



The First Press

April 2017

From the Pastor:

It is an axiom that applies to just about everything in life: “The better you prepare for something, the better it will be.”

How are you preparing for Easter?

Christmas is easy to prepare for; the stores start preparing us for it in early November. And the build up just keeps growing through December. When you think about it, Christmas doesn’t need as much preparation. The shepherds had no advanced knowledge and they fully participated in the celebration. True that Mary and Joseph did have months to prepare.

Easter really needs preparation. Jesus spent three years preparing His followers and yet

they struggled greatly to understand what was happening. The women seemed to have a much better understanding of things, even anointing Jesus for burial in the week prior to the Crucifixion. The men only got it after the fact, for some it took days and weeks.

I hope you are participating in the Lenten devotional we are using this year. The passages are not necessarily easy passages to read. In fact they are necessarily difficult passages. If you haven’t been participating, start today just go to first-presby.org and click on the Lenten Devotional article, then click on the link.

Another great way to prepare for Resurrection Sunday is the Tenebrae

service on Maundy Thursday. The service begins with communion and then moves to scripture readings and choral music in our darkened sanctuary.

Preparing for Easter is not easy, but it is meaningful, and it is good.

We have simplified our Easter morning celebration this year. There will be the Sunrise Service in Soldiers Park at 7:00am, followed by breakfast in the Great Hall around 7:30. Then we will have worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30.

It is my hope and prayer that you experience the love of our resurrected Savior in a powerful and fresh way this Easter.

Jim

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On Saturday, April 29th the summer mission trip youth will be selling food items on the front lawn of the church. The Lewisburg Arts Festival Photo Display will be housed in our church library. We welcome any crafters that would like to sell their wares. Please let the church office (570-524-4419) know if you would like space.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 - Nolan Jusko
 3 - Matthew Zimmerman
 4 - Jim King, Shannon Wright
 5 - Brian Zaiser, Nicholas Kovaschetz, Hayden Heid
 7 - David McSween, Lisa Zellmann
 12 - Craig Harley
 14 - Betty Lou McClure, Ellis Harley, Phil Moore, Paul Miller, Grace Bruckhart
 15 - Pauline King, Natalie VanFleet, Claire Leshner
 16 - Mitchell McSween, Annie Collins
 17 - Molly Roussell
 18 - Linda Cox, Lisa Black
 19 - Ralph Starkey
 20 - Dick Ward, Terry Light, Jessie Walsh, Holly Moore, Simon Barlett
 22 - Mark Heid, Ruth Kraus
 23 - Claire Graver
 25 - Talia Host, Rylee Jarrett
 26 - April Shrom
 28 - Amanda Kovaschetz, Alexander & Gabriel Friedberg
 30 - Martha Gill



April 6 - Don & Glen Dobbs celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary

April 12 - Rick & Kathy Gathman celebrating their 42nd wedding anniversary

April 22 - George & Dustine Koons celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary

April 23 - Tom & Jeanette Campbell celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary

April 23 - Eric & Barb Schmidt also celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary



Lewisburg Arts Festival Church Table

The annual Lewisburg Arts Festival Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 9-5. As a bonus, the Arts Festival Photography exhibit will be hosted in our Library again this year so there will be increased foot traffic through our church. During the Craft Fair our Summer Mission Trip Team will be selling chicken corn soup, sloppy Joes, hot dogs, chili and popcorn in front of the church.

We are inviting any crafters from our church that would like to offer their wares, to join us

on the front lawn. Call the church office if you would like to participate. Please tell us how many tables and chairs or the space that you will need.

The mission team will gladly accept donations for the food stand. Needed are:



- Soda (in cans)
- Hot dogs
- Hot dog buns
- Ketchup, mustard, chopped onions, sweet relish
- Hamburger buns



Courage and Triumph on the Cross

British novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy, once said that “A

look at the best entails a look at the worst.” That maxim applies particularly to the Lenten season, when sober midweek reflection over our sins may help us to greet the news of Resurrection Day with joy and gratitude. The same may be said of risking a queasy stomach to learn a bit more about the practice of crucifixion in Jesus’s day.

