

NOVEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

THE LEWINSVILLE NEWSLETTER

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church | 1724 Chain Bridge Road | McLean VA 22101 | (703) 356-7200 | www.lewinsville.org

Gratitude in the Midst of Losses and New Beginnings

REV. DR. SCOTT RAMSEY, PASTOR

Dear friends at Lewinsville,

I am writing this letter in the wake of the death of my mother, the one who brought me into the world, who taught me so much about life and love.

And I realize that this newsletter is for November, December, and January. These are the months that give us the following themes: gratitude (Thanksgiving Day); the presence of Jesus in our lives (Christmas); the end of one year and the beginning of another. It is hitting me that those themes are powerfully operative in my life right now, and that they are powerfully operative for all of us.

Gratitude: I am so thankful to have had my mother as my mother. The life that she lived was not perfect, but hers was a life that blessed me in deep and abiding ways that are too many to count. As I have thought about the person I have become, so many things can be traced to her influence.

Presence of Jesus: As I have been walking with her during her dying, it has been very clear to me that Jesus has been walking with me. He has not taken away my sadness and grief, but he has borne it with me. And by bearing it with me, he has given it a healing quality.

Ending: My mother is now gone. I continue to have my memories of her, which I cherish, and the thought of being with her again one day in the resurrection is a deep comfort, but it is also true that she is gone. I cannot hold her hand anymore. She cannot give me one of her big hugs.

Beginning: This next chapter of life – a chapter without my mother – has begun. There will be new things to learn, new things to discover – about myself, about my family, about the world – and I do not know what those things will be. There is hope in this, and there is more than a little nervousness.

Gratitude, the presence of Jesus, endings, and beginnings – how are those themes at work in your individual life? In the life of our congregation? In the life of our society and world?



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Grateful for this journey,
Pastor Scott

Lewinsville
Presbyterian Church

Special Worship Services

All Saints' Sunday

Morning Worship Service – 11 a.m.

On All Saints' Sunday, the church remembers those who have died. Life and death are central aspects of the church's life. We baptize and welcome those who are brought to new life in Christ, we usher those who have died into the fullness of their baptisms, and we stand at the grave and sing 'Alleluia!' for in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, death has lost its sting forever. On All Saints' Sunday, we remember that we are part of a great Communion of Saints, our mothers and fathers in the faith who have come before us.

The morning worship service will also include a reading of the names of those participants in the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church community who have died during the past year, as well as an opportunity to remember other loved ones who have died. It is one of those times when the church holds together our grief over the loss of our loved ones with our gratitude for the grace and love of God, from which nothing can separate us.

All Saints' Sunday Contemplative Service of Remembrance

Contemplative Music and Prayer Stations – 4 p.m.

At 4 p.m. on that **same Sunday of November 2**, Lewinsville will again host a contemplative service of remembrance in the sanctuary and in the cemetery. This can be a time to sit meditatively in the sanctuary, or to walk reflectively around the cemetery, remembering those who have died and giving thanks to God for the impact of their lives. Pastors and Deacons will also be available to talk with, about the losses that we have suffered.

McLean Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

A McLean-area Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. All are invited to attend this special Interfaith Worship Experience.

ADVENT THEME: Pruning and Bearing Fruit with the Prophets

Adult Themes – Major Prophets

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke God's presence and God's word into the life of ancient Israel. They embodied God's presence and God's word in the midst of a society that was unraveling. In the language of the prophet Jeremiah, they "plucked up and pulled down" institutions and beliefs and habits that were destructive and ruinous for the community.

And they "built and planted" new ways of being the community of faith, ways that were life-giving, and that strengthened the common good, and that attended to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community.

During this Advent season, we will engage our congregational theme of "Abiding/Pruning/Bearing Fruit" through the lens of the Old Testament prophets, as we prepare for the full incarnation of God's presence and God's word in Jesus Christ at Christmas.

WELCOME TO LEWINSVILLE

We invite you to experience worship, grow in your faith, find a caring community, and serve those in need in our area and the world.

There are many ways to connect with others who may be on the same journey as you.

Attend a Sunday 11 a.m. service. Join us for Dinner Church, a casual service held once a month.

Find your place in one of the ministries, or drop in on a fellowship group.

Wherever you are, you are welcome here at Lewinsville.

LEWINSVILLE

PROGRAM STAFF

Scott Ramsey

Pastor/Head of Staff

Layne B. Brubaker

Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

Jen Dunfee

Stated Supply Pastor for Christian Education

John Nothaft

Director of Music Ministries

Evan Ayars

Children's Music Specialist

CHURCH OFFICE

M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
703-356-7200

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Wednesday, December 24, 2025

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — 11 A.M.

Lewinsville's Choristers perform *A Journey to Bethlehem*

**CONCERT: CHARPENTIER'S
'MESSE DE MINUIT'— 6 P.M.**

Lewinsville Chancel Choir and Baroque Orchestra

**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE WITH COMMUNION — 7 P.M.**

Baroque Orchestra, and Choir

JAZZ PRELUDE — 9 P.M.

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
WITH COMMUNION — 9:30 P.M.**

Jazz Band and Choir

HANGING OF THE GREENS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025, 9:30A.M. -1 P.M.



During the season of Advent, the flower committee decorates the church for Advent and Christmas. The decorations extend to the outdoors and include hanging wreaths, roping lamp posts, potting plants and stringing lights.

The hanging of the greens is more than decorations. It is symbolically preparing the way for the Lord by embodying the congregational theme – Abiding, Pruning, Bearing Fruit and viewing that theme through the perspectives of the Old Testament prophets.

Come “Hang Out”

If you like to know more about the “hanging of the greens” or get involved, contact Pam Deese at Pamela.deese@arentfox.com or 703-790-9263.



STEWARDSHIP 2026: LED BY GRACE ... ABIDING IN THE VINE UPDATE



During the month of October, the congregation responded with generosity and grace towards the mission and ministry of Lewinsville in 2026.

The theme of “Led by Grace ... Abiding in the Vine” draws us both out into the world, as we follow the grace of Christ, and deeper down into the heart of God, as we grow closer to Christ in our own lives.

