



SEPTEMBER 2011

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
1ST Presbyterian
31 N. Union St., Lambertville, NJ
Rev. Dr. Peter W. Gregory, Pastor

From the Heart

From about the age of 5 to 25 I was in school in some shape or form. You can say that when I graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary I actually graduated from the 22nd grade. Then three more years in a Doctoral program during my Navy days. Yes I know more than my fare share of studying, tests, “no more teachers’ dirty looks” stuff.

Now that I am on the downward side of my mid-50’s I look back at those days and wonder why I stuck with it at times. It is not that all my time in academia was a loss, or I wished I was doing something else. But the older I become the more I realize the key issues of life and faith are not learned in the halls of any school I ever attended. You cannot “learn” or master the key components of personal happiness or spiritual contentment from a book.

Joy, happiness, peace, compassion, hope, spiritual fulfillment, personal growth in faith, all the necessities for a closer walk with Christ are not dependent on academic degree or certificate on the wall. It is a matter of devotion to God, Christ, and the fellowship of faith. But that does not happen by accident, nor is it a matter of chance, luck or fate. It is a matter of how you approach Scripture, your prayer life, and your own walk with God.

In a rather small fellowship like ours there is a tendency to look at larger churches or faith communities and maybe wish we could be more like them in programs, staffing, money, and other stuff. Been there and done that. Relative size or amount of money, or how many paid staff one has on the pay-role has very little correlation or indication to one’s walk with Christ or spiritual growth. Many larger Christian fellowships are just as full of dry bones, as any fellowship of any size or shape.

Yes, a new church year is upon us, and yes, if you choose to participate or take interest there are a multitude of things we do and are about here at our fellowship that will speak to your needs, increase your walk with Christ, and maybe even you will grow spiritually and in your maturity in the faith. So maybe graduating from the 22nd grade was not all that bad at all. ~ Pastor Gregory

Scripture and Sermons for September

DATE	SCRIPTURE	SERMON
Sept. 4	Luke 24:13-35	<i>Why Do you Look for the Living Among the Dead?</i>
Sept. 11	Exodus 16:2-15 Phillip.: 1:21-30 Matthew: 20:1-16	<i>God's Labors: So Where is my 401K?</i>
Sept.11	10th Anniversary 9/11 Attack Memorial {7pm} Psalm: 140:1-3 Psalm:140: 12-13	<i>Lest We Forget</i>
Sept. 18	Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	<i>Love Conquers All</i>
Sept. 25	Exodus 17:1-7	<i>So You Want to be a Pastor?</i>



Please join us on
 Sunday, September 11th
 At 7:00pm
 for a Memorial Service to
 remember and give honor to
 those who died and to those
 whose lives were forever
 changed by the events of
 September 11, 2011

Ask the Pastor

Does God ever change his Mind?

Well, to say that God can change his mind is to assume that God is somehow like us. With a physical brain or subject to the emotions and feelings of people, to change, or somehow God is subject to the same errors of judgment or assessment of things, as we are. Or somehow God is not able to see things out in the future and somehow “reconsiders” his feelings and emotions when God gets more data or information.

In the Bible when God is talked about or when God is referred to, we are limited by our human words, ideas, and concepts. Our brains are limited and finite. God on the other hand is infinite, beyond flesh or blood. We face limitations in both space and time, God never ages or dies, or wears out like us. So how we think and feel and describe God is limited by our very limited logic and knowledge. There is a big sounding term used in theology to describe this. It's called “*Anthropomorphism*”. Anthro-meaning man or human, morphism-meaning language or figure of speech. So when we talk about God, we at times in the Bible will apply human types of tendencies or behaviors to God as a way of making sense of what God is about in the world.

In the most common examples used, Genesis 18 when Abraham intercedes with God for Sodom, and in Jonah when God seemingly “repents” of anger against Nineveh are both examples when God seemingly has this internal argument or struggle with his own feelings and emotions. Another way of looking at this is that the providence of God is always sure and firm. God knew from the foundations of the world what God was going to do and say in both those situations. The real object of God's discourse or dialogue is not with himself, but with Abraham and Jonah, in those particular situations. In both those cases, God had something he wanted to teach or instruct to Abraham and Jonah. Same is true with us. When God deals with us he is always trying to teach us something, reveal something, or make known. And God will always lead with his judgment, and that is always on the side of grace, mercy and peace, That judgment will always help us be better people or help us see better His will for your lives.

