

Hello Church Family! It's hard to believe it's already the month of November, but I'll have to say that it's one of my favorite months of the year. I think, because it's the season in which we pause a bit and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. That doesn't mean we don't have challenges, but remembering our blessings helps us endure difficult moments.

Thankfulness is an inward feeling and an outward expression. When we feel thankful, we can share that feeling with those around us by what we say and what we do. Our thankfulness is reflected within our spiritual practices of setting aside time to worship God in community, serving God's people through acts of kindness, supporting the mission of organizations helping communities of people, and sharing our financial blessings so that the Kingdom of God is revealed.



This month we have an opportunity to declare before God our intentions to honor God financially, but honoring God isn't all about the money we share through God's Church. It's also honoring God through the offering of our time and talents.

This month, the Stewardship Committee is asking you to make a financial pledge to Lewistown Presbyterian Church. I encourage you to do so as a spiritual practice for 2022. The Mission and Evangelism Committee is asking you to participate in "Thanks for Giving"—an entire month of mission activities meant to bless people and organizations near and far. Consider this an opportunity to pledge your time and talents to God.

Your time, talent, and treasures are needed at Lewistown Presbyterian Church. We were created to serve with God and too often we choose to invest our time in activities that have no Kingdom value. It's not a bad thing to spend our time in activities outside the church, but all too often we neglect the most important relationship we've been given. Our relationship with the Living Lord!

I encourage all of us to receive the gift of this season of gratitude as a way to recommit and reorient our lives towards living for Christ, in all that we say and all that we do. Please join your church family in doing so, and to be blessed!

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Sarah*

# A TIME FOR REGENERATION OF OUR FAITH

Rev. Robert L. Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

The leaves are falling fast in around our home in Treaster Valley. Some trees are already bare, while others seem to be in competition with each other with their display of brightly colored foliage. It seems that the trees are "shutting down"

for the long winter season. While they appear to be dead, we know they are just dormant. And even in this period of dormancy there is growth and regeneration. With the coming of Spring we will hopefully see a great new burst of vitality and growth. This is the annual cycle of growth and rest that is part of the natural order of things in our area. Pennsylvanians who have moved to other parts of the country say that one of the things that they miss most is the Fall season's color and beauty.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that there are also "seasons" in our lives. And, as much as we would



like to slow down their progress, we know that we too must change. We do not feel, look or act like we did just a few years ago. We cannot nor would we wish to put everything on "hold" until a later date. Even during these less active

times we can continue to grow in God's grace.

Even now your church is asking for your stewardship commitment. We are also preparing for the Advent-Christmas season and the rebirth of our basic Christian faith. Then comes the New Year and the opportunity to make and keep resolutions. And not long after will come Easter.

So let us use this time for the regeneration of our faith. Let us read, study, worship and pray that God will lead us and keep us through the long winter and allow us to continue our work and worship and witness for many seasons beyond.

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## THE NEIGHBOR'S TABLE

*A PROGRAM OF THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE*



The Neighbor's Table is moving to Thursday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM because our "Thanks for Giving" month is just too full of service activities! Everyone is invited to learn more about the work of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and of course, enjoy a tasty meal provided by the Mission and Evangelism team. RSVP on the "Thanks for Giving" sign up form and turn it in to the church office. There is a seat for you at our tables!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Ginny Westover, Christian Education Director



It was dark when I turned onto Kezar Mountain Road and pointed my car toward the sandy driveway leading to my parents' home. The white birch along the stone wall glowed dimly in the rising moonlight. There was the house, just ahead,

partly hidden by an ancient, monstrous forsythia. The red cape cod stood as it had for the past two hundred-plus years; a local landmark of sorts, having graced postcards and calendars thanks to my grandfather's photographic artistry. I pulled up to the door and turned off the car, reminding myself that congestive heart failure had necessitated Mom's moving in with my sister, another two and a half hours north. She would not be opening the door to greet me. I was aware that the eager anticipation I usually felt had been replaced by uncertainty and rising dread. And now the key that I had retrieved from my cousin was not cooperating with the lock. Fighting back exhaustion and tears I gave the knob a final, frustrated jiggle and shoved open the door.

