that it had already taken the head of one of the baby robins into its mouth. I grabbed the snake just behind its jaws and pulled the baby bird free. I then took the

snake several hundred yards away and released it over the creek bank. Carol cleaned the little bird's face and cuddled it back to a sense of composure. Returned to the nest, the little rescued bird and its three nest companions grew up and flew away. To discourage another snake attack, I placed bleach soaked rags and animal repellent under the nesting area.

It seems to be an inevitable fact of life that, sooner or later, everyone is confronted with unfortunate circumstances. Even when we try to do everything right, still things happen which are beyond our control. Sickness or accidents are always waiting to happen. Crises situations in financial matters, personal relationships or community concerns are always possible. Sometimes misfortunes can be seen approaching—others come to us as silent as a serpent. Regardless of what happens, we need to remember that we are surrounded by friends in a compassionate and caring congregation.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

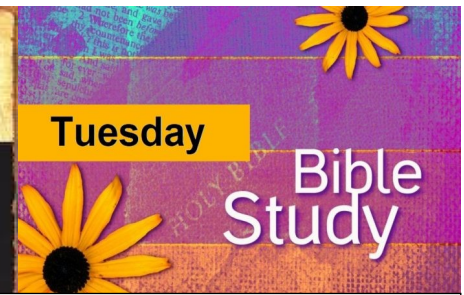
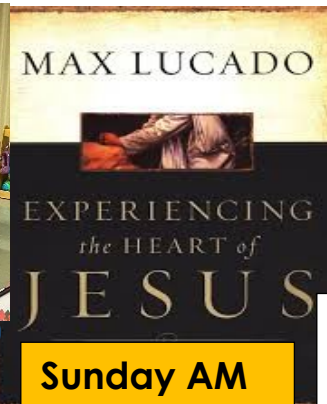


On Sunday, August 1, we received Brian Blackwell into our Lewistown Presbyterian Church membership. Brian is a self-employed private investigator and an Army veteran. He is also engaged to member Carolyn Powers. We look forward to Brian serving through our church. He is already participating in Sunday School and as a Worship Assistant. ***Welcome, Brian, to our church family!***

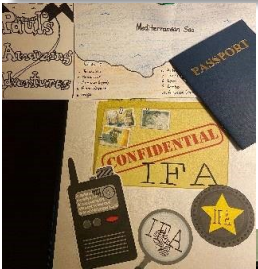
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ginny Westover, Christian Education Director

Youth



Kidz Zoom Zone



2021

Summer Snapshots of Christian Education

Think...

- Active, not sitting still
- Relational, not impersonal
- Transforming, not just informing
- Conversations not lectures

**Growing together
in Jesus!**

Small Groups



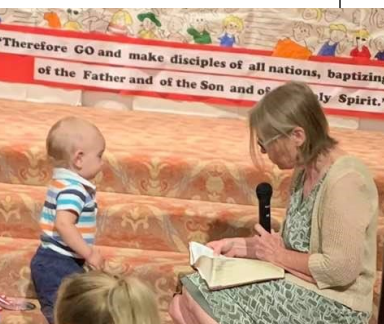
Krislund



Rainbow Summer



V B S



Chat



Olympic Hoops



THE DAYTEC'S IN THE PHILIPPINES



Over on this side of the world, the winds and seasons are shifting and changing. *Habagat*, Monsoon season, is here. The air is hot and stifling, *Close* as we would say in Pennsylvania, and the rains and storms are moving in. Almost every night, lightening tears across the sky in jagged flashes, reflecting off the sea below our home. Across the Bay, we can see a thick haze that is settling low and dark over the mountains, a volcanic cloud of sulphur dioxide from Taal Volcano, that has been threatening to erupt since last year. Twice last week, small phreatic eruptions happened as magma rises. The earth has been shaking, quaking, groaning.

