



Lewinsville Presbyterian Church

www.lewinsville.org

December 2021

DECEMBER WORSHIP**ADVENT THEME: "HOPE IN THE FACE OF EMPIRE"****DECEMBER 5, livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.**

2nd Sunday of Advent

Celebration of the Lord's Supper, live & virtual

Malachi 3:14; Luke 3:1-6

"In the Wilderness"

Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey

9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship at the Pavilion**DECEMBER 12, livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.**

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

"I Will Change Their Shame Into Praise"

Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey

9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship at the Pavilion**2:00 p.m. Carols in the Community****DECEMBER 19, livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.**

4th Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-55

"Dissident Friendship"

Rev. Layne Brubaker

NO PAVILION WORSHIP**Messy Church in the Narthex, 9:30-10:45 a.m.****DECEMBER 21, 7:30 P.M.****JAZZ & BLUES LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

Rev. Layne Brubaker

DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**4:15 p.m. Family Carols & Cocoa****4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service****6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Prelude Concert****7:00 & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service**

Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20

"A New Song"

Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey

DECEMBER 26, livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

Lessons and Carols

Rev. Jen Dunfee

NO PAVILION WORSHIP

On December 12, Lewinsville will be caroling around the neighborhood. We will meet at the Lewinsville Pavilion at 2:00 p.m. for Cocoa, Cookies, and a special presentation of *The Bethlehemian Rhapsody* by the Lewinsville Puppeteers. We will disperse at 2:30 p.m. for different caroling opportunities and finish up by singing together at 4:00 p.m. at "The Perch" at the Capital One Center at Tysons. All members of Lewinsville are encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater (ugly or otherwise) and join in a centuries old Christmas tradition of **CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY!** Please contact jnohaft@lewinsville.org to RSVP!

Christmas Eve Services at Lewinsville

4:15 p.m. Family Carols & Cocoa, family and friends gather outside the church for fellowship

4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service, hear the story as told through song and puppets, all children will be able to safely participate

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Prelude Concert, the Chancel Choir and Bells will perform Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with harp.

7:00 & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, led by Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey (Communion at the 7:00 p.m. service)

Readings: Psalm 96 and the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Title: "A New Song"

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends at Lewinsville,

The season of Advent comes to us as a *precious gift*.

Now, if we are too much shaped by the consumer pressures of our society, we may not think this way. We may think of Advent as a “warning shot” that we only have 25 (or so) days left to buy, buy, buy!! If we are too much shaped by the world, Advent may strike us as a threat. We may think, “I’m not ready!!” We may think, “There’s too much to do!!”

But if we are able to take a deep breath and step back - even just a little bit - from the crazy-making pressures of the world, we can see that Advent comes to us as a *precious gift*.

The gift is the announcement that *we are not the Savior*. The Savior is coming - with grace, humility, and vulnerability, to save the world.

Because He is the Savior, we do not have to be. We do not need to shoulder the burden of being perfect, or of being successful, or of having everyone like us. We can simply be ourselves, acknowledging the ways that we fall short, and asking God to use us - with all of our shortcomings and brokenness - as part of God’s great project of restoration and reconciliation.

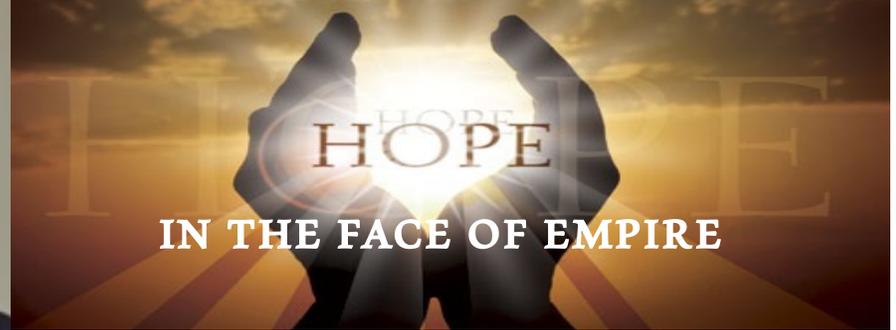
What are the ways that you are tempted to take on too much? What are the ways that you are seduced into taking on too heavy a burden? How do you try to do more than God is asking of you? Jesus our Savior says to us, “Come to me, all you that are weary and heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Blessings for your journey,

Pastor Scott



2021 ADVENT THEME:



Every period in the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testaments, finds the faith community (whether we are talking about the people of Israel or the church) situated in the midst of some empire. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Rome. The community of faith makes its humble way in a world shaped by dominating, imperial powers. Characteristically, empires want to define and control *what is possible, what can be expected about the future, and how life is lived*. Empires always set those things in ways that benefit and enhance the empire.