British theologian N. T. Wright* offers these historical details as background for understanding what Jesus endured on the cross: “...the very word ‘cross’ was a word you would most likely not utter in polite society. ... if you actually had seen a crucifixion or two, your sleep would have been invaded by nightmare...memories of humans half alive and half dead, lingering perhaps for days on end, covered in blood and flies, nibbled by rats, pecked at by crows, with weeping but helpless relatives still keeping watch, and with hostile or mocking crowds adding their insults to the terrible injuries.

“Those who crucified people did so because it was the sharpest and nastiest way of as-

serting their own absolute power and guaranteeing their victim’s absolute degradation. ... Crucifying people beside busy roads was designed to warn any slave or rebel contemplating running away to join a revolt. Routine whipping and scourging before the crucifixion left the victim weakened and publicly humiliated.

“In ancient Galilee the towns and villages where Jesus announced God’s kingdom would have had memories of people known, loved, and lost to Roman brutality. When Jesus told his followers to pick up their own crosses and follow Him, they would not have heard this as a metaphor.”

The sickening reality of crucifixion in Jesus’s day only magnifies the courage of our Savior as He “sets His face to Jerusalem” [Luke 9:51 NSV]. That life-determining decision, and all that transpired along the way, gave and still gives life to all who open their hearts in gratitude to Him. When Jesus can no longer lift himself high enough to fill His lungs with air, He gasps, “It is finished.” In that phrase I see both the merciful closure of suffering and a triumphant announcement that the vise grip of Sin has been broken for Israel and all humankind.


Idolatry continues to run rampant in our society, but for the committed believer, the battle was won on that cross so many centuries ago. The struggle to redeem our world continues until Christ returns, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called as Christ’s people to witness against the many idolatrous renditions of sex, money, and power, to name a few of today’s challenges.

One of my favorite Lenten hymns, most often sung during our Thursday evening Tenebrae Service, is “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” The third verse of that hymn expresses the gratitude and love that we should feel every day of our lives. I pray for you and for me that these words will growingly reflect the love that we have for our Savior and Lord:

“What language shall I borrow / To thank Thee, dearest Friend, / For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? / O make me Thine forever; / And should I fainting be, / Lord, let me never, never / Outlive my love to Thee.

**The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus’s Crucifixion*, N.T. Wright. San Francisco, Harper One, 2016, pp. 54-58].

-Bob Kribbs



It's Happenin' At The Himmelreich!

Bring Us Your Used Books!


It's our **"FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY BOOK SALE ON THE LAWN!"** Thousands of quality books have already been donated, but we're still seeking more. **You can help us reach the world with the Word Of God and help make The Himmelreich self-supporting!**

Simply donate old books from your attic or den, and you'll become a **"Supporting Patron Of The Himmelreich,"** qualifying for special recognition and privileges! **It's fun and easy! All quality books – including Secular or Christian Authors or Titles – are accepted!** Hardback and paperback books, vintage magazines, audio books, CDs, & DVDs all qualify. *** SO BRING US YOUR USED BOOKS – then join us Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for our Book Sale on the Lawn!**