The smell of home greeted me. I flipped on the light and braced for the reality of what I knew was (and wasn't) there. Everything was as it had been when I visited two months earlier; blue braided rug, knick-knacks on the fireplace mantel, rocking chair and Lazy Boy, table with mauve tablecloth, a small, tidy stack of mail on the phone stand by the kitchen door. I looked at the empty recliner in the corner and remembered the choke of grief I felt on the first visit after my father's death twenty-five years earlier. I was not prepared for this new wave of emotion. The impact of my mom's absence dealt an unexpected blow. The silent emptiness was startling. I thought, "This place is not home without my mother's presence."

Sleep did not come easily that night. My travel-weary body craved rest but my mind swirled awake with memories. Tired of tossing and turning, I switched on the lamp and reached for my Bible. It flipped open to John 1 and the page of notes I had begun jotting to prepare for our Youth Bible study. **"In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**The Word became human and made his home among us... (became flesh and made his dwelling among us...became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood...)"**

Wide awake now, I grabbed a pen and kept reading, intrigued by this idea of "home." Chapter 14:22,23—"Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." "Home;" dwelling-place; abode/abiding; from the same root meaning "to remain;" "stay;" "to settle down and make yourself at home." This is a permanent dwelling. The continual presence of the Father, Son, and Spirit. Intimate, warm connection.

I was getting the impression that the idea of home is much more about relationship than building or location. Much more about deep, lasting friendship than furnishings. About being safe, settled, and secure in love. Persons, not place.

A branch scratched against the window pane. Lifting my gaze, I saw my reflection in the sparkling clean glass. Crisp white curtains edged in blue framed my profile. A colorful trio of glass paperweights lined the windowsill. Pictures of grand and great-grandchildren smiled from the tops of book stands. All evidence of my mother. All comforting reflections of who she is, but definitely not substitutes for her presence. More than anything, I wanted to be with her; to hear her voice, enjoy conversation and the warmth of her love. Even if it wasn't at this place. Sleepy at last, I turned off the light and pulled the quilt up around me.

Thoughts about "home" and about Jesus making his home among us and within us continued to sift through my mind as I went about the day's tasks of cleaning out freezers and cupboards and garden beds. By the time I was on the road traveling to my sister's home I was pondering these words of



*Continued on page 9*



Ginny Westover, Preschool Director

Ginny Westover, Preschool Director





LIVE  
EACH DAY  
WITH  
thanks  
&  
giving

**The Mission and Evangelism Committee** invited some local service organizations to stop by The Neighbor's Table in August and September, but now it's OUR turn to stop at organizations around our community and hand out some love in action.

God has been so GOOD to us all and what better way to give thanks for our blessings than to serve God's people and share how happy we are to know God. Inserted in The Panorama is a November calendar chock-full of service opportunities available for you and your family to enjoy.

Of course, it may not be possible to do EVERY activity, but how about picking ONE activity? Some can be done from home (prayers, sending cards, ordering an Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box, etc.), at the church (Package Blessing Box items, bake pumpkin bread, serve at the Community Luncheon, etc.), or on location (Shelter Services, The Lumina Center, and Baltimore).

Read through the activities, sign up on the form attached to the calendar, and send it into the church office or put it in the offering plates. Any questions? Call Kevin or Kathy Hardin, Pastor Sarah or the church office.

The Lewistown Presbyterian Church cordially invites you to



*A free will offering will be collected at the concert to benefit  
**SHELTER SERVICES OF MIFFLIN AND JUNIATA COUNTIES**  
Their goal is help those facing a homelessness crisis find renewed hope by  
providing compassion, shelter and services.*

Sunday, November 28, 2021 ~ 3:00 PM  
17 E Third Street, Lewistown, PA  
Lewistown Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

**COME WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM!**



The church calendar ends on November 21, 2021 and we will finish with a short series from the gospels. This year has been another challenging year. We still feel that unsettledness of a world reeling and everything changing. Our call has been to get back to normal, though we know normal is not our true goal.

At least the normal of the way the world had been. There is too much that we needed to leave behind, too much that we needed to overcome – and still do. It has always been the mission of the church to bring transformation, so being unsettled shouldn't be odd to us.