The kingdom of God - which is at hand, according to Jesus - is an alternative way of defining those same three things: *what is possible, what can be expected about the future, and how life is lived*. Jesus invites his followers to live and organize their lives according to this “more excellent way” (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:31). Jesus invites his followers to organize their lives according to the reign of God, rather than the reign of whatever empires are trying to control their lives at any given time.

Our preaching theme for this Advent will be “*Hope in the Face of Empire*.” We will be reflecting, through our Advent Scripture texts, on how the coming of Jesus into our world offers us new hope for our lives and for the life of the world - hope that is not controlled or under the management of the various empires and dominating powers of our world.



THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING NOV. 28-DEC. 19

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and takes place this year from November 28-December 19, 2021.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Mission and Service Ministry Group urges all LPC congregants to generously support this important special offering. There are several easy ways to donate: (1) donate on-line at the LPC website (click on the blue “Make a Gift” button and follow directions to “Christmas Joy Offering”; (2) use the “Christmas Joy” offering envelope included in your packet of offering envelopes; or (3) write a check payable to LPC with a notation for “Christmas Joy Offering.”

JAZZ and BLUES LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

In collaboration with Immanuel Presbyterian Church
December 21, at 7:30 p.m.

The Longest Night Service, also referred to as a Blue Christmas Service, is a worship service in Advent on the longest night of the year that honors folks who are grieving or have lost loved ones.

You may think it odd to have a somber service in the middle of the Christmas season; however, if you have experienced loss in the last year all the holiday festivities can make that grief more poignant.

Grieving the loss of a loved one, or coming to terms with so much loss during a global pandemic will be centered in this worship service. This service will intertwine Jazz and Blues music with scripture and reflection-Blues songs are typically lyrical rather than narrative and blues singers express feelings of melancholy and sadness through the Blue Notes-specific chord progressions.



JAZZ AND BLUES LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 21 at 7:30 P.M.



ALTERNATIVE OUTDOOR WORSHIP for DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 A.M. PAVILION WORSHIP
LED BY REV. DR. SCOTT RAMSEY

DECEMBER 12
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 A.M. PAVILION WORSHIP
LED BY REV. DR. SCOTT RAMSEY

DECEMBER 19
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NO PAVILION WORSHIP
MESSY CHURCH IN THE NARTHEX
9:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.
CELEBRATION LED BY PASTOR REV. DR. SCOTT RAMSEY



DECEMBER 26
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
NO PAVILION WORSHIP



CAROLS and BELLS

DECEMBER 16 AT 6:00 P.M.
The Lewinsville Chancel Bells will perform at Chesterbrook Retirement Residence as an evening treat. Come and listen!



Jesus had many different things to do here on earth, so He had many different names. Although people usually call Him Jesus, each of the names or titles describe something about who Jesus is and His role in our lives.

Join us in the Narthex for this Messy Church and explore who Jesus is by learning some of the titles and names He is known by through crafts and activities followed by the celebration held in the Sanctuary and led by Pastor Scott. We will enjoy hot cocoa and bagels at the conclusion of the service outside on the church "porch". All ages and stages are invited. Masks must be worn during Messy Church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:30-10:45 A.M.

IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

JOHN NOTHAFT PERFORMS AN ADVENT ORGAN PRELUDE FOR WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6; 12:10 P.M. AT ST. MARK'S CAPITOL HILL, 310 A STREET SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20003

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7; 12:10 P.M. AT CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, 1317 G. STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20005



REV. LAYNE BRUBAKER SPIRITUAL FORMATION & MISSION



Greetings Lewinsville Family,

The Past month at Lewinsville has been full and robust- and I'm so excited to see where God's Spirit is leading us. My heart has been full of joy and gratitude since my Installation Service on November 14th and I feel so blessed to be a part of the Lewinsville congregation. I saw the installation service as a celebration and beginning. I believe that God has called me to the congregation for a purpose and I look forward to seeing the ways in the which the Holy Spirit reveals that call over the coming years. Since starting at Lewinsville I have met one on one with folks for coffee or lunch and some people have even invited me into their homes- all of these meetings have been wonderful ways to get to know our congregation on a more intimate level. In my short time at Lewinsville, what I know is that this congregation is full of folks with energy, excitement, and willingness to respond to God's call in the world! I have already seen this happen in so many ways- the way this congregation supports the youth group or the quick response by the congregation to donate more than 200 coats to Afghan refugees. I am grateful for the welcome that I have received and I look forward to our future together.