The last several months have been full. I look back and see, spilling and overflowing from the edges of our life, goodness. So much goodness. Our team has been going deeper into the heart of the Father this year, learning God's love so powerfully. The Holy Spirit began to speak to so many of us individually that He was shaking things, moving, bringing in a new season where He would pour out His Spirit. We felt as the shaking began, and the excitement and joy was immeasurable. He began to forge in us a ravenous hunger for more of Him.

At the end of April, many of our teammates as well as Francis and I, contracted Covid. My case was moderately serious, and Francis was severe. Most of our team felt mild symptoms and recovered quickly. Francis was in bed with high fever for 18 days, and did not leave the bed for 21 days...he cannot remember any of it. As I sat in bed beside him, treating him, watching him struggle to breathe, and saw the gravity of his condition, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Worship. Even this I am using for good. Worship." Francis

could not speak, and rarely could respond... when He made a sound, it was "Abba", God rescued, He brought us through, but before He did-- He held us and poured out His presence and spoke in the dark. He always speaks in the dark.. We are still weak, and having many residual Covid symptoms months later, but getting stronger.

For the past several months we have also been walking beside a beautiful family as the wife/mom battled cancer. Rowena was a dear friend of mine, and when her breast cancer recurred, we walked through every part of the battle with them. Her children are 10 and 4. She was only 37. I had the profound honor of sitting with her and walking through inner healing of her heart, breaking of bondage from the past, and reconciliation with her husband, family, and the power of releasing blessing and love over her children.

The week before her death, each day was filled with powerful times of connection, love, reconciliation, healing and freedom. She held my hand and shared that Jesus had released all the pain and heaviness in her soul and brought her freedom so miraculously. We had been praying for healing of her body as well, but one day before her death, she looked at me and her face glowing, said that she knew Jesus was calling her home with Him. He had healed her in so many miraculous and powerful ways... He had healed the things that will last. He had healed things that were eternal. She was ready now...We provided palliative care in her home where her family could surround her with so much love.

A friend and I sat with her and provided oxygen, IV fluids, pain medicines, and facilitated an

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

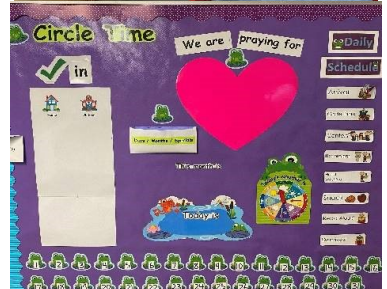
Ginny Westover, Preschool Director



1st
Day of School
September 7



There's been a whole lot "hopping" in the Pre-K classroom lately! Lots of re-arranging, re-stocking, and re-vamping of supplies and plans as Mrs. Mitchell and I prepare to welcome two new classes of four and five year olds. At this point in time, there are eleven children enrolled in the morning class and eleven in the afternoon class. We enjoyed meeting so many of our families at the Back to School BBQ! It was fun to see the excitement on the faces of the kiddos when they came into the classroom! We are excited, too, and grateful for ~~so~~ much as we look to a new school year-the encouraging and prayerful support of our church family and Session, an energetic, visionary Preschool committee, the wonderful gift of The Siddons' Family Preschool Scholarship Fund, and most of all, the preschoolers themselves! We can't wait to see all that God has in store! Stay tuned for the first month's "hoppings"!



THE DAYTEC'S *(CONTINUED)*

environment of worship, peace, and grieving together, blessing and releasing her to take Jesus' hand as she took her last breath. Rowena went with Jesus last Thursday. Our hearts grieve with peace and hope.

There is no palliative/hospice care in the Philippines, and we are often called to help families as they walk through this difficult and sometimes frightening time. We provide medical care, but mostly offer Jesus... His love comforts, blesses, and holds us up. We cry, hug, pray, worship, and facilitate a space where nothing is left unsaid, where love and blessing are released. We feel profoundly honored that we get to be present and serve others as they go through birth, and some as they walk through the valley of death.

