

NOVEMBER 2026-JANUARY 2027

THE LEWINSVILLE NEWSLETTER

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

Growing Up Together into Christ

REV. DR. SCOTT RAMSEY, PASTOR



Dear Lewinsville friends,

Teleios. Coming to maturity. Growing up together, in every way, into Christ.

In Ephesians 4, Paul summons the church to maturity, to teleios. But it is not just any maturity. It is maturity in Christ.

That means that we look to Christ to show us what maturity looks like. And because we are growing up "into Christ," our maturity is not something that we go off and do on our own. We do it together, as the church, which is Christ's body.

The church is where we grow to maturity. This is not because people who go to church are more mature than other people. We know that Christians can be just as selfish and sinful as anyone else. History clearly shows us that. The church is where we grow to maturity, not because of how well we have done, but because the church is the body that has Christ as its head.

Becoming mature in Christ means holding our own righteousness lightly, because we take Christ's righteousness so seriously. It means fearing other people's rejection and treatment of us less, because we treasure and regard Christ's acceptance and love for us more. It means we no longer thirst after and crave popularity or control or our own security, because we now find everything we need in Jesus. Becoming mature in Christ means that our souls, our inner lives, are secure in a way that the world can never, ever take away from us.

That is where we are going, when we follow Jesus to maturity, to a life of teleios.

Blessings for our journey,
Pastor Scott

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Lewinsville Presbyterian Church

Special Worship Services

All Saints' Sunday
Sunday, November 1, 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 worship service will 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.

Home Communion

Rev. Dan Thomas, Parish Associate



Since the departure of Pastor Peter Manning, I have assumed responsibility to coordinate Lewinsville's Home Communion ministry.

It continues to be a task assigned to me as one of your new Parish Associates. Holy Communion is more than a sacrament where we come together as a community of faith to remember with grateful hearts Jesus' saving sacrifice of love on the cross. As our resurrected Lord, Jesus is also our Living Lord, a Lord who in this sacrament offers us the power of his abiding spiritual presence and his all-sufficient grace.

I believe that this is a very important ministry of our church. It is a time when volunteers from this congregation extend the blessings of this holy meal to those who for various reasons cannot share it with us in person. So our volunteers in teams of two bring this sacrament to them at their places of residence. This enables us to offer them not only the blessings of this sacrament but also to convey to them that they are not forgotten but remain a loving part of this family of faith. I constantly receive feedback from our volunteers of how wonderful it feels to share time and conversations during these visits.

We would love to have a few more volunteers join our home communion team. We also are very open to suggestions of other people you know in this congregation who would welcome having communion served to them where they live. You may contact me at (703) 242-1670 or speak to any of the pastors.

—Rev. Daniel Thomas Jr.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Thursday, December 24, 2026

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 11 A.M.
Lewinsville Choristers perform *Light of the World*

CONCERT: BACH'S CANTATA NO. 147 "JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING," 6 P.M.
Lewinsville Chancel Choir and Baroque Orchestra

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION, 7 P.M.
Chancel Choir and Baroque Orchestra

JAZZ PRELUDE, 9 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION, 9:30 P.M.
Jazz Band and Young Adult Choir

ed

SESSION RETREAT

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026 | PEARLSTONE CONFERENCE CENTER

Please keep your Session in your prayers as they attend the annual Session retreat, November 13-15 at Pearlstone Conference Center. We will be joined again this year by Susan Nienaber, a retreat leader and facilitator who has worked with Lewinsville multiple times over the years.

Susan will be leading the Session in reflecting on the work we have done over the past year, developing our goals of deepening relationships, strengthening our Christian education ministry with children and youth, and ensuring financial sustainability for the congregation. We will also be exploring the ways that churches are changing during these times, and how God is calling Lewinsville to shift and adapt and innovate to meet God's call on us.

STEWARDSHIP 2027: OPEN-HANDED GENEROSITY PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign kicked off on October 11, as we make plans for 2027. The Session has determined that a pledge campaign of $1.755 million will support the mission and ministry to which we feel called in 2027. This pledge amount can be reached by a 5% increase in the pledge amount over the last year. Moreover, the Stewardship Committee is hoping to increase the total number of pledging units (individuals and couples) to at least 170.