But it was odd, and it is odd. We get in our routines and our habits just like everyone else. Maybe it has been good for us to be so shaken. Maybe it has been useful for us to reexamine our practices and our patterns in order to move into the new world that is coming into being around us.

**Maybe the church that has been isn't the church that is needed today.** And our task is to discern that new community and new disciples and how we live into that new promise and new hope.

So, what would this new understanding of the life of discipleship look like? What are some of the markers that help us grow into a life that matters, as individuals and as a community of faith and transformation?

***Our November worship series is designed to give some answers to these questions.*** It is not, however, supposed to be exhaustive; there are a lot of other markers that might be included in such a list. But, guided by the lectionary-assigned gospel texts for these three Sundays in November 2021, we discover three elements out of many that go to make up "A Life that Matters."

*November 7 – A Life That Matters: Everything She Had; Holy Communion*

*November 14 – A Life That Matters: Not One Stone; Dedication of Stewardship Pledges*

*November 21 – A Life That Matters: Everyone Who Belongs; Christ the King Sunday*

# **YOU ARE INVITED TO EXPERIENCE ADVENT ON SUNDAYS**

We invite you to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and let the holiday transform everything around us.

We're not all about Christmas, the holiday, about December 25 with all the jingle bells and tinsel. We are about Christmas, the celebration of the Christ Child, Emmanuel, who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. We are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together.

That's the home for which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to God's church and the world: "Come home for Christmas."

Come home for Christmas at Lewistown Presbyterian Church. Join our church community through Advent (November 28 – December 19) and Christmas (December 24 – January 2).  
There's no place like home!

*November 28 – Time to Go Home; Hanging of the Greens Service*

*December 5 – The Fear of Home; Holy Communion*

*December 12 – Chancel Choir Cantata*

*December 19 – The Blessing of Home*

*December 24 – Welcome Home; Candlelight Service at 7 pm*

*December 26 – Lost at Home*

*January 2 – The Light of Home; Holy Communion*



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

	Jan - Sep 21	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
BUDGETED INCOME	145,724.99	198,990.00	73.23%
INVESTMENT INCOME	107,253.11	139,560.00	76.85%
Total Income	252,978.10	338,550.00	74.72%
Expense			
BENEVOLENCE	13,432.16	30,000.00	44.77%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	58,679.04	82,979.00	70.72%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	2,489.48	4,700.00	52.97%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	2,577.29	2,000.00	128.87%
PROPERTY	34,463.55	50,365.00	68.43%
ADMINISTRATION	16,581.65	25,722.00	64.47%
PERSONNEL	97,556.51	139,984.00	69.69%
FELLOWSHIP	150.76	1,800.00	8.38%
PRESCHOOL	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	225,930.44	338,550.00	66.74%
Net Income	27,047.66		

## BLOOD DRIVE

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 3-7 PM**

**CENTRAL PA BLOOD BANK** is coming to Lewistown Presbyterian Church on Thursday, November 18, from 3 PM to 7 PM. The Board of Deacons will host a blood drive in memory of Brad Siddons. Every donor receives a coupon for a free Domino's pizza. Mady's Cookie Creations will be providing delicious cookies, too. Make plans to donate your blood so lives can be saved!

### 2 Ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to [717GiveBlood.org](http://717GiveBlood.org) & click on "donate now"
- Or call 1-800-771-0059

A form of ID is REQUIRED to donate

- We strongly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS, *continued*

Jesus: **"If anyone loves me he/she will keep my word and my Father will love him/her and we will come to him/her and make our home with him/her."** One hundred thirty-two miles gave ample time to ponder...

I wondered—is the dwelling place that Jesus talked about, the home that he and the Father and the Spirit promised to make with those who love him and keep his word, about an everlasting, deep relationship with the Trinity? About joining the eternal 'perichoresis', the dance of love? (see footnote; had to find that when I got to the internet at my sister's house).