Grace and Peace,
Layne

The Afghan Refugee Working Group is hosting a congregation wide opportunity for as many to participate in what we hope will be a church-wide project. As you know earlier this fall a crisis unfolded in Afghanistan in which thousands of people were displaced



from their homes and now are faced with having to figure out how to live in the United States. There is a pivotal call in our Bible in which God implores us to welcome the stranger, and a group of us at LPC have heard that call. A small working group has come together to discern and dream about ways in which we might respond to this crisis. As a group we have been connecting with folks in the community and learning from people who are ahead of us on this journey. The Session has approved our hosting a three-part discernment in December. The purpose of this discernment event is to learn and listen for the Holy Spirit's direction on how we feel called as a congregation to respond to the Afghan refugee crisis. The three discernment events will be:

- ◆ **Wednesday December 1, 7-8:30- Learning About the Call:** We will have a guest speaker explain the nuances and background of this humanitarian crisis.
- ◆ **Wednesday December 8, 7-8:30- Understanding the Call:** We will have a panel of speakers who will share about different potential mission partnership opportunities for our congregation.
- ◆ **Wednesday December 15, 7-8:30- Answering the Call:** We will have time for prayer and discussion with the hopes of deciding which path forward we feel God is calling us.

It is our hope that as many folks from the LPC congregation as possible will commit to attending all three of these meetings. The call is great, and we know that it will take many of us to answer it. You can RSVP to the event at this link: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/afghan-refugee-discernment/>

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER MEETING

Session received an update from the Building Renovation Task Force. The project is approximately 80% complete and remaining work consists of the new elevator installation, finishes, carpeting, lighting, plumbing and inspections. Session authorized the Trustees to sign a Letter of Commitment with Chain Bridge Bank for \$300,000 to cover the short-term difference between incoming pledges and bills needing to be paid. The Letter of Commitment is for a line of credit that will be drawn on only as needed up to \$300,000.

As the cold weather approaches, families with young children are becoming less likely to attend events in the Pavilion. After consultation with the Medical Task Force, Session approved a request from the Christian Education Ministry Group to move Messy Church to the Narthex until March 2022. Masks will be required by all.

Finance Committee Chair, Mary Frase, reported that pledge giving continued to be strong in October. The December session meeting will focus in large part on the first reading of the 2022 budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Bender, Clerk of Session



ALTERNATIVE GIFTS PROGRAM

Instead of giving Uncle Don a tie, or socks, or some other traditional gift this year, you can make donations to Lewinsville's mission partners in his name. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and the Mission and Service Group invites you to join in the Alternative Gifts program and make donations to our mission partners in the name of a loved one. An Alternative Gift is a wonderful way to show your appreciation for the special people in your life and provides a tax-deductible gift to support Lewinsville Presbyterian Church mission projects.

The Alternative Gifts program begins at the end of November and continues through Advent. [CLICK HERE](#) to donate on-line or by stop by the Alternative Gifts table set up in the narthex after the Sunday services. **NOTE: FIRST, submit the form on the web page to establish the line item(s) to which you intend to make a contribution. THEN click on the "Donate to Alternative Gifts" button (or any "Make a Gift" button on the website and select the "Alternative Gifts" tile) to complete your donation. You may also mail you check after submitting your donation form.**

You can give a donation in honor of your loved one to provide financial support to our mission partners, including:

- ◆ Homestretch
- ◆ The Friends of The Lewinsville (meal support program)
- ◆ FACETS
- ◆ Falls Church-McLean Children's Center
- ◆ United Orphanage and Academy in Kenya,
- ◆ SHARE, and other Lewinsville Presbyterian Church mission projects.

Beautiful cards are available to let the honoree know that an Alternative Gift has been given in their name. For more information about these Lewinsville mission partners and the Alternative Gifts program, please contact Alan Stevens at avslc11@verizon.net.



HANGING OF THE GREENS OUTDOOR FAMILY EVENT

DECEMBER 4

9:30-11 AM

Join us as we gather outdoors only this year to decorate the exterior of the church for Advent and Christmas. We need help decorating and hanging wreaths and stringing lights outdoors. Service hours are available for students. Bring work gloves and wire cutters. Please click [HERE](#) to register.

We are hosting the 2nd ANNUAL BIRD AND ANIMAL OUTDOOR ORNAMENTS PARTY for children (ages 3-12)

from 10 am-11 am on December 4. We will create bird and animal feeder "decorations" for the Lewinsville trees to help our friends celebrate Christmas with us. You may wish to read [The Night Tree](#) by Eve Bunting with your family before joining this tradition at Lewinsville. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and reserve your place. Masks are required for this event.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

The Summer Mission Project Team will be providing hot beverages and selling delicious goodies just outside the front entrance of the church before and after the 11:00 worship service. All proceeds will go directly towards expenses related to our work camp with Appalachian Service Project next June.

