



October 6, 2021

Dear Friend of Lewinsville,

In the biblical story of Esther, we find that Esther becomes queen of the Persian royal family at a time when forces within Persia are moving to carry out a massacre against her people, the Jewish people. Her wise uncle Mordecai tells her: “You may have come to power **for such a time as this**” (Esther 4:14). Indeed, the Lord called Esther *to service*, *gave her gifts*, and *placed her in a position of influence* for a very particular moment.

We believe that the Lord created and called Lewinsville Presbyterian Church *for such a time as this*. We are living through a time of enormous cultural transition in our world, with institutions and organizations everywhere going through wrenching change. It is a time of discerning the right balance between *traditions* that need to be upheld and *advancements* to be embraced in this moment. We are living through an era of intense polarization, when differences are perceived not as gifts, but threats. Ours is a time of a great, and overdue, reckoning on racial injustice. We are living in a time of ecological disruption and disagreements about immigration. So many people in our community are lonely and anxious and isolated...and all of this is unfolding in the midst of a global pandemic.

It is our belief that Lewinsville Presbyterian Church has been called for such a time as this.

The completion of a successful building campaign and the calling of Rev. Layne Brubaker to the pastoral team as the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation position Lewinsville to make a significant missional impact in our community at this time.

To make that possible, we need your participation. We need you invested in the life and mission of Lewinsville.

The investments we are making in our ministry staff mean that our personnel expenses will be higher next year. Last year – due to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic– we did not request increases in pledge amounts. **This year, we are inviting you to consider increasing your pledge amount by 8-11%**, which will make it possible for Lewinsville to move ahead with initiatives in:

- Youth and young adult ministry
- Livestreamed worship
- Mission connections with Afghan refugees
- And more

Every single gift represents an important investment in the life of the congregation. We expect and hope that the investments we are making will lead to new expressions of growth in our ministry during this critical time. We also want to be able to provide for our staff, utility increases, and other non-discretionary items. By contributing an additional \$43 for each church member in your household, you will help fund the work of National Capital Presbytery and the PC(USA) denomination, something that we are committed to doing.

The simplest way to make your pledge is by going to www.lewinsville.org and clicking the “Make a Pledge Commitment” button and filling out the information there. You may also fill out the enclosed pledge card and mail it into the church office.

Please prayerfully consider this request. We are counting on you to continue investing in the mission and ministry of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, called to mission *for such a time as this*.

Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey, Pastor

John Day, Stewardship Chair