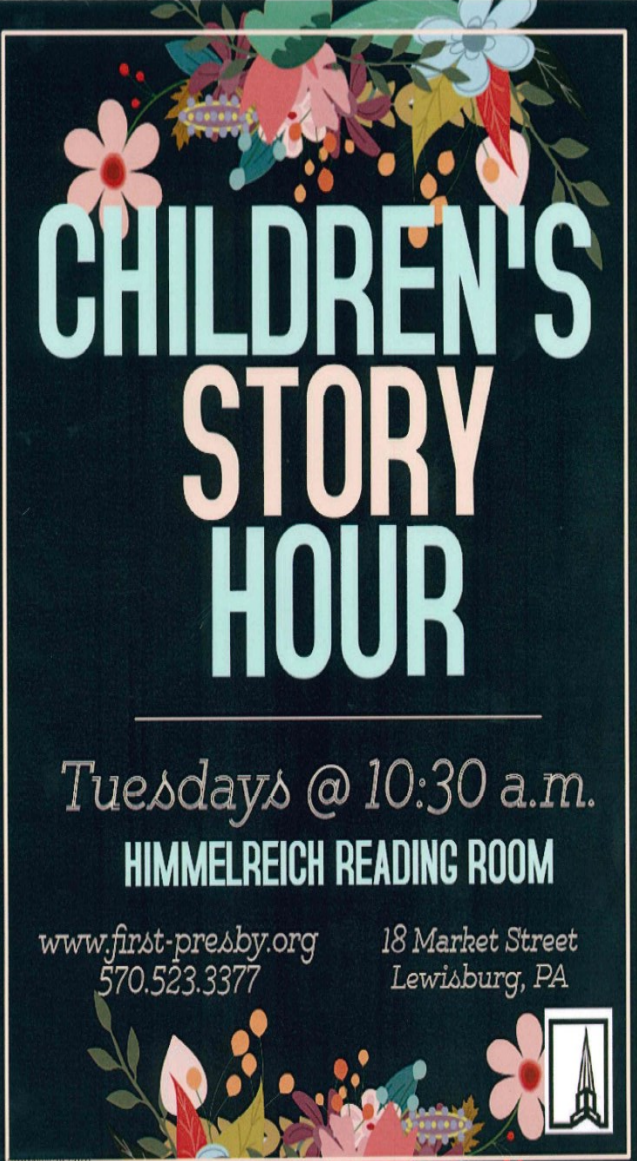
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HIMMELREICH
 You may drop your donated books off at The Library or the Church Office by **MONDAY, APRIL 10th.**

If you wish, we will be happy to arrange to pick-up your used books. Donations are tax deductible - see your tax advisor for details.

*** SORRY, WE CANNOT USE**
 1) Reader's Digest, 2) Encyclopedias, or 3) VHS Tapes



The Himmelreich™
 The Susquehanna Valley's FREE Christian Library





CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.

HIMMELREICH READING ROOM

www.first-presby.org 18 Market Street
 570.523.3377 Lewisburg, PA

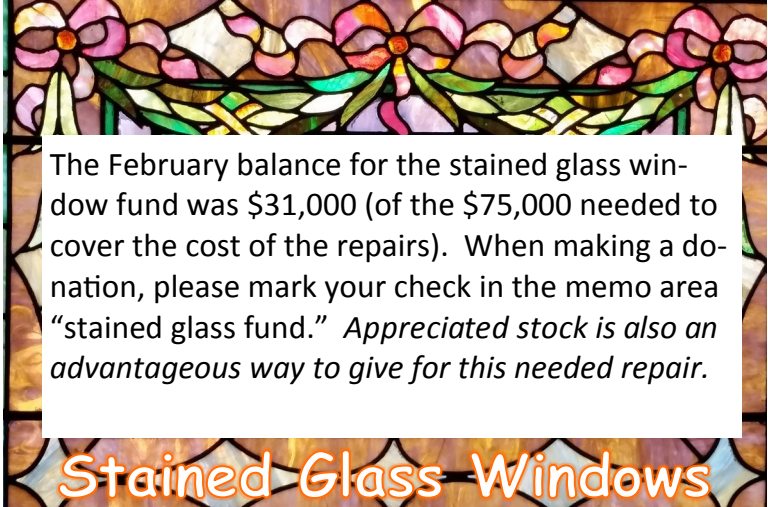



Pull Tabs

All types of metal pull tabs are being collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Danville.

This includes pet food, drink cans, soup cans, etc. (as long as they don't stick to a magnet).

The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company; with the proceeds to help with daily operating expenses at the House.



The February balance for the stained glass window fund was \$31,000 (of the \$75,000 needed to cover the cost of the repairs). When making a donation, please mark your check in the memo area "stained glass fund." *Appreciated stock is also an advantageous way to give for this needed repair.*

Stained Glass Windows

JAM April News

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 | | | CHIMES 5-5:30pm JAM 5:30-7pm | | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 | | | CHIMES 5-5:30pm | | 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt | |
| Easter Sunday 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| NO Sunday School Easter Services | | | CHIMES 5-5:30pm JAM 5:30-7pm | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 | | | CHIMES 5-5:30pm JAM 5:30-7pm | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 | | | | | | |