Our theme for 2027 is “Open-Handed Generosity,” which refers to a way of living that sees life as an arena in which we generosity towards our neighbors and towards the world. Growing in generosity, rather than growing in fearful defensiveness, clenching our fists tightly against the world, is how we believe Jesus is calling us to grow.

If you have any questions about your pledge to Lewinsville or anything related to the Stewardship Campaign, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Scott or Lloyd Mustin, chair of the Stewardship Committee.



DINNER CHURCH

LONGEST NIGHT
Sunday, Dec. 20, 2026
6 p.m.

MARDI GRAS PANCAKES
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2027



Longest Night Dinner Church

Sunday, December 20, 6 p.m.

December is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. The music says so. The commercials say so. The calendar fills up with parties and concerts and gatherings that assume everyone is feeling merry and bright.

But for many of us, December is complicated.

Maybe this is the first Christmas without someone you love. Maybe a diagnosis, a divorce, a lost job, or a hard year has left you tired in a way the holidays cannot fix. Maybe you are carrying a grief no one else can see. When the world around you is insisting on joy, that grief can feel very lonely.

The Longest Night service has become a meaningful tradition in the church calendar for exactly this reason. It falls near the winter solstice, the darkest night of the year, and it makes room for the truth that light and darkness often arrive in the same season. At Lewinsville, we bring that tradition to the dinner table.

On Sunday, December 20, we will gather at 6 p.m. to slow down together, share a meal, and worship in a way that is quiet, honest, and unhurried. We will make space to name what we are grieving and to be held by a community that does not need us to pretend.

The Christmas story is not only about angels and shepherds. It is about a God who came into a dark world, born into a family under threat, in a land under occupation. The light did not wait for the darkness to clear. It came right into the middle of it. That is still good news.

All are welcome. Come if you are grieving. Come if you are weary. Come if you simply need a quiet place to breathe in the middle of the noise. There will be a seat for you at the table.



A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

“The light did not wait for the darkness to clear. It came right into the middle of it. That is still good news.”

Come if you are grieving.

Come if you are weary.

Come if you simply need a quiet place to breathe in the middle of the noise.

COMING IN FEBRUARY
Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner Church
Tuesday, February 9, 2027

If the Longest Night makes room for grief, Mardi Gras makes room for joy. Bring your appetite, bring your family, and bring a friend who has never been to Dinner Church.



Advent: Making Room

Advent is a season of waiting, but it is also a season of preparation. Think about what happens when someone you love is coming to visit. You clean the house, make up the guest room, figure out what you're going to eat, and maybe even pull out the good dishes. You make room for someone you are excited to welcome. And that is, in many ways, what Advent is all about. We are preparing to welcome Christ into our world once again.

One of the remarkable things about Christmas is that God chose to come into the world as one of us. Not from a distance, but as a child, born into a family, in a particular place, surrounded by ordinary people. The incarnation reminds us that God is not interested in loving humanity from a distance. God comes close, enters into our lives, and meets us right where we are.
I think that is a helpful way to think about Mission and Service during Advent. Our mission partnerships are about much more than collecting gifts, raising money, or providing resources. They are about relationships. They are about getting to know our neighbors, recognizing the ways our lives are connected, and making room for people we might not otherwise encounter. And during Advent, we have some wonderful opportunities to do just that.

Westgate Gift Collection

Beginning Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, you will find a Christmas tree in Saint Andrews Hall decorated with ornaments. Each ornament represents a child and includes a list of gifts to purchase. We invite you to take an ornament, record its number, and shop for the gifts listed. All gifts should be returned to Lewinsville by Sunday, December 13.
This is a wonderful opportunity to help make Christmas special for children in our community and to remind their families that they are surrounded by people who care.

Alternative Gifts

We all have someone on our Christmas list who is nearly impossible to shop for! This Advent, consider honoring that person with a gift to one of Lewinsville's mission partners. Each Sunday during Advent, there will be a table in Saint Andrews Hall where you can make a donation in honor of someone you love.





It is a meaningful way to celebrate the people in our lives while supporting the work of our mission partners. **This year, Alternative Gifts will highlight these mission partners:**

- Lewinsville Retirement Residences; Friends of the Lewinsville
- Chesterbrook
- Second Story
- United Matunda Academy and Children's Home (formerly called UOA)
- Lady Doak College

Fair Trade Sale and Holiday Market: Saturday, December 6
Saint Andrews Hall will once again be filled with wonderful gifts and ethically sourced products at our annual Fair Trade Sale. This year, we are also excited to welcome Brookfield School's holiday market!