~ Pastor Gregory



Dear Church Family,

Finally had a minute to tell you all thanks so much for the check. Ken and I are unpacking - it's a slow go. But once again, thank you all so much. It's going to help purchase a new dining room table and chairs for our home.

Love you all - Ken and Carol Kusant.

PS: our phone number is still 609-397-2515

Our September Birthdays

Joe Feraco, 2

Grace Reading, 2

Kara Jo Serlenga, 8

Bob Holland, 15

Carol Kusant, 16

George Warner, 18

Jack Allshouse, 21

Tucker Griffiths, 22

Sharon Warner, 24

Jackie Pursell, 25

David Moraski, 26

Joyce Topping, 26

Pam Holland, 27



Women's Fellowship

The August summer picnic was as usual a wonderful night of fun and devotion. We are always looking forward to seeing new faces each year, and this year we welcomed a member of Stockton Presbyterian. Devotion time was provided by our own sister Kris Gregory and we ended with a beautiful fireworks display.

I will be in touch with all ladies to announce the date and time of our next meeting within the upcoming months.

Please put on your thinking cap as to what we may do next. Until then, as always. Thank you for all of your support and help.

Many Blessings,
Heidi

Just a note to thank our church family for your prayers, phone calls, sympathy cards, offers of help, and donations to the Rescue Squad and Hunterdon Hospice when John's sister, Carol Feller, passed away on Father's Day. Your thoughtfulness meant so much to us and we were blessed by the support we received from so many of you. Special thanks to those of you who made desserts for the luncheon after Carol's funeral; it was truly appreciated by all of us. The floral arrangement you sent us was beautiful and we were reminded of God's faithfulness through the care we received from our church family.



In Galatians 6:2, 9, we read, "Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way, obey the law of Christ." "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." We have been so blessed by the kindness of our church family during this sad time. Thank you, dear friends, for being there for us -- it has meant so much.

In His Love,

John, Donna and Andrew Zambella

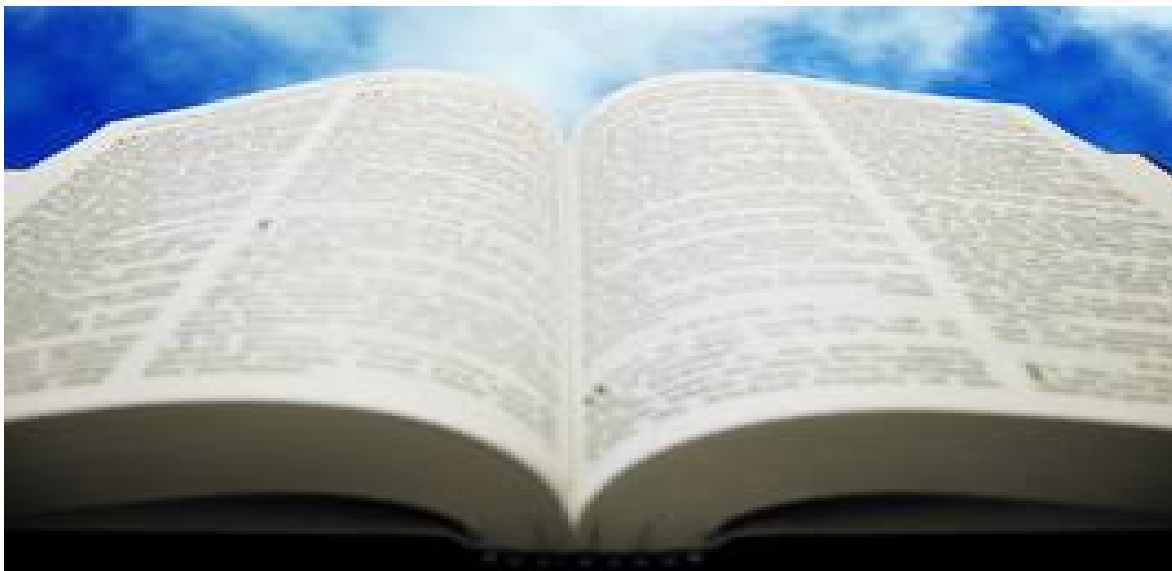
Adult Education in September

Where is God when it Hurts

Scripture Speaking to Pain, Loss, and Tragedy

One of the most common topics in Holy Scripture is God's Response to events in life, good and bad. This six week series will see how Scripture and Faith Responds to the timeless questions of life. All will gain a deeper understanding of God's response to us when we are hurting or without explanation as why certain things happen the way they do. The sessions will be lead by Pastor Gregory in the Sunday School room at 9 AM Sundays starting on September 11th.