Easter Egg Hunt

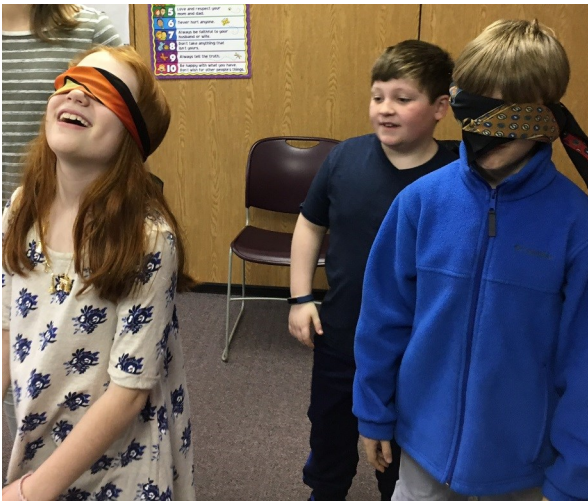
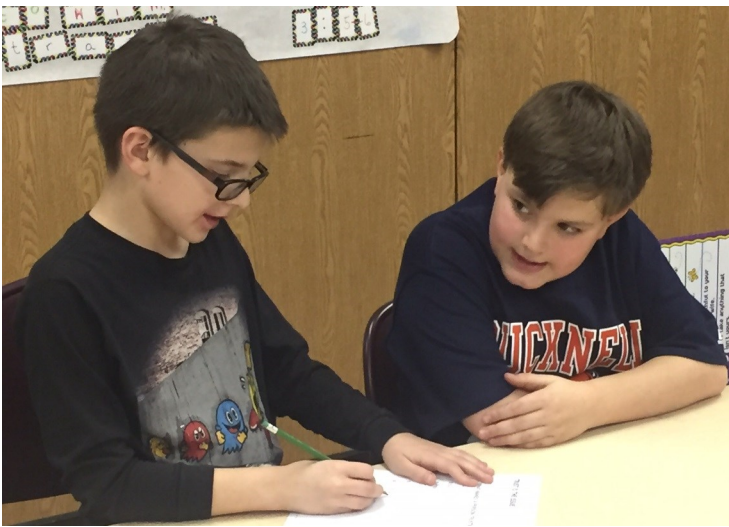
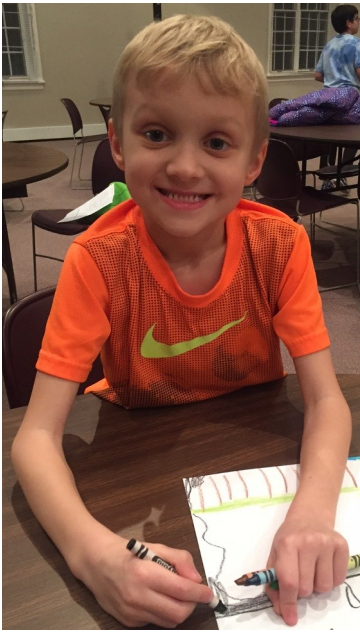
Join us for our community Easter Egg Hunt *Friday April 14 at 10:30!!!* There will be 'hunts' for children ages walking- grade 5. All will begin with a story reminding us of the true meaning of Easter. Bring a friend or three!!!



Vacation Bible School June 12-16 9-12noon

Age: 3 years to going into 6th grade
Registration on-line at

<http://www.myubs.org/firstpresbykids>



April 2017



First Presby Youth

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm | | Girl Talk 2:30pm | Breakfast 6:30am | Guys Games 2:30pm | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm | | Girl Talk 2:30pm | Breakfast 6:30am | Maundy Thursday Rejoicing Spirits 6:30 | Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt Help | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| EASTER SUNDAY NO Sunday School NO Fuel NO Refuge | | Girl Talk 2:30pm | Breakfast 6:30am | Guys Games 2:30pm | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm | | Girl Talk 2:30pm | Breakfast 6:30am | Guys Games 2:30pm | | Arts Festi- val Fund- raiser |



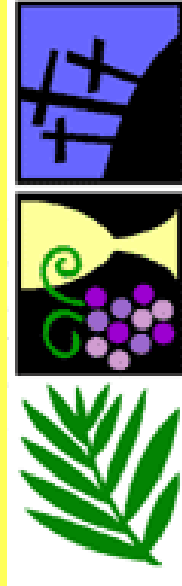
Youth Volunteers Needed!