Come do a little Christmas shopping, support artisans and producers, and enjoy an opportunity to connect with our wider community.
Advent reminds us that God made room for humanity by becoming one of us. And perhaps one of the best ways we can prepare to welcome Christ this season is by making a little more room in our own lives for our neighbors.

Whether you purchase a gift, support a mission partner, or simply take the time to learn more about the people and organizations we serve alongside, I hope you will find a way to participate in Mission and Service this Advent. Because when we make room for one another, we are also making room for Christ.

Missions Supported by Alternative Gifts



Chesterbrook



Lady Doak College


UOA

Second Story

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.

SING BACH WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

The Chancel Choir will be joined by a baroque orchestra to perform J.S. Bach's beloved Cantata No. 147, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, as a 6 p.m. concert prelude on Christmas Eve, followed by a 7 p.m. candlelit communion service. Rehearsals in November and December focus on Advent and Christmas music. No formal audition required. Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Your choir folder is waiting!

SUNDAY MUSIC

November

- 11/1 - Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir
- 11/8 - Chancel Bells, Lewinsville Cantorum
- 11/15 - Guest Organist Dr. J.J. Mitchell
- 11/22 - Chancel Choir
- 11/29 - Lewinsville Choristers, Lewinsville Bells

December

- 12/6 - Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir
- 12/13 - Chancel Choir
- 12/20 - Chancel Bells, Lewinsville Bells
- 12/24 - 11 a.m. Lewinsville Choristers; 6/7 p.m. Chancel Choir and Baroque Orchestra; 9/9:30 p.m. Young Adult Choir and Jazz Band
- 12/27 - Guest Organist Dr. J.J. Mitchell

January

- 1/23-24 - Chancel Choir NYC trip: cheering on former Section Leader Sarah Saturnino's Met Opera debut and singing at The Brick Presbyterian Church

MUSIC STAFF

John Nothaft
Director of Music
703-356-7200, ext. 17
jnothaft@lewinsville.org

Evan Ayars
Children's Music Specialist
703-282-6699
evan@evanayars.com

CHOIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Chancel Choir NYC Trip
Jan. 23–24

The Lewinsville Chancel Choir is traveling to New York City on January 23–24! We will cheer on former Lewinsville Section Leader Sarah Saturnino in her Metropolitan Opera debut and sing at The Brick Presbyterian Church—the home church of Rev. Peter Manning. Stay tuned for details.



Holy Happy Hour returns Wed., Dec. 2



Bach Cantata 147, Christmas Eve



A large crowd came to hear John Nothfast discuss his Bach Sabattival

Refurbished Bells Make Joyful Noise



Lewinsville's Bell Choirs are making joyful noise with our newly refurbished handbells! Thanks to a comprehensive restoration project, both five-octave handbell sets, our five-octave handchime set, the G2 bass handbell, and our bell cases have all been fully restored.

Every bell was completely disassembled, deep cleaned, re-aligned, and precisely tuned and "voiced" for a rich, unified harmony that will enrich our worship for years to come.

This vital work was made possible by the Lewinsville Music Fund, managed by the LPC Foundation. Established in 1987 as a capital endowment, the Music Fund helps us maintain and strengthen our music ministry beyond our annual budget. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose contributions help preserve these beautiful instruments for generations to come.



On Anniversary Sunday, the Chancel Choir debuted their new Cotta and Cassock sets handcrafted by C.M. Almy

More than a uniform, choir robes serve a vital pastoral purpose: by setting aside daily attire, singers form a unified body that directs our focus to the message of the music.

This investment in our ministry was made possible by the Lewinsville Music Fund through generous gifts from the families of Anna and James Shaw, and Mike and Pat Matheson. As a bridge across generations, these vestments honor those who sang before us while equipping our worship for the future.

Harpsichord in the Chancel



From October through January, Lewinsville is pleased to host a single-manual Franco-Flemish harpsichord in the Chancel!