- Week One:** **Creation, God's plan-what happened**
- Week Two:** **The Consequences of Sin: Finiteness and Human limitation**
- Week Three:** **Human Suffering and God's Response**
- Week Four:** **The Passion of Christ- Pain & Suffering as Transformational**
- Week Five:** **The issue of Extended Illness and Disease**
- Week Six:** **Modern Medicine, Old Age and End of Life**



Question about Children and Communion:

Communion Sunday: As Pastor, I am asked from time to time, what is the minimum age children should receive the bread and wine? The Book of Order in the PCUSA gives no clarification or guidance on the matter. In Scripture we are told those who make a faith confession of Jesus Christ as Lord is the primary factor. The Communion meal is an act of the fellowship, the Church. The parents or grandparents do not “own” the Sacrament, but they do sit in guardianship of their children and their behaviors. If your young person knows about Jesus, loves him, or comes from a home where Christ is honored and worshiped, then that young person, regardless of age or grade in school should be partaking of the meal.

The primary place that Christian Education is taught is in the home. Parents and Grandparents have the duty and obligation to raise their children in the knowledge and love of God in Christ. Those children who do not understand the Communion Meal, those who play or abuse the elements should not partake. This is the parent or grandparent’s call, not the pastor or Session, when those elements are passed to through the pews.

**Join us for Care and Share
after Sunday worship!**

Host for September:

Heidi Danberry

Grace Reading

Karen Thatcher

Donna Zambella



September 2011 Elder Schedule

- September 4:** Communion
September 11: George Warner
September 18: Joanne DiBlasi
September 25: Rich Hopkins

September 2011 Deacon Schedule

- September 4:** Grace Hendricks, Carol Griffiths, Sandy Lobley
September 11: Grace Hendricks
September 18: Kara Serlenga
September 25: Kara Serlenga

September 2011 Greeting Schedule

- September 4:** Debbie Crow
September 11: Esther Johnson
September 18: Chris & Dana Garrenger
September 25: Joan Yannarella

September 2011 Nursery Schedule

- September 4:** Dana Garrenger
September 11: Allison Dudick
September 18: Don Pidcock
September 25: Sue McCloughan

If you need assistance outside of office hours, please contact the Elders on call for **September:**

Joanne DiBlasi 215-862-9832

Russ Topping 609-397-4856

Welcome Baby!

New ARRIVALS this Summer:

Ryan Alexander McIntyre

Son of Nate & Heather

BROTHER to Megan, Sarah & Hannah

GRANDSON of Win & Pat Buchanan

Siobhan Kathleen Crews

Daughter of Adam & Christina

GRANDDAUGHTER of Tom & Ruth Crews



“Every good and
perfect gift is
from above”

~ James 1:17

**Session Minutes—First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House—June 20, 2011—7 P.M.**

Present - Peter Gregory, Joanne DiBlasi, Patricia Buchanan, Russ Topping, George Warner, Rich Hopkins

Excused - Bob Holland

Devotions - Peter talked about the gift of memory. Jesus' healings were complete in regard to body, mind and spirit. No true healing occurs unless our memories are also reconciled.

Session Minutes of May 16, 2011, Special Session Minutes of June 1, 2011, Deacon Minutes of May 2011 - Motion by Pat Buchanan, seconded by Russ Topping and carried to approve minutes.

Clerk's Correspondence - Letter from New Jersey Council of Boy Scouts of America setting forth their determination regarding the ongoing dispute between two scouts and their parents.

Order of the Day - Dan Serlenga briefed Session on the status of the Studdiford sale.

Music and Worship - George will get costs on screen for sanctuary. Sergio has offered to pay half of cost. To be discussed again in September.

Buildings and Grounds - Discussion of fuel costs year to date in 2011. Costs will likely exceed budgeted amount