As our team has been growing hungrier for God's heart, the Holy Spirit began to pour out powerfully... Many people are coming to our fellowship each Sunday, and each Sunday, and throughout the week there are powerful breakthroughs, Inner healing, physical healing, deliverance from demonic spirits... God is taking orphans and making them Sons and Daughters, and people are walking in their identity as God's children. Many are choosing to be baptized. We are in a season like no other... There is shaking, and new, fresh wind is blowing through this place.

One pastor and his wife walked through powerful healing in their hearts and were able to experience God's love more fully in the past month. They sat at our table yesterday and cried, sharing that for the first time, they are now able to connect with their 20 and 18-year old children, and share affection and love. They are able to forgive those who have hurt them and walk in freedom. Their children are beaming, crying, celebrating the love their family now has. The Holy Spirit is healing the hearts of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. He is filling His children with His love and freedom. There is nothing, nothing, that I love more than to see people set free by the love of our Father. Every single thing He tells us is true... He has so much love and freedom for His children.

As the earth shakes, the winds blow, we are setting our faces excitedly on Jesus, and so grateful that we get to live this adventure and walk with Him.

Our children Julia, Avea, and Justice are growing and flourishing. They climb mountains beside us and bring so much joy to our hearts.

We have been able to fund expensive medicines, medical tests, dialysis treatments, and hospitalizations for more than 100 people (like Rowena) who could not afford it on their own, in the past couple months alone, as well as provide home health care, and continue to buy truckloads of rice every 1-2 weeks to distribute to the hungry. We're thankful for all of you and your generous hearts that give—God is using you as you pray and give, to fill hungry bellies, help sick bodies and show people the love of the Father.

We're so grateful for you!

Grace and Peace, Francis, Leah, Julia, Avea, and Justice Daytec

NEIGHBOR'S TABLE

A big thanks to those who organized The Neighbor's Table for four Thursdays in August and September. Participants were served delicious meals, followed by a time of learning about the needs being met by our mission partners in the community. We welcomed Shelter Services, Backyard Ministries, The Lumina Center, and Habitat for Humanity. Each week also included a brief time of worship, prayers at each table, and questions provided to encourage conversation (we discovered conversation did not need our encouragement!). The Mission and Evangelism committee hopes to offer The Neighbor's Table gatherings again. For those who attended, please send your comments/suggestions to Kevin Hardin at kdhardin@outlook.com or give him a call at 609-234-0108.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

	Jan - Jul 2021	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
BUDGETED INCOME	111,407.91	198,990.00	55.99%
INVESTMENT INCOME	80,020.91	139,560.00	57.34%
Total Income	191,428.82	338,550.00	56.54%
Expense			
BENEVOLENCE	9,285.52	30,000.00	30.95%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	46,248.11	82,979.00	55.74%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,768.57	4,700.00	37.63%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	2,112.27	2,000.00	105.61%
PROPERTY	23,947.95	50,365.00	47.55%
ADMINISTRATION	12,357.46	25,722.00	48.04%
PERSONNEL	78,101.00	139,984.00	55.79%
FELLOWSHIP	69.28	1,800.00	3.85%
PRESCHOOL	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
CAPITAL RESERVE	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Expense	173,890.16	338,550.00	51.36%
TOTAL INCOME	17,538.66		

THE SIDDONS' FAMILY PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



At the joint Session and Deacons meeting in July, Pastor Sarah announced the creation of a new scholarship fund in tribute to Brad and Elaine Siddons. Brad was presented the certificate days before his death and was deeply grateful for the established scholarship.

Any gift, big or small, will be appreciated as we give the opportunity for all children to attend LPC Preschool, regardless of ability to pay tuition.

Pictured are our preschool teachers, our preschool committee elders, Leah Riden (one of Brad and Elaine's daughters), Elaine Siddons, and Pastor Sarah

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Address Correction Requested



Please contact us if you would like more information.
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Find us on Facebook!

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