Built in 1993 by the award-winning late builder Richard Kingston, the instrument is generously provided on loan by Music Teachers of Fairfax-Loudoun (MTFL) for instructional use and performances.

Be sure to listen for its unique historic sound in upcoming services and events over the next few months!

MUSIC SPECIAL EVENTS

CHORAL WORKSHOP

UNLOCK YOUR VOICE WITH DR. MARK HELMS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026, 7:30-9 P.M.



Have you ever wondered what it's like to sing with the Chancel Choir, or wanted to build more confidence in your own vocal instrument? Now is your perfect opportunity!

Seasoned singers, former choristers, and curious beginners are all welcome.

On Thursday, November 5, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., the Chancel Choir will host a special open workshop led by esteemed conductor Dr. Mark Helms. Come experience the joy of collective music-making, pick up valuable tools to strengthen your personal voice, and see what makes our choir community so special.

About Dr. Mark Helms

Dr. Helms is the Director of Choral Activities and Choral Artist-in-Residence at Shenandoah Conservatory. Holding a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Maryland, he is an active guest conductor and educator renowned for his dynamic approach to vocal artistry and ensemble building. No prior audition or formal commitment is required. Just bring your enthusiasm!

HOLY HAPPY HOUR: ADVENT MUSIC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026, 6:15 P.M.

Join us for an evening of Advent music for classical guitar and organ, performed by John Nothaft and Dr. LeeLee Hunter.

The program features the world premiere of Garden Arbors, a new five-movement work by D.C.-based composer Dr. Justus Parrotta, whose expressive music blends sacred tradition with diverse global influences. Don't miss this Advent musical meditation.



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Thursday, December 24

11 a.m.



Children and youth choirs present Mark Patterson's Light of the World at the Christmas Eve Family Service. Rehearsals begin November 1.

JAZZ CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

9:30 p.m.

Home for the Holidays? Young Adults and Choir Alums: come sing at our 9:30 p.m. Jazz Christmas Eve Service!

The vibe: casual, relaxed, and fun. The commitment: low pressure, just great festive tunes and community. Bring a friend and join the mix.

Home for the Holidays? Sing Jazz Christmas Eve!

Back in town for the holidays? Come sing with fellow Young Adults and Choir Alums at our 9:30 p.m. Jazz Christmas Eve Service!

The Vibe: Casual, relaxed, and fun.
The Commitment: Low pressure, just great festive tunes & community.

Bring a friend and join the mix—we'd love to have you!



Sing with Us This Christmas

Children and youth are invited to join our choirs for this year's Christmas musical, Mark Patterson's Light of the World, featured during the 11 a.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and youth to gain confidence in their singing, learn sacred music and worship skills, have fun, and share the joy of the season. Rehearsals begin November 1.

- Joyful Noise: Sundays, 10 a.m.
- Lewinsville Choristers: Sundays, 4:30-6 p.m.

All children and youth are welcome. Come shine your light with us this Advent!



Lewinsville Choristers
Sundays, 4:30-6 p.m.
Light of the World
Christmas Eve, 11 a.m.

Messy Church
Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17
10 a.m., Sanctuary



First Sunday Service
Connect your kids and family with Lewinsville's education, music, and service ministries

Room for More Connection

BY REV. JEN DUNFEE



If you were in church on Kickoff Sunday, you received a "Connection Card" in your bulletin. People considered how they would like to be "newly, or in a new way" connected to church ministries and events and then placed their filled-out cards in the offering plates.The most checked box of any, at eighteen people, was "Fellowship and Intergenerational Activities." The second most checked box was "Bible Studies and Small Groups."

I am not surprised by this! I have heard many people share that they were inspired by the Summer Sermon Series on "Deepening Relationships" with God and each other, especially the links between relationships in the Bible and how we understand and strengthen our own relationships. The summer focus flows into the new theme for the fall: we grow in spiritual maturity together as we consider what it means to be Christ-like in our being and our doing.

I have also heard many people share that they came to Lewinsville because they were seeking new and deeper relationships. They knew that those church relationships would be grounded in faith and shared faith , but their initial interest in Lewinsville came from feeling a connection to the people and the spirit that they experienced in worship, during coffee hour, and at events.