We look forward to greeting you and thank you in advance for your generosity.



NEWS FROM OUR LEWINSVILLE FAMILY

MEMBERS IN INDEPENDENT LIVING, NURSING HOMES & CARE CENTERS:

ASHBY PONDS: Quinn and Celia Morrison, Evelyn Jones, Richard Rager, Doug McGuire

BRIGHTVIEW, GREAT FALLS: Elizabeth McKenna

CHESTERBROOK RESIDENCES: Dee Custer, Nancy Miller

THE FALLSTEAD: Margie Roe

THE GARDENS AT FAIR OAKS, CLIFTON: Mary Partridge

GOODWIN HOUSE, FALLS CHURCH: Charles and Mary Hutchison

GREENSPRING, SPRINGFIELD: Joanne Field, Sarah Larson

THE HERMITAGE: Margot Scheffey

THE JEFFERSON, ARLINGTON: Fran Pearce, Bob and Beverly Johnson

THE KENSINGTON, RESTON: Mary Ann Philipp, Steve Hiemstra

LEWINSVILLE RETIREMENT RESIDENCE: Jane Gardner, Dong Lee, Lurleen Ogle, Lucille Quinn, Mina Sulaiman

VINSON HALL, MCLEAN: Jean and Charlie Mertz

THE VIRGINIAN: Don Robb

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to ALL Lewinsville couples celebrating DECEMBER wedding anniversaries. The following couples are celebrating a milestone occasion:

- Ken and Connie Schafer—62 years on December 20
- Phil and Connie Church—55 years on December 30
- Bruce and Betty Douglass—57 years on December 31

DEATHS

Our loving sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Sandra (Givan) Martin who died on September 19. A memorial service was held November 5 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Sterling, VA.

Our loving sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Anne Shaw who died on November 3. A funeral service was held at Lewinsville on November 6 with burial following in the Lewinsville Cemetery.

Our loving sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Louise Fox who died on November 6. A memorial service will be held on December 11, 2 p.m., at Lewinsville Church.

Our loving sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Erik Kloster on the death of his mother, Anne-Lise Kloster, on November 4.



THANK YOU

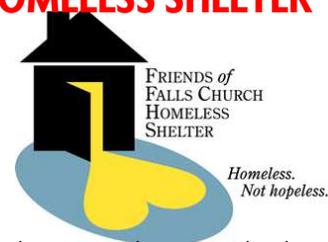
A sincere thank you for the lovely cards, emails, gifts, and phone calls for my 20 years at Lewinsville. I am blessed to work for such a wonderful church and congregation! Many, many thanks!

Sandy Albrecht

FALLS CHURCH HOMELESS SHELTER

217 Gordon Road,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Phone: (703) 854-1400

www.fcshelter.org



Falls Church Homeless Shelter provides warm beds, meals, and counseling to the homeless during the winter months. The shelter began operations in January 1996 and is open from November through April to provide temporary shelter, emergency housing, counseling, life skills classes, and other services to assist individual adults.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- ◆ Provide hot meals and deliver them to the shelter in the evening
- ◆ Prepare and deliver breakfast items, bagged lunches, and staples for the week, such as milk, juice, bread, fruit, and snacks
- ◆ Donate cleaning supplies
- ◆ Volunteer to help staff the shelter in the evenings

Primary Contact Person: Joe Parisi

YOUTH

Every Sunday 6:15-8:15pm at the Lewinsville Pavilion we will gather for youth fellowship. During our time together we will share a meal, play some games and grow together in discussions about the Bible and faith formation. Please wear a mask to these gatherings.

There will be **NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

YOUNG ADULT

DECEMBER ON TAP

Wednesday, December 15th 8 p.m.

HOSTED BY EVAN AYARS IN HIS HOME:

7480 BIRDWOOD AVE. #1025, MCLEAN, VA

Wear your favorite holiday sweater!



ADULT EDUCATION-ADVENT MODULE

Rejoice! Reflections on Four Advent Hymns

What makes Christmas Christmas? For the Christian community a central truth is that God no longer is far off. God in the Christ child has drawn near. God is our Emmanuel "God with us." And God as our Emmanuel bestows upon us such blessings as Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. But how do we experience these moods during this holy season. Answers abound. But one of the time honored ways is through the singing of Advent hymns and Christmas carols. This class, led by Rev. Dan Thomas will study and examine four of these great songs. We will consider not only the history and theology of these songs but also explore some of the biblical texts that inspired their composition.