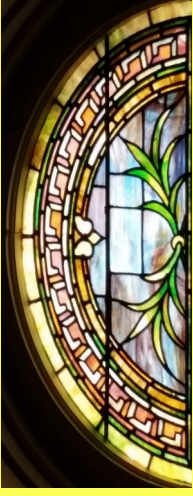
Friday April 28th— Library Work Day Help the church library get ready for their book sale! All youth are invited to attend! Stop by anytime between 3pm—6pm. Let Tim and Lauren know if you can attend, and bring your friends!

VBS Help—June 12—16, 9am-12pm. Youth volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible School! Please contact Lauren to sign up! All youth are welcome to help!





April 2017



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 2 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship 2:00 NA 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge | 3 7:15 E&D 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions | 4 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA | 5 6:30 Youth Brkfst 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir | 6 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA | 7 7:00 NA | 1 7:00 NA |
| 9 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge | 10 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Adult Ed | 11 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA | 12 6:30 Youth Brkfst 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir | 13 Maundy 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA 7:30 Worship Service | 14 Good Friday 10:30 Egg Hunt 7:00 NA | 15 7:00 NA |
| 16 Easter 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:30 Breakfast 10:30 Worship | 17 Office closed 7:00 Session, Trustees, Deacons | 18 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA | 19 6:30 Youth Brkfst 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir | 20 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA | 21 7:00 NA | 22 7:00 NA |
| 23 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge | 24 9:15 Trainers | 25 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA | 26 6:30 Youth Brkfst 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir | 27 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA | 28 7:00 NA | 29 10:00 Arts Festival 7:00 NA |
| 30 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge | | | | | | |

First Presbyterian Church

18 Market St
Lewisburg PA 17837

Phone: 570-524-4419

Web: www.first-presby.org

Email: info@first-presby.org



Living fully in Christ, through His Word, community and mission

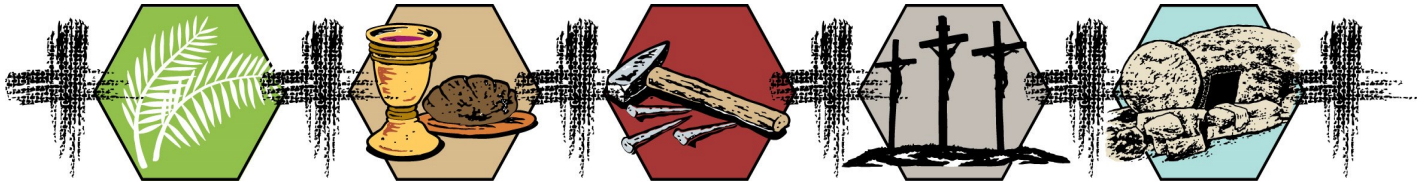


Pulpit Assistant: Rick Gathman

Ushers: Tom Rich, Mark, Eric and Cole Temple, George Koons, John Mutschler, Patrick Chiboroski, Chris Zellmann, Gerry Schwieger

| | Nursery | Coffee | Greeters |
|----|--|---------------|----------------------|
| 2 | Chiboroski, Beck | McTammany | McSween family |
| 9 | Foster | Speake | Jim & Marilyn Zaiser |
| 13 | <i>Sign up in the bulletin to staff the nursery during church.</i> | N/A | Reif family |
| 16 | | N/A | Temple family |
| 23 | | McCord | Kratzer family |
| 30 | | Reif | Mast family |

Dinner By the River: 3 Shady Grove (Gathman) 13 Dittmar Team (Troxell) 20 Shaffer (King) 27 Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp (Kribbs)



Holy Week

April 9 at 10:30 am Palm Sunday

April 13 at 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday

April 14 at 10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

April 16 at 7:00 Sunrise Service at Soldier's Park

at 7:30 Easter breakfast in the Great Hall

at 10:30 Easter Worship Service