The theologian Howard Thurman describes how Christianity is religion of the self: "If I am cut off so that only my little life breathes through me, only my little hopes course through my mind and spirit, only my little thoughts penetrate my brain, then life for me is not worth living." Thurman describes how our dependence on God expands our life from self-focus to one deeply connected to the hopes, thoughts, and even breath of our community.

The Fellowship Ministry Group is the church ministry that supports belonging and connection in our community by creating spaces for people to engage with each other. I wonder, given how many people checked "Fellowship and Intergenerational Activities," if there is congregational interest in more opportunities for getting to know each other, especially ones intentionally designed to bring people of different ages together.

If you have ideas from other churches, or from the experiences of friends and family in other congregations, please share them with me or Karen Hunter, chair of the Fellowship Ministry Group. If you have an interest in helping plan these events, the Fellowship Ministry Group would love the fresh ideas and perspectives of new members.

Blessings,
Pastor Je

FELLOWSHIP & SMALL GROUPS



SLICE AND SHARE
Sunday, November 15, after church, Room 102A. A pizza lunch and conversation around the table, hosted by the Fellowship Ministry Group. A great way to meet new people.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP
Small group Bible study, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Rotunda. Fellowship follows at a local restaurant, 7:30-8:30 p.m. No advance preparation needed.

FIVE CITIES: FAITH STUDIES AND FRIES
Monthly Bible study with dinner. Third Mondays: Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m., Room 102A.

Questions? Contact Pastor Jen, jdunfee@lewinsville.org

MAKING CONNECTIONS





LEWINSVILLE YOUNG ADULTS

Welcome to the LPC/Immanuel/Redeemer Young Adults Group!
About us: We are a community of young adults from multiple churches who get together for food, fellowship, and fun. Some past events have included: haunted houses, amusement parks, trivia, meal and brunches out, pumpkin carving, Annual Christmas Party, ice skating, Retreats, craft night, game nights, paint and sip, comedy show.



No matter where you are on your faith journey, or if you aren't sure about the whole faith place, you are welcome here! Retreat: At our Retreats we take time to get away from the Northern VA hustle and bustle to take time to reflect, reset, and build community together. We share meals,
coffee, and life updates and support. Previous retreats have included a time of learning about the enneagram, traveling to Massanutten for winter sports, a scavenger hunt and bowling in Leesburg, and more!



Upcoming Meetings and Other fun things: Our group gets together for our regularly scheduled meetings once a month on the second Monday. Our upcoming meeting is Monday, November 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Lewinsville. We also have once a month offsite social events including a trip Level 99, trivia night, and an escape room.
We hope you'll join us for one of our gatherings.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Connect your kids and family with Lewinsville's education, music and service ministries









NOVEMBER-JANUARY ADULT ED MODULES

Nov 1 - 22

Paul Among the People

Rob Hunter leads a discussion on *Paul Among the People: The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time*

The Joy and Challenge of Grandparenting

4 weeks of expert insights, peer perspectives, spiritual roots and lessons from the past on the role of Grandparent

Nov 29 - Dec 20

A Study of Ephesians

Pastor Scott and his wife, Rev. Dr. Laura Cunningham, lead a Bible Study class on Ephesians and our theme

Witness: Christians from non-Christian majority countries

Hear from Lewinsville members on their personal experience of being a Christian minority

Jan 4 - 31

Religion and the American Founding

Bruce Douglass led-course exploring the role of Religion in the founding of America

Trusting God: Parenting as Spiritual Practice

Pastor Jen and others lead a class focused on making faith relevant to the life of a parent or caregiver

No Adult Education on Sunday, December 27

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 s and lived faith.

Classes meet Sundays at 9:30 a.m. There is no Adult Education on Sunday, December 27.



NOVEMBER - JANUARY MODULES

Paul Among the People, led by Rob Hunter
Sundays, November 1-22, 9:30 a.m.

Rob Hunter leads a discussion on Paul Among the People: The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time.

The Blessing of Grandparenting: A 4-Week Conversation.
Sundays, November 1-22, 9:30 a.m., Room 102A, in person only.

- Nov. 1, Expert Insight: Carlie Cooney of Brooksfield School, licensed marriage and family therapist, on child development and modern learning.
- Nov. 8, Peer Perspectives: a roundtable of grandparents in various stages of life sharing their ral-world wisdom.
- Nov. 15, Spiritual Roots: biblical perspectives, wisdom, and encouragement regarding grandchildren and family legacy.
- Nov. 22, Lessons from the Past: what can we learn from the generations that came before us?