For 2026, the Session anticipates an overall operating budget of almost \$1.9 million to support our programs and initiatives. This goal will be made possible by a 5% (or more) increase in pledges over 2025.

As of this writing, we have had 85 individuals and families pledge a total of \$1,030,573. (By way of comparison, in last year’s overall campaign, we had 186 individuals and family units who had pledged a total of \$1,554,396.

We still have a meaningful distance to go, and if you have not yet had a chance to make your pledge, we would encourage you to do so.

And if you have any questions at all about this year’s campaign, feel free to reach out to Pastor Scott or Spencer Deese, chair of this year’s Stewardship Committee.



DINNER CHURCH

GRATITUDE AS BEARING FRUIT

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025
6 p.m.

LONGEST NIGHT
Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025
6 p.m.

SESSION RETREAT

On the weekend of November 14 – 16, your Session and program staff will be on a weekend retreat at the Pearlstone Conference Center in Reisterstown, Maryland, facilitated by leadership consultant Susan Nienaber.

The theme of this year’s Session retreat is “Leading the Congregation in a Time of Change and Loss.” We will be working with the results of the recent Church Assessment Tool (CAT) to determine future directions for our mission and ministry.

Please keep your Session and program staff in your prayers.

Rethinking Holiday Meals

Sharing food with friends and family is a beloved part of the holiday season, but, unless we're mindful, our festivities can result in a lot of waste. The US Department of Agriculture estimates that Americans waste between 30 and 40 percent of our food each year.

Losses are heaviest between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. While food waste occurs throughout the entire food chain, consumers are responsible for the largest portion.

Throwing away food affects our ecosystem by wasting the water and energy it takes to grow, harvest and package it. Most wasted food either ends up in landfills producing methane, or is incinerated (the case in Fairfax County) releasing CO2 back into the air. Both are dangerous greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Taking small, mindful actions like these can make a big difference:

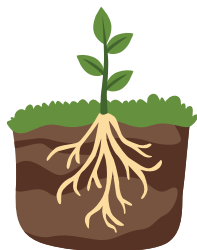
- **Don't overbuy.** Plan and shop carefully for the number of people you will be feeding. Beware of recommendations from stores and packages for portion sizes far in excess of what people actually eat.
- **'Shop' your pantry** before shopping at the store to be sure of what you already have on hand; use older items first if you do stock extra.
- **Use leftovers.** Share with guests or neighbors; warm them up or upcycle into something new; research what freezes well, and have a system for keeping track of what is in your freezer.
- **Store leftovers** and food that will spoil quickly in a prominent place in your refrigerator, in clear containers for easy identification.
- **Compost** what you don't use: use a home compost bin, or join a community compost program (advocate for one, if your community doesn't offer the service).
- **Donate** untouched, and safe food that would otherwise be thrown out.

Don't let up after the holidays. Make a New Year's Resolution to continue these earth- friendly practices throughout the year.

[Save the Food](#)

[USDA Guide](#)

[Food Waste Info](#)



WHAT IS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION?

Lewinsville became a certified Earth Care Congregation in 2019.

Earth Care Congregations commit to the [Earth Care Pledge](#), and every year seek to accomplish a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth.

Earth Care churches work to make their church buildings, operations, worship services, education and outreach respectful of the glory of God's creation. This concern for preserving and sustaining what our Creator has made is intended to go beyond church operations and extend into the homes and family lives of congregation members.

The ECC program helps churches plan their continued earth care ministry and encourages greater support for this ministry from the whole congregation.



MUSIC MINISTRY

OVERVIEW OF MUSIC AT LEWINSVILLE

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

The Advent season promises to bring you a vibrant program of worship music and special programming. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to take part. **Lewinsville provides a fun and welcoming space where you can explore your interest in music and serve the mission of Lewinsville as well.** For **adults**, the **Chancel Choir** is a great place to begin. Sing for Sunday Services and events. All skill levels welcome. For **youth and children**, the **Joyful Noise** teaches children ages three through Pre-K the basics of singing, music-making and helps them become familiar with sacred music. The Lewinsville Choristers and Bells is for youth in grades three through 12.

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Lewinsville Music Ministry supports special music for services such as The Faure' Requiem Choir and Orchestra for All Saints' Day. Christmas brings a Baroque Orchestra, and a jazz ensemble. The concerts in community will offer Holy Happy Hours featuring Emma Shaw, a member of the U.S. Marine Band. She will perform works for French Horn and John Nothaft will join on the organ. In late January, Holy Happy Hour features the U.S. Army Strings.

CHOIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Jonathan Dimmock performed for Holy Happy Hour



Chancel Choir Members



Choir Members LOL Table



Trumpets and Timpani Musicians



Chancel Bells Recruiting at LOL

CHOIR SCHEDULES

November

- 11/2 - Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra
- 11/9 - Chancel Bells
- 11/16 - Zachary Gutierrez and Katy Morgan, Messy Church Choir
- 11/23 - Chancel Choir and Lewinsville Choristers, Dr. Peterson Huang, Libby McConnell
- 11/30 - Chancel Choir

December

- 12/7 - Chancel Choir, Andrew Foster
- 12/14 - Chancel Choir, Dr. Jeannette Mulherin, Dr. LeeLee Hunter
- 12/21 - Chancel Bells and Lewinsville Bells, Messy Church Choir
- 12/24-11:00 AM - Lewinsville Choristers, 6:00/7:00 pm - Chancel Choir and Baroque Orchestra, 9:30 pm - Young Adult Alumni Choir
- 12/27 - Lessons and Carols

January

- 1/4 - Chancel Choir
- 1/11 - Lewinsville Cantorum
- 1/19 - Chancel Choir, Messy Church Choir
- 1/25 - Chancel Bells, Lewinsville Choristers

MUSIC STAFF

John Nothaft
Director of Music
703-356-7200, ext. 17
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Evan Ayars
Children's Music Specialist
703-282-6699
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MUSIC SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLY HAPPY HOURS

WORKS FOR FRENCH HORN AND ORGAN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025, 6:15 P.M



Emma Shaw of Tampa, Fla., joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in August 2023. Emma began her musical training on horn at age 12. She attended the Eastman School of Music where she earned a bachelor’s in horn performance.