Opportunity will also be given for participants to share how these songs speak to them personally.

A weekly study guide plus other resources will be made through the Internet. If possible please bring to class a Bible and a copy of each song. Below is our study schedule:

- November 28. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
- December 5. Silent Night, Holy Night!**
- December 12. O Little Town of Bethlehem.**
- December 19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 11:30 A.M.

**LEWINSVILLE RETIREMENT
RESIDENCES DINING ROOM**

Single seniors lunch will again be in person on Friday, Dec. 10 at 11:30. During the cold winter months, Lewinsville Retirement Residences (LRR) is generously allowing us to meet in their dining room. One can enter the LRR dining area from the LPC cemetery through the glass sliding doors. We won't have access to the kitchen, so bring your own bag lunch, as simple or as fancy as you choose. We will enjoy one another's fellowship and share our plans for Christmas. And bring your suggestions for programs in 2022. For information, contact Lois Dokken (manpadokken@aol.com / 703 789-0617) or Wendy Maiwurm (wmaiwurm@gmail.com / 703 759-6705).

REV. JEN DUNFEE CARE MINISTRY



Psalm 116, verse 2 says, "*I love the Lord, because the Lord has heard my voice and my*

supplications. Because the Lord inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live." This verse is one of many that describe the ear of the Lord as always attentive, as tuned continually to the voices and concerns of the people. The Psalmist claims a promise and then responds with an action: because the Lord can be trusted to hear, to incline an ear to me in my needs, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live. The person had a real experience of the presence of God in a time of trouble, found real refuge under the shelter of God's wing and now turns that trust into an action of calling on God. Which means including God in the deepest parts of the human heart and lived experience, not turning to God when convenient or like a prayer-vending machine when you want something. But always, and all days. The Jesuit Priest James Martin, in his book *Learning to Pray, A Guide for Everyone* describes prayer as a "conscious conversation with God." And one that is always ongoing on God's side, so we do our best to stay plugged into it as much of each day as we can, as long as we live.

This Advent, there will be an opportunity to experience prayer in the Sanctuary every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to grow in the spiritual practice of praying out-loud together, come on by. If you would like a place to focus on silent prayer and meditation, this time is for you. If you would like to be prayed for by a pastor or Deacon/Stephen Ministry, come by and we will pray with you. There will also be prayer cards and prayer starters available on tables, and candles to light. In whatever way the Spirit moves you, may this Advent season be one of prayer and a deepening sense of God's presence.

Pastor Jen

Lewinsville

Presbyterian Church

1724 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Donate Now!



MAKE NATURE A PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In this season of giving, take time to enjoy the gifts that nature provides all year long. Start a family tradition that gets you outside. Here are some suggestions of fun activities that instill values of caring for God's marvelous creation and giving back.

- ◆ **Take a nature walk or hike.** Strengthen bonds with nature and family as you walk and converse, make observations and absorb the beauty around you. Engage your senses. What birds and animals do you see? What remains green in winter? Look for tracks and other signs of animal life. What do you hear? Smell?
- ◆ **Pick up litter from trails, streets and parks.** Gift nature by collecting any trash you encounter as you walk. Carry a bag and wear gloves, or improvise with a stick for picking up items you don't want to touch. Talk about the harm caused by what you find.
- ◆ **Behold the night sky.** Bundle up and head out with binoculars or a telescope to a dark space with an unobstructed view. Enhance the adventure with a thermos of hot chocolate and

camp chairs. Gaze in silence and experience awe at the vastness of the universe. Ponder what it was like for the shepherds "watching their flocks by night". Look for planets and constellations.

- ◆ **Decorate an outdoor tree for birds and animals.** Make edible ornaments and hang them on the tree, then watch to see what comes to enjoy your gift. For decorating ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPeFayGr9ZU>
- ◆ **Plant a Tree.** If you use nature's gift of a cut live tree for your Christmas celebration, reciprocate by planting a native tree to replace the tree you removed.

ATTENTION: Those who use wheelchairs, walkers or canes
We now have a small ramp that leads from the parking lot to the sidewalk to the chapel. From there you can go to the right to get to the smooth walkway behind the building that leads to the door in the room behind the sanctuary. .
Please park near the Counseling Center or in front of the chapel so you'll have easy access to the sidewalk and walkway. This will be the best way to get into the building until the elevators pass inspection after Christmas.

STAFF OPENING: Lewinsville is searching for a Director of Communications Ministry, a part-time 25-hour per week position. We are looking for candidates with website and graphic design experience as well as familiarity with social media engagement in particular. If you are interested or if you know of someone who may be interested, read more about this position and apply

[HERE.](#)