A Study of Ephesians, led by Pastor Scott and His Wife, Rev. Dr. Laura Cunningham
Sundays, November 29-December 20, 9:30 a.m.

A Bible study class on Ephesians and our congregational theme. Also Nov. 29-Dec. 20: ***Witness: Christians from Non-Christian Majority Countries.*** **H**ear from Lewinsville members on their personal experience of being a Christian minority.

January 4-31: ***Religion and the American Founding,*** a course led by Bruce Douglass exploring the role of religion in the founding of America. Also January 4-31: ***Trusting God: Parenting as Spiritual Practice,*** a class led by Pastor Jen and others focused on making faith relevant to the life of a parent or caregiver.

No Adult Education on Sunday, December 27

ROCKS OF AGES

Upcoming
Rocks of Ages
RSVP by the day before to
Bill Black
wmjblack@gmail.com
703-448-5614 or
Wendy Maiwurm
wmaiwurm@gmail.com
571-661-8775.
A $7 donation for lunch is requested.

General Assembly Highlights
Friday, November 20
11:30 a.m.
Beverly Johnson, a Ruling Elder Commissioner for the National Capital Presbytery, shares highlights (both business and fun) of the PC(USA)'s 227th General Assembly held this past summer.

Christmas Sing-Along
Friday, December 18
11:30 a.m.
Lunch and a sing-along. Request your favorite hymn with Laury Bender or sing some secular Christmas songs with John Thomas.

January Gathering
Friday, January 22
11:30 a.m.
We'll be back to the fourth Friday in January. Program to be announced.

Advent: Making Room

MISSION AND SERVICE IN ADVENT

Advent is a season of waiting, but it is also a season of preparation. Think about what happens when someone you love is coming to visit. You clean the house, make up the guest room, figure out what you're going to eat, and maybe even pull out the good dishes. You make room for someone you are excited to welcome. And that is, in many ways, what Advent is all about. We are preparing to welcome Christ into our world once again.

One of the remarkable things about Christmas is that God chose to come into the world as one of us. Not from a distance, but as a child, born into a family, in a particular place, surrounded by ordinary people. The incarnation reminds us that God is not interested in loving humanity from a distance. God comes close, enters into our lives, and meets us right where we are.

I think that is a helpful way to think about Mission and Service during Advent. Our mission partnerships are about much more than collecting gifts, raising money, or providing resources. They are about relationships. They are about getting to know our neighbors, recognizing the ways our lives are connected, and making room for people we might not otherwise encounter. And during Advent, we have some wonderful opportunities to do just that.

Westgate Gift Collection

Sunday, November 29-Sunday, December 13
Beginning Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, you will find a Christmas tree in Saint Andrews Hall decorated with ornaments. Each ornament represents a child and includes a list of gifts to purchase. We invite you to take an ornament, record its number, and shop for the gifts listed. All gifts should be returned to Lewinsville by Sunday, December 13.
This is a wonderful opportunity to help make Christmas special for children in our community and to remind their families that they are surrounded by people who care.

Alternative Gifts

We all have someone on our Christmas list who is nearly impossible to shop for! This Advent, consider honoring that person with a gift to one of Lewinsville's mission partners. Each Sunday during Advent, there will be a table in Saint Andrews Hall where you can make a donation in honor of someone you love. It is a meaningful way to celebrate the people in our lives while supporting the work of our mission partners. This year, Alternative Gifts will highlight:

- Lewinsville Retirement Residences; Friends of the Lewinsville
- Chesterbrook
- Second Story
- United Matunda Academy and Children's Home (formerly UOA)
- Lady Doak College

MISSION & SERVICE

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES





November 29-December 134
Advent Sundays



Alternative Gifts

This year, Alternative Gifts will highlight:

- **Lewinsville Retirement Residences; Friends of the Lewinsville**
- **Chesterbrook**
- **Second Story**
- **United Matunda Academy and Children's Home (formerly UOA)**
- **Lady Doak College**



Mission and Service
IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Fair Trade Sale and Holiday Market: Sunday, December 6

Saint Andrews Hall will once again be filled with wonderful gifts and ethically sourced products at our annual Fair Trade Sale, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This year, we are also excited to welcome Brooksfield School's holiday market!