And what does Jesus mean by "keep my word?" The idea of keeping/obeying/following is directly connected to loving Jesus. Doing what Jesus commands is the result of loving him. And his love for us precedes our love for him. **"We love him because he first loved us." (I John 4:19)** Our love for Jesus is our response to experiencing his love for us; his "no strings attached", just as you are, no matter what, always the same, love. The words of the praise song, "Here I Am To Worship" came to mind, and right there on that stretch of birch trees and pine, I started singing, "You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me..."

Still more to ponder: just what is the "word" we are to keep? At this point I popped the disc of John from The Dramatized New Testament into my car's CD player and tried to listen specifically for Jesus' commands (I still had over an hour to travel on 95. If you've ever driven that route, you know there's lots of time for listening!). Words such as, "receive" "believe" "follow" "come" "ask" and "abide" stood out. Words that invite us into relationship. Relationship—God's heart toward all people. This intimate relationship of "home"—the gift of loving and keeping the words of Jesus to receive him and remain in his love.

Exit 157—Newport, Skowhegan. That's my exit. I clicked off the CD and felt a fresh wave of longing to be with my mom. Longing and peace, grateful that no matter what physical condition I found my mom to be in, she was spiritually alive and healthy. Jesus Christ had made his home in her heart many years ago and she was still living out his love at nearly 94. More scenes from the past traveled through my memory as I traveled the final miles to my sister's house; some pleasant, some painful. This present chapter had already held both. And in every situation, this truth continued to hold: "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). He is our home.

**FOOTNOTE: 'The theologians in the early church tried to describe this wonderful reality that we call Trinity. If any of you have ever been to a Greek wedding, you may have seen their distinctive way of dancing... It's called perichoresis. There are not two dancers, but at least three. They start to go in circles, weaving in and out in this very beautiful pattern of motion. They start to go faster and faster and faster, all the while staying in perfect rhythm and in sync with each other. Eventually, they are dancing so quickly (yet so effortlessly) that as you look at them, it just becomes a blur. Their individual identities are part of a larger dance. The early church fathers and mothers looked at that dance (perichoresis) and said, "That's what the Trinity is like." It's a harmonious set of relationship in which there is mutual giving and receiving. This relationship is called love, and it's what the Trinity is all about. The perichoresis is the dance of love.'**

<https://jorgeschulz.wordpress.com/tag/jonathan-marlowe/>



# NEWS FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL MISSION

## PARTNERS: THE DAYTEC FAMILY

In the past few weeks, we've been called to the mountains several times, told that a baby was coming out and we were needed urgently. In each case, the women had no previous prenatal care or checkups.

There is an old faded duffle bag near the door that is packed with instruments, Pitocin, suturing supplies, etc. and this bag.... it has seen a few things.

MaryGrace is a Mangyan mother who had a high fever and was scared to go the local health center for fear of being quarantined for Covid and separated from her family. We drove over steep and rough roads until we reached the end, and then hiked through thick mud to their hut. It was dark, the air filled with smoke from their cooking fire.. we arrived as her sweet baby girl was sliding out, and quietly checked vitals, stopped the bleeding and delivered her placenta as she brought baby to her breast.

Tears filled my eyes as I watched them; This miracle of life never becomes routine. We started meds and vitamins for both mom and baby and left them as their bonding began. We did daily checks on them until they were thriving and healthy. Our smiles and joy are wide when one more mom and baby are safe and healthy.

This week, a Mangyan friend called us to come to the mountains to help his neighbors, Sandy and Larry, a beautiful Mangyan couple having their first baby. We were called to their hut two hours after baby was born. He was still laying between her legs, wet and cold. He was alert, eyes hungry. Her placenta had not yet come, and they were wise to call for help. Baby was dried and bundled against his mama's breast.

Upon examining Sandy, I realized that her uterus was now closed, the placenta trapped inside, and she was in imminent danger of hemorrhaging (the number one cause of death in the developing world in women of childbearing age is postpartum hemorrhage). We gave Sandy an injection, stabilized her, and sent her to the hospital, 1 1/2 hours away. She began to hemorrhage when she was in the hospital, had surgery for a placenta accreta (a placenta that has grown into the muscle of the uterus), had multiple bags of blood transfused, and she lived.

We just hiked into her village and did a postpartum check, and praised Jesus for life... beautiful life.