She graduated from Northwestern University with a master of music in 2024.

Prior to moving to D.C., Emma performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, Orlando Philharmonic, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Symphoria and regional orchestras in Florida. Staff Sgt. Shaw performs with the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and across the country during the band’s annual concert tour.

U.S. ARMY STRINGS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, 6:15 P.M.

The U.S. Army Strings, a premier ensemble of the U.S. Armed Forces, provide a musical backdrop for many of the country’s most notable events. Their mission is to serve as musical ambassadors for high-level military and government events at home and abroad, as well as in concert for public audiences.



ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY

Sunday, November 2, 2025
11 a.m.



Lewinsville’s Chancel Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra in the 11 a.m. worship service for Remembrance on All Saints Sunday. Lewinsville’s choir will sing Fauré’s ‘Requiem.

Contemplative Service Harp and Prayer Stations

Sunday, November 2, 2025
4 p.m.

An Afternoon of Remembrance

A harpist performs in the Chapel from 4-5 p.m. and the music will be amplified into the cemetery.

Listen to the comforting music inside the Chapel or with amplification outdoors. Walk our Stations of Reflection in the cemetery to remember your lost loved ones.

Making Real Connections

BY REV. JEN DUNFEE

I misplace my phone in the house multiple times a day, but I can still remember the phone numbers of my childhood best friends. As a child in the 80s, friendship was built on phone conversations. I remember the year we got call-waiting, and the year we got a second line in the house.



Now that I just press a button to make a call, I cannot tell you the phone numbers of my best friend, either of my siblings, or any of my three children. I also talk on the phone so much less than I did 10 years ago, and my children did not grow up knowing how to talk on the phone. This becomes clear when I would call them and instead of saying “hello” they would answer and say nothing. Sometimes, they do not identify themselves when they are making a call. In general they avoid making calls if at all possible.

A young comedian once said that the order of communication should be: text, email, then, if necessary, an exchange of voice mails, but never a phone call. Communication today is increasingly not in-person, nor in-voice, but by fingers typing.

Our recent Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey showed that a top priority of people in the church is growing connections and increased relationships. This tracks with Dr. Vivek Murthy, former US Surgeon General, who identified a loneliness epidemic in our country and the decrease in everyday in-person communications as so much of our lives are online.

One of the gifts of church is providing a place for the kinds of conversations that create deep relationships while building community and social skills. People whose paths might not cross anywhere else greet each other when they sit down in a pew, shake hands during the passing of the peace, and stay for conversations in St. Andrews Hall.

People of all ages discuss questions at the table during Dinner Church. They talk in line for the ice cream truck and share information about their lives in small groups. When church feels full of friends, we are more likely to attend and more likely to engage in faith formation activities alongside our friends. If we committed to talking to one new person every time we are at church, that could end up being 30+ people every year.

On November 16, 2025, the Fellowship Ministry Group invites everyone to a pizza lunch after church to enjoy table topics and meet new people. Please ask me anytime if you would like help finding places to connect.

Blessings,
Pastor Jen

MEET THE “SMART” TEAM

**We are called
S.M.A.R.T. for
Sanctuary
Management And
Reorganization Team.**

**You’ll never see us,
but you will thank us if
the pew pencils are
sharp and hymnals,
Bibles, and literature
neatly in place in front
of you as you begin
worship each Sunday.**

**We are teams of your
fellow LPC members
who volunteer to do
this....for each of you!**

**If you’re interested in
becoming a S.M.A.R.T.
worker and dedicating
about an hour of your
time each month to
some hearty work,
please call me, and
we’ll assign you some.**

**Bob Johnson
703-346-3220**

**“Whatever you do,
work heartily, as for
the Lord and
not for men.”
– Colossians 3:23**

Hear from Lewinsville Kids and Parents About Children and Family Ministry



Sunday School

Sunday School participant Claire Gibby says, "I like Messy Church, learning about God, and the whole church."

Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for classes in music and Godly Play for PK-1st grade, and Bible Explorations with Pastor Jen and a team for ages 2nd-5th grade.

BYG

The new BYG monthly youth group for kids in 4th-7th grade kicked off this fall. This group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month after Dinner Church from 7 – 8 p.m. for a time of games and learning about the Bible. This group is led by Pastor Jen and Emily Foster. The next BYG events are November 9, December 14, and January 11.

4th grader Michael Kraft says, "BYG is really great because you get to make friends with people at church your age on Sunday night."



SUNDAY SCHOOL 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS

PK-2nd Grade

9:30- 10 a.m.

Joyful Noise Choir

3rd-5th Grade

9:30- 10:30 a.m.

Bible & Faith Class

Parents to PK-Youth

9:30- 10:30 a.m.

Parent Bible Devotion



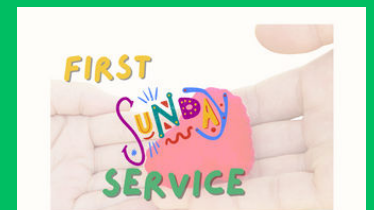
Messy Church

Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18



Lewinsville Littles

Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18



First Sunday Dates

Nov. 2, Dec. 7

Jan. 4, March 3

May 4

For more information
contact Pastor Jen
jdunfee@lewinsville.org

Children's Ministry and 1st Sunday Service

Jenny Flemingloss, mom to two elementary school-aged kids, says "My family loves the family ministry at Lewinsville! Coming to church means we're singing, playing, learning, and serving our community with our family and friends all while deepening our faith. My kids love learning bible stories, making art projects, playing instruments, singing and seeing their friends. My husband and I love connecting with other parents and refilling our spiritual cups through worship and service to the church."



Jenny is pictured here at the 1st Sunday Service. The next 1st Sunday Service days are November 2, December 7 and January 4. In November, children will make bracelets for the children in the orphanage in Kenya

Messy Church



In Messy Church, kids and parents learn about a Bible Story through different interactive experiences. This picture shows kids decorating rocks and learning about Jacob's dream of a ladder to heaven. Each Messy Church begins with a short worship service in the Sanctuary, with singing, prayers and an introduction to the story. Next everyone goes to Fellowship Hall for interactive stations that explore the story in crafts, games, music, and movement.

Pastor Jen says, "I love to build Bible story knowledge through Messy Church and hear how the kids learn the story by reviewing it in different ways."

Messy Church meets on the 3rd Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The next dates are: November 16, December 21, and January 18.

DEEPER DIVE

SERMON STORIES DURING THE SERMON

On the second Sunday of the month, children ages PK-elementary school have the option of leaving for Extended Sermon Stories.

Pastor Jen, Evan Ayars, and members of the Sermon Stories team will lead the children to the Music Room and Godly Play Classroom for music and Bible stories. Children can be picked up in Room 102B at the conclusion of the worship service. Children are also always welcome to stay in the Sanctuary.



Adult Education

This year you will find a variety of opportunities to connect via regular Sunday classes in categories that include studies of the Bible, theology, liturgy and worship arts, and faith practices and lived faith.

You will hear from renowned theologians and professors in the Salzman Lecture, Lenten Studies, and in the "Faith in the World" series.



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER MODULES

Christian Theology 101, led by Pastor Scott

Sundays, Nov.2-23, 2025. 9:30 a.m. live and via Zoom

Part of a four-year 101 series (Old Testament 101, New Testament 101, Theology 101, and Spiritual Practices 101), this class will explore the basic, core beliefs of Christian theology. The word "theology" can be intimidating to many of us (it has been to me!), but the fact is that all of us are theologians. A "theologian" is simply someone who thinks about God. While we will in no way be able to cover all of Christian theology -- that would take an entire lifetime!-- we will explore several of the basic, core theological doctrines that have defined our tradition. We will explore what Christians believe about the Trinity, the Incarnation, God's covenantal relationship with us, Sin, Forgiveness, Hope, the Church, and crucially -- what they have to do with our daily lives.

Whether you are new to thinking of yourself as a 'theologian,' or have been reflecting on these things for many years, come and join us.



Spirituality for Today: Letting Go for God's Sake, led by Rev. Dr. Laura Cunningham

Sundays, November 2 - 23, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

In a world so often filled with rancor and meanness, how do we practice the spiritual art of lovingkindness? What can we let go for the sake of God's agenda of love?

So often life calls us to let go of our agendas - what we planned or wanted, or how we were taught or shaped. Spirituality sees those times as holy opportunities for God's love to transform us and our relationships. This four-week session invites you to let go of old ways for the sake of God's call to deeper empathy and authentic kindness. Come prepared to have fun together as we engage with readings and practical experiments in listening, forgiving, and compassion.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

--Ephesians 4:31-32

ROCKS OF AGES

Upcoming Rocks of Ages

RSVP to William Black,
wjblack@gmail.com

703-448-5614 or

Wendy Maiwurm,
wmaiwurm@gmail.com

571-661-8775.

Lunch provided. A
donation of \$7
is requested.

Brooksfield School

Friday, November 21, 2025

11:30 a.m., Room 102 a-b

Rocks of Ages welcomes Mary Anne Duffus, the Director of Brooksfield School who shares the history of the school, provides details on the current location and provides some insights into how the transition to the new location in the basement of Lewinsville is working.

Dessert and Advent Sing-Along

Friday, December 19, 2025

1:30 p.m. (Note time change
since it's for dessert only.),

Room 102 a-b

Laury Bender and John Thomas will be leading the singing. Please join for a fun time with lots of your favorite Christmas Songs.

Fall Prevention and Strength Exercises

Friday, January 23, 2025

11:30 a.m., Room 102 a-b

Michelle Boulay, from N2Shape personal training shares information about fall prevention and basic exercises to keep up your strength and muscle tone.

Adult Education

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2026 MODULES

The Formation of the Canon, led by Linton Brooks

Sunday, November 30 – December 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

The Bible we use for study and worship contains 66 distinct books, referred to collectively as the Canon. The word comes from a word meaning 'measuring stick' and suggests that these are authorized to be considered special. But why are these particular 66 books sacred? One answer, of course is the working of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit has worked through humans in a process that took centuries. In this four-week class we will look at how the books of the Old and New Testament were selected and at some works considered and rejected. We will also note that many other Christians accept as canonical books that we do not and will discuss why that is true. We will also seek to understand what makes a book sacred scripture as opposed to just another thoughtful work.

Journey to the Manger, led by Pastor Dan Thomas

Sundays, November 30 - December 2, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

The Christian faith and life have often been described as a journey. Our two most holy festival seasons of Lent and Advent invite us to take such faith journeys. During Lent we journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem culminating with Jesus' agony on the cross and the joy of his resurrection on Easter. Advent invites us to humbly make our way to the lowly town of Bethlehem to kneel in reverence at the site of our Savior's birth.

Rev. Dan Thomas invites you to join him along with renowned author/pastor Adam Hamilton on a personal journey to Bethlehem.

This journey will include weekly video presentation by Reverend Hamilton offering insights of archaeological findings, overlooked historical information and personal scholarly reflections. Scripture, art, music, and poetry will also hopefully allow each participant to experience of Savior's birth with fresh eyes, ears, and most of all grateful and joy filled hearts.

Reformed Portraits: The Founders, taught by Bruce Douglass

Sundays, January 4 – 25, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Presbyterians are a branch of a wider spiritual family that has been known ever since the Protestant Reformation as "Reformed." The figure who is most commonly identified as the founder of the Reformed movement is John Calvin, a French lawyer who became a theologian and pastor and spent most of his life in exile in Geneva, Switzerland. But Calvin did not act alone. He was part of a multinational team of leaders (laity as well as clergy) who together took actions that laid the foundations of Reformed Protestantism.

This class is designed to provide a brief account of that part of Reformed history through an examination of the careers of some of the key figures.

- January 4 – Ulrich Zwingli
- January 11 – John Calvin
- January 18 – John Knox
- January 25 – Marguerite of Navarre & Jeanne d'Albret



Save The DATE

Join us for the
LRR Gala
Saturday
November 1, 2025
5-8 pm.



McLean Community
Center
Get Your Tickets Ahead
of Time



Annual SSS Christmas
Party
Saturday
December 13, 2025

Jim and Wendy
Maiwurm will host.

Adult Education Speaker Series

FAITH IN THE WORLD SERIES

MARK KEAM, FORMER VA DELEGATE

Sunday Night Talks and Dinner

November 23, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Mark Keam is a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates in the Democratic party. Mark was the first Asian-born immigrant and the first Korean American elected to any state-level office in Virginia. He was born in Korea, the son of a Presbyterian Minister. The family moved to Vietnam to found a church.



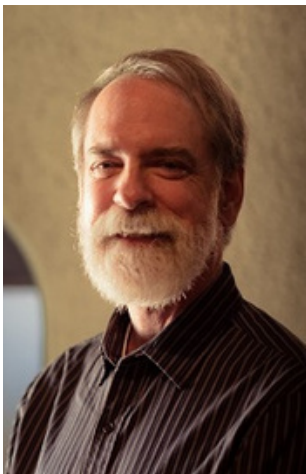
Part of his family was able to escape before the fall of Saigon, while his father was imprisoned in a labor camp. Mark talks about how his Presbyterian faith impacted his decisions as a representative, his ongoing work as a lawyer, and some recent medical challenges.

Mark's presentation will be in Fellowship Hall. A sandwich dinner will be provided.

SALZMAN LECTURE SERIES –Spring 2026, date TBD

Reformed Contributions to the Ecological Movement

DR. MARK STOLL, PROFESSOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, TEXAS TECH



Mark Stoll teaches environmental history and the history of religion. He is an avid hiker and backpacker, a traveler, a fan of rock and classical music, a student of languages, and a professor of history at [Texas Tech University](#).

He recently published [Profit: An Environmental History](#), an environmental history of capitalism, from Polity Books. He is also author of [Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and the Rise of American Environmentalism](#), from Oxford University Press. Stoll has degrees from Rice University and the University of Texas at Austin.

LOOKING AHEAD



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

LENTEN STUDIES

MARCH 1-3, 2026

Salvation, Redemption, Atonement

Dr. Rick Elgendy
Public Theology and
Ethics Professor
Wesley Seminary

Dr. Elgendy teaches public theology and ethics and administers Wesley's academic programs in public theology.

His research interests are animated by asking questions of subjectivity, spirituality, and politics at the intersection of political theology, systematic theology, and critical theory.

ADULT EDUCATION MEMBERS 2025-2026

Rachel Russell, Chair

Sharon Gamble
Online Class Support Organizer

Linton Brooks

Rob Hunter

Debbie Leavens

Karl Sandberg

Cathy Saunders

Connecting Life with the Word

BY RACHEL ANN RUSSELL



The Spirit is moving me to write small “tidbits” of Bible study for the quarterly newsletter, and how that might relate to our world now. This project evolved out of a class I took at Wesley Theological Seminary last spring.

Scripture is a living document, meaning as important as it is to understand the historical context, it is also important – and super fun – to connect scripture to our world.

Here’s the second one!

Have you thought about the bread in the Lord’s prayer? Both Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4 give us the words of Jesus on how to pray. They both include an imperative “to give us our daily bread.” Why not fish? Why not olives? Why bread?

I think it is because bread is and was complex. The farmers must sow and reap. The earth must allow the seeds to grow. Then winnowing or threshing the grain. The miller must grind the seeds. Who makes the mill? Bread also includes water and possibly yeast or a starter (or it could be a flatbread). Probably some olive oil, salt, and maybe honey. Most likely the bread would be baked in a community oven in the courtyard of a group of houses. It took many people to create bread before you even started cooking. It was likely a community affair to bake the bread!

The Lord’s prayer is asking for “our Father” to ensure all these complex steps. The prayer is asking for bread for “us” not for “me.” The bread weaves us all together into a community! It could be “Give us today our community” and be just as heartfelt and necessary. I would suggest that it also asks us to be safe from the many “what ifs”:

What if there’s a drought? What if there’s a flood? What if there is a war and the harvest doesn’t get done? “Give us today our daily bread” also means keeping our yesterdays and our tomorrows safe and secure, so bread is possible today. And it feels to me just as complex today as it was back then.



Learn More:
**The Bread Maiden:
First Century Bread**

Signs of New Growth

REV. LAYNE B. BRUBAKER

Dear Lewinsville Family,



I wanted to share a little story that made me smile and reminded me that God is always at work in ways we don't expect.

You might remember during the All Church Messy Church (that Sunday I was dressed up like a Gardener), when I invited the children forward and showed them the different kinds of soil from the Parable of the Sower.

As part of that children's message, I sprinkled a few real seeds into each of the containers to help tell the story. Because those "gardens" were only props (not real planters) I didn't think much more about them after worship.

A few days later, while cleaning up my office, I noticed something that stopped me in my tracks. The container that held the "good soil" had tiny green shoots poking up through the dirt!

Those little seeds had actually sprouted. It was as if God was gently reminding me of the very truth I had preached: God's Word is always being sown and we're often surprised by what takes root and comes to life.

And I believe that's exactly what's happening here in our congregation. I see signs of new growth everywhere. I see it in our Mission and Service work—the energy that's come from our mission trip to Kenya this summer, from the Summer Mission Project Planning team, and from the ongoing partnerships we nurture with mission partners near and far.

I see it in our new Confirmation Class, where young people are asking questions about faith and what it means to follow Jesus in this world.

I see it in youth fellowship, in dinner church, and in the many ways this community gathers to grow together in love and service.

Like that tiny sprout in the pot, God's Spirit is bringing new life among us; sometimes in quiet, unseen ways, and sometimes right before our eyes.

May we keep tending the soil of our lives and our community, trusting that God will continue to surprise us with growth, grace, and fruitfulness.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Layne

Pastor Layne
found real
sprouts growing
in her "prop"
garden planter.



"It was as if God was gently reminding me of the very truth I had preached:

God's Word is always being sown and we're often surprised by what takes root and comes to life."

– Rev. Layne Brubaker



Mission and Service

IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.”

– *Ephesians 2:10*

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent season, we invite you to join us in a spirit of generosity and service. Each Sunday in Advent highlights a different Mission and Service opportunity – a chance to share Christ’s love with our neighbors near and far. These meaningful activities offer ways for every member of our congregation to get involved. Here’s what’s coming up:

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Annual Food Drive – Sunday, November 23, 2025

Before Advent even begins, we’ll gather as a community to support the Falls Church McLean Children’s Center and the Westgate School snack closet. We’re asking for donations of snack items such as granola bars, crackers, applesauce pouches, and more. You will be invited to bring your donations forward during worship. Look in the Thursday Update for specific items to be collected.

First Sunday of Advent – Westgate School Gift Tree

This beloved tradition returns with the Westgate School Gift Collection. Look for the Christmas tree in Saint Andrew’s Hall, where you’ll find ornaments with gift suggestions for local children. Take an ornament (or two!), shop for the listed gift, and return it wrapped with the ornament attached. Through your generosity, we’ll help make Christmas brighter for dozens of families in our community.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 7 Alternative Gifts

In a season filled with consumerism, consider giving differently. On this Sunday, we invite you to honor your loved ones by making a donation to one of our Mission Partners in their name. Alternative Gift cards will be available to share your meaningful donation with your recipient. This year, Mission and Service will be highlighting these mission partners:

- United Matunda Academy and Children’s Home (UOA)
- Friends of Lewinsville
- Chesterbrook Residences
- Falls Church Homeless Shelter
- Summer Mission Project

MISSION & SERVICE ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



November 23, 2025



November 30 -December 14



December 7-31



Mission and Service

IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Third Sunday of Advent – December 14: Fair Trade Sale

Support ethical, sustainable shopping at our Annual Fair Trade Sale, hosted by 10,000 Villages. Saint Andrew's Hall will become a marketplace filled with unique, handcrafted gifts from artisans around the globe.

Your purchase not only brings joy to those on your list but also supports fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmental sustainability. Good for our neighbors, good for our earth.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21 SMP Bake Sale & Auction

Delight your holiday table and support SMP! Our Summer Mission Project (SMP) youth will host their annual Bake Sale and Auction to raise funds for their upcoming service trip. Come ready to bid on delicious baked goods, holiday treats, and other surprises. Your support helps prepare young hearts for service and deepens their faith through hands-on mission work.

As we move through Advent together, may these opportunities help us prepare not only our homes but also our hearts for the arrival of Christ. Let us serve with joy, give with purpose, and love with abundance.

MISSION & SERVICE ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



December 14



December 21



Lewinsville Epiphany

JANUARY 4, 2026

4PM

NARTHEX

DISCOVER YOUR 2026
STAR WORD



Join us each Sunday this
Advent—and let's make
this a season of
compassion,
connection, and
Christ-centered giving.

*In hope and service,
The Mission & Service
Ministry Group
Faith and Action
in Every Season*

Alternative Gifts

BY ALAN STEVENS

The Mission and Service Ministry Group is again offering members and friends the opportunity to participate in the annual Alternative Gifts program.

This is a great way to give a gift that honors someone and, at the same time, support one or more LPC mission partners.



Look for additional information at the Alternative Gifts table near the church office each Sunday during Advent.

An Alternative Gift is a wonderful and easy way to honor loved ones, friends, teachers, neighbors, service providers, and others on your Christmas gift list and simultaneously provide a tax-deductible gift to support one or more Lewinsville mission partners.

Make a list of the people you wish to honor in this meaningful way, identify the organization(s) you wish to support with your charitable contribution, obtain a beautiful Alternative Gift card for each person you are honoring, and make one payment to Lewinsville Presbyterian Church for your selection(s).

This year, the Mission and Service Ministry Group is highlighting the following opportunities for your special support:

- Friends of the Lewinsville (provides subsidy for LRR's meal program and activities not covered by the HUD housing subsidy)
- United Orphanage and Academy (Moi's Bridge, Kenya)
- Chesterbrook Residences' Continuing Care Fund (provides assistance for residents with financial needs)
- Falls Church Homeless Shelter
- LPC's Summer Mission Project

You may also support any of the other organizations/projects listed in the LPC Mission Handbook.

Please note that if you have an IRA or 401K account distribution that must be taken by the end of the year, you may wish to consider making a "qualified charitable distribution" to LPC for this purpose and further reduce your income taxes.

MORE ABOUT ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

Visit the Alternative Gifts table near the church office entrance each Sunday during Advent (November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21).

There you will learn more about the organizations and you can reference the Mission Handbook.

Your Alternative Gift may be for any amount you choose.

You may donate by cash, check or credit card at the Alternative Gifts table or you may donate online at the church website any time between November 30 and December 31, 2025.

QUESTIONS:

Contact Alan Stevens from the Mission & Service Ministry Group at 703-938-8632, or Jeanne Melone, Lewinsville Human Resources and Financial Manager at 703-356-7200 X312.

Missions: Refugee Resettlement Perspectives

REWARDING. MESSY. HUMBLING.

In a year filled with uncertainty and turmoil, angst and hope, three members of Lewinsville's Refugee Resettlement Ministry shared their personal experiences.

All God's Children



Working with the RRT has given us the opportunity to live out our Christian faith - from welcoming the stranger to sharing the abundant blessing we have received to extending compassion to the marginalized.

It is such a rewarding experience to simply show love to all of God's children.

—Augusta Niday

Humility in a Pressure Cooker

A long time ago, I learned an Afghan proverb, “Give graciously, even if all you have is an onion.” I promptly forgot it and only thought about it again when I joined the RRT.

Each of the refugee families supported by Lewisville Church have over and over again demonstrated their grace by offering not only their genuine gratitude, but also tremendous hospitality.



A long time ago, I learned an Afghan proverb, “Give graciously, even if all you have is an onion.” I promptly forgot it and only thought about it again when I joined the RRT.

Each of the refugee families supported by Lewisville Church have over and over again demonstrated their grace by offering not only their genuine gratitude, but also tremendous hospitality.

Even when they had nothing. Even when it meant doing with less for their own families.

Three years ago, I recall that we had a lively debate about a request by a family for an Afghan pressure cooker. It cost a lot of money on the internet.

Continued on next page

SHARING A COMMON HUMANITY



Dealing with these refugee families has not always been smooth.

They bring with them some of the messiness we all have in our lives, very different cultural assumptions about basic values, and are sometimes just plain difficult to deal with. All of them also have traumatic back stories.

This is ultimately the lesson we need. These are, like us, children of God and we share a common humanity.

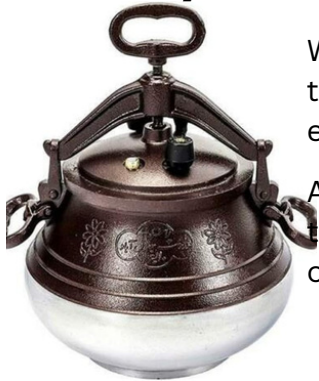
Their graciousness and courage in big and small things should give us hope, even as sometimes reasons for that seems scarce.

--Rob Hunter

Missions: Refugee Resettlement Perspectives

REWARDING. MESSY AND HUMBLING

Humility in a Pressure Cooker



We discussed whether we could just convince them to use an InstaPot. In the end, we bought them the extravagant kitchen gear.

A few weeks later we were invited to lunch where they used this newly acquired pressure cooker to cook us Qabuli pulao (Kabul rice pilaf).

It wasn't for them. It was for us.

On their limited income, they had bought expensive lamb and special rice so they could show their grace to us.

Each time I have visited with refugee families, they have rushed to bring out the best of what they had on hand to say thank you and to show how much they valued our friendship. They served exotic almonds from Iran, cans of Coca-Cola which is what they imagine all Americans like best, and homemade treats.

I think of how much God has given so many of us at Lewinsville Church. I wonder how many of us would share our last savings to buy food for people they had just met.

I would like to believe that one of the reasons all the refugee families have been so generous and open to strangers is that they have all been people of faith — Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians.

I hope one day to be as generous and kind.

—Don Lu



ARE YOU

CALLED TO HELP?

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA, which means we are called to actively engage the world around us and act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor.

In light of this call, the Lewinsville Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT) supports refugees resettling in the Northern Virginia area following difficult or traumatic events abroad.

RRT CONTACTS

Betty Douglass
ebdouglass22046@gmail.com

Rob Hunter
robharriet@mindspring.com

Pastor Layne Brubaker
lbrubaker@lewinsville.org

DONATE TO THE DEACONS' FUND

On the first Sunday of each month, you can help Lewinsville provide for others who may need food, or other daily living support.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

If you like to work with flowers—or would like to learn—Lewinsville's Flower Committee is looking for you. The Committee members do the beautiful arrangements you see every Sunday. We only have one meeting a year and it includes brunch. Contact Pam Deese at Pamela.deese@arentfox.com or 703-790-9263

MISSION MINISTRY

August Niday, Chair
Rev. Layne B. Brubaker, Staff Representative
Betty Douglass, Session Representative
& International
Karen Steel, Housing Group
Betty Douglass, Refugee Resettlement

Connie Stewart, Hunger & Poverty
Karen Siple, Social Services
Alan Stevens, National

Young Adult Retreat Returns

JANUARY 16-18, 2026, MASSANUTTEN RESORT



We're excited to announce that our Young Adult Retreat is back for MLK Weekend 2026, and we're heading once again to beautiful Massanutten Resort!

This retreat is a perfect mid-winter getaway for young adults in their 20s and 30s looking for rest, renewal, and meaningful connection.

Whether you're new to the group or have come before, this is a great opportunity to step away from the bustle of daily life and spend intentional time in faith, friendship, and reflection—all surrounded by the beauty of the mountains.

Expect fun activities, shared meals, group discussions, and plenty of time to relax.

Interested? Contact LeeLee Hunter or Nate Jones for more information or to reserve your spot.

Let's make space to grow in community and faith together—we'd love for you to join us!

REGISTER

Youth & College Christmas Tea

Monday, December 22, 1 p.m., Room 102a

All high school youth, college-students and young adults are invited to our Third Annual Christmas Tea – a holiday tradition where old friends reunite and new memories are made.

The Christmas Tea is a relaxed and festive gathering with warm drinks, holiday treats, and good conversation. Whether you're coming home from college, wrapping up exams, or still in the rhythm of high school life, this is a perfect time to pause, reconnect, and be refreshed by community.

This simple but meaningful gathering reminds us that church is a family that welcomes you home, especially during the holidays. So mark your calendar, bring a friend, and join us in Room 102A at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 22. Whether you stay for ten minutes or the whole hour, we'd love to see you!

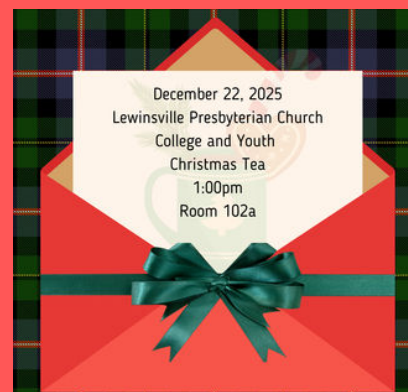
All high school youth and college students and young adults are welcome.

Young Adults Retreat Massanutten Resort



**Friday- Sunday
January 16-18, 2026**

**Youth and College
Christmas Tea**



**Monday, December 22
1 p.m., Room 102A**

ABOUT THE YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

Young Adults meet once a month for Fellowship. We gather with young adults from Redeemer Lutheran and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Upcoming:

**Tuesday, November 18
7-9 p.m.**

Lewinsville Youth Room

**Tuesday, December 16
Holiday Celebration
7-9 p.m. Location TBD**

Confirmation Class Underway

Our 2025 Confirmation Class began on October 12, and it is off to an exciting start! This year, 15 students have committed to the journey of confirming their faith, exploring what it means to be a Christian, and discovering how to follow Jesus in today's world.

The class is already buzzing with energy, curiosity, and thoughtful questions. Each week, students are engaging with scripture, tradition, and real-life application as they wrestle with big questions:

- Who is God?
- What do we believe?
- Why do we worship?
- How do we live out our faith in a complex and changing world?

It's a sacred and exciting process as our youth begin to take ownership of their faith and identity in Christ.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the many adult mentors in our congregation who have stepped forward to walk alongside these confirmands. Your presence, wisdom, and encouragement are a vital part of this journey. Your willingness to listen, share your faith stories, and support these students is a beautiful example of what it means to be the body of Christ.

Please keep our confirmands, their families, and mentors in your prayers in the months ahead. May this time be filled with growth, questions, grace, and a deepening sense of God's love and call. We look forward to celebrating their confirmation on Pentecost Sunday!

Thanks be to God for this new class of faithful learners and leaders in the making!

DID YOU KNOW... LEWINSVILLE HAS A Corn Hole Team



MONDAY NIGHTS! ASK ED SUMNER
HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

November 2

Who is your Lord?

November 9

Who is your Savior?

November 16

What does it mean to be a Disciple of Jesus?

December 7

Fair Trade Service Project

December 21

Attend Longest Night themed dinner church

January 11

What does it mean to show Christ Love?

January 18

Will you devote yourself to Christ's teachings?

February 8

Will you devote yourself to the Breaking of Bread?

March 1

Attend McLean Bible Church
9 a.m. service

March 13

Attend Catholic Mass

March 15

Will you devote yourself to The Prayers

March 22

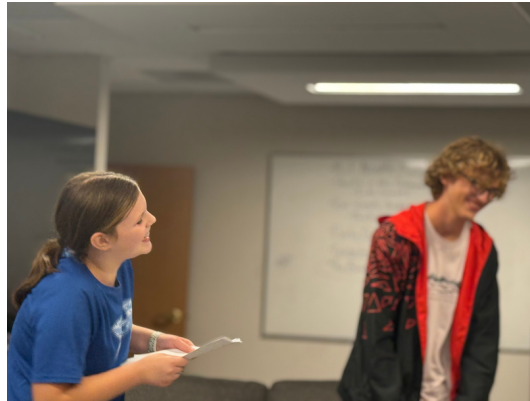
Good Samaritan Day/service project

May 24

Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

Youth Fellowship

The Youth meet Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and from the pictures, they are building strong friendships, learning, and conversing while having fun together.



**SHARE of
McLEAN**

Member of Lewinsville Youth Leads Toy Drive

Share of McLean's Holiday Program kicks off in November! This year, Jack, a member of Lewinsville's youth group and a regular Share volunteer, is leading a toy collection drive.

He has created an Amazon wish list with items for kids ages one to 11, ranging from approximately \$10 to \$15.

Please check out the **Amazon wish list** if you would like to contribute, preferably by mid-November.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR **YOU** **SMP**

Lewinsville's annual Summer Mission Project involves youth and adults, and the organizers. We work closely with Habitat for Humanity and other service organizations to plan each year's hands-on effort.

Participants travel to a remote location each summer during the last week in June to assist with building and repairing houses for those in need.

JOIN THE A/V TEAM

Interested in supporting live stream or video production? You can help with audio or video on Sunday mornings and special events. In addition, there are opportunities to assist in video production. Training will be provided for audio live streaming. Members of the A/V team get to pick the specific Sunday(s) they work on A/V each month. Contact [Rob Ransom](mailto:Rob.Ransom@lewinsville.org) (703-965-8145)

SUNDAY GREETERS

As people enter the building at Lewinsville offer a warm welcome, a handshake or a smile to remind folks that this is a place of welcome for all.

LOVE TO KNIT?

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, called the Lost Sheep Stitchers, creates shawls and lap robes to provide spiritual comfort and warmth wherever there is a need.

For the full list:

<https://www.lewinsville.org/volunteer-lewinsville/>

Fellowship and Small Groups

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with God. Participating in a small group usually moves one beyond “doing church” to “being the church.” We encourage everyone here to participate in at least one of our groups regularly.

FIVE GALS EXAMINES FIVE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Third Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Room 102A



A Bible Study over dinner, examining five women of the Bible. Led by different church members each time, this is perfect if you want to learn more about the Bible in a casual setting. Great for Bible scholars or those just getting started. Come to one or all of these self-contained studies. November 17 - Esther; December 15- Mary; January 19- Mary/Martha.



Attending a Bible study with peers who are in a similar life situation offers a uniquely supportive environment for spiritual growth. We openly share struggles with others who can directly relate to our experiences and offer relevant encouragement and guidance. This shared perspective creates a safe space for vulnerability, fosters genuine accountability, and strengthens my faith.

Linda Bender



Faith and Fellowship
Small Group Bible Study

Eight week sessions:
Thursdays,
beginning in January 2026
6:30-7:30 p.m.,
followed by fellowship at a pub
or restaurant from 7:30-8:30
p.m.

For people ages 50 to 60's or
those with college aged or
young adult children

Read a chapter of the Bible or a
Bible Study book each week.
No advance preparation is
needed.

Questions: Pastor Jen
@jdunfee@lewinsville.org

OLDER ADULTS COUNCIL

The Older Adult Council (OAC) is a group established by Session to advocate, communicate, and coordinate programs and services for older adults and their care-giving families.

The OAC strengthens the connection between the church and Lewinsville Retirement Residence and Chesterbrook Residences.

The OAC meets every other month and focuses on both church- and community-sponsored programs.

Members of the OAC serve on most of the church's programmatic Ministry Groups in order to facilitate the exchange of information about older adult programs and services throughout the congregation.

Contact:
Wendy Maiwurm
wmaiwurm@gmail.com
571-661-8775



1724 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

**Address sevice
requested.**