Come do a little Christmas shopping, support artisans and producers, and enjoy an opportunity to connect with our wider community.

Making Room for One Another

Advent reminds us that God made room for humanity by becoming one of us. And perhaps one of the best ways we can prepare to welcome Christ this season is by making a little more room in our own lives for our neighbors.

Whether you purchase a gift, support a mission partner, or simply take the time to learn more about the people and organizations we serve alongside, I hope you will find a way to participate in Mission and Service this Advent. Because when we make room for one another, we are also making room for Christ.



MISSION & SERVICE

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



December 6

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

Sip Tea, Spill Tea

THE FOURTH ANNUAL YOUTH AND COLLEGE CHRISTMAS TEA

BY REV.LAYNE B. BRUBAKER

Some of the best ideas in youth ministry happen when you least expect them. In this case, it happened while floating down a river at Montreat!

A few summers ago, our youth were enjoying an afternoon tubing down the river during Montreat Youth Conference. As they floated along, the conversation turned to the fact that several members of the group would soon be heading off to college. They had spent years together in youth fellowship, going on trips, sharing experiences, and building friendships. And now, with some of them leaving for college, they began to wonder how they would stay connected.

Somewhere along that river, someone came up with an idea. What if we planned a gathering every Christmas, when everyone was back home, where our current youth and college students could get together, catch up, and share what was happening in their lives? And just like that, the Youth and College Christmas Tea was born!

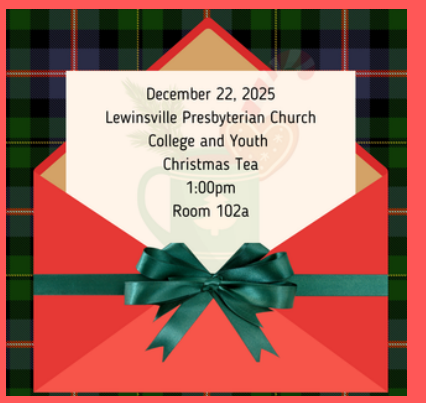
This year, we are excited to celebrate our **fourth annual Sip Tea, Spill Tea Christmas Tea!** For those unfamiliar with the phrase, "spilling the tea" means sharing the latest news, stories, and maybe even a little gossip. And that is exactly what happens at this gathering! There is plenty of laughter, lots of catching up, and usually more than a few entertaining stories about life at college and back home.

But what I love most about this tradition is that it came from our youth themselves. They recognized that the friendships they had built through youth fellowship were important, and they wanted to find a way to maintain those relationships even as their lives began to change.

One of my hopes for youth ministry is that the relationships formed here at Lewinsville will continue long after our students graduate from high school. Youth fellowship is not just about what happens on Sunday evenings or during summer trips. It is about building a community where young people know they belong, where they are known and loved, and where those connections can continue into adulthood. And sometimes, all it takes to keep those relationships going is a cup of tea, a few good stories, and an excuse to get everyone back together!

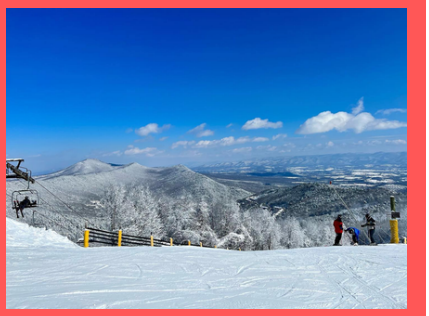
Tuesday, December 22, 2026
All current youth and college students are invited to join us for our fourth annual Christmas Tea. We hope you will come, reconnect with old friends, and spill a little tea!

Youth and College Christmas Tea



Tuesday
December 22, 2026

Lewinsville Young Adults



Monthly gatherings
7-9 p.m., Lewinsville

ABOUT THE YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

A community of young adults from Lewinsville, Immanuel, and Redeemer who get together for food, fellowship, and fun. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!
Upcoming:

Monday, November 3
7-9 p.m., Lewinsville
Christmas Eve
Home for the holidays? Sing with us at the 9:30 p.m. Jazz service!

Lewinsville
Presbyterian Church

1724 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

Address sevice requested.