Over the past twelve years, we have seen so many of the statistics. We have walked with, touched, held, cried, prayed and worked hard to save, so, so many. We've fought an uphill battle to build trust, educate and continually encourage entire communities to pursue wholeness, get early care for their families, to have a birth attendant at every birth, to come for help when something is wrong. I've prayed through tears and clenched teeth countless times while holding a dead child.... NO. More. Death.

Slowly but beautifully, as we build relationships through respect and honor, we are seeing fruit growing on these trees. Others have come way before us, planting seeds of faith and wisdom in these communities, and many will come after us. We want to be faithful in every slow, small, steady step we take.

We are overjoyed with every heart that is transformed, every body that is healed, every family that learns to share love, every baby that breathes to live another day.... because it is all Grace and not at all my victory.

For the past month or so, our team has been diving deep into Grace; unpacking and searching-out the inner workings of this thing that is the pillar and tenet of our faith, yet so elusive if we're asked to pin down exactly what it looks like in our lives... We started out pondering, and then plunged and plumbed depths we've never known, tasted, or understood before. This Grace cannot just be learned just through reading, but must be tasted, experienced, marinated-in.

This grace we're offered comes in crashing waves and oceans from our Father, and we're invited to enter it's depths and never leave them, but so often we think Grace is just how we come to Jesus for salvation.

We take this one-time dip in it's mysterious waters, dry off, put on our boots and take over from there with our own efforts and self righteousness. We turn this lavish relationship of Grace into a performance based, striving-filled, tenuous thing. We sing about it's amazingness while climbing mountains with a lead-weight load



## THE DAYTEC FAMILY, *continued*

of our own burdens breaking us in half and stealing our breath.

I've come to realize that for so long I've had not a clue what it actually means to *Grow in Grace* and *Continue in Grace* as Paul encouraged us to... it's becoming really clear why there have been so many seasons of burn-out, emptiness, exhaustion marking my journey: I left the Ocean of Grace and walked a path of I-got-this, or God-needs-me-to-do -this.

I need His grace like air, and when I lean into Him and realize that nothing about this life is what I bring to it, I can begin to grow and continue in Grace because I'm resting in it. Our good Father is lavishing Grace on you today... He has a yoke that is easy and a burden that is light, and it's just the right size for you. Come on in.... For the past four months, we have had a beautiful 26 year old girl names Jessa living with us. She is from an island far south, has no immediate family, and we are honored and filled with Joy to be her family. She is in her third recurrence of Leukemia and battling for her life. We have found a doctor for her here, and are taking her to the hospital (1.5 hours away) several times a week for treatment. The doctor has flippantly said that she has a 1-2% chance of surviving more than a few months, so giving her care is pointless, but we are praying for miraculous healing, and life and know that she is worth fighting for.

In between chemo session, we are also doing injections and IV infusions in our home, as well as plant-based alternative medicine. We're battling for Jessa, and thanking Jesus for His healing that He is bringing to not just her body, but her heart and soul. The finances needed for her care are mounting, and we are peaceful, know that God has brought her to us and He always provides. If you would like to give towards Jessa's care, we would be so grateful!

We continue to carry on with the beautiful relationships God has given to us; our living room home fellowship on Sundays is bursting at the seams, with growth and life. Francis is in the mountains daily, walking beside pastors and Mangyan brothers and sisters, and discipling, treating broken bodies, encouraging hearts. He serves like Jesus...

We are still buying truckloads of rice to give away each week, because there are still so many that are hungry. We will continue until the need ceases. Our team is doing community health-care, checkups, education, and discipleship.

We are also asking for your prayers as we follow God's leading and choose which land to purchase so we can begin building our maternity and ministry center soon! We're excited to step out in wild faith and see what God is doing.

As I write this, two of our three children are sick with high fevers and body pain.. We are in the middle of the biggest surge of Corona virus since this pandemic began and we continue to treat patients every day. Please pray for healing and protection.

We pray for you all so often, and thank God for you—the team of witnesses, encouragers, intercessors and givers that hold us up. We feel your prayers. Thank you.....we're so grateful for you!

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



**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](http://www.lewistownpresbyterian.org)  
 Find us on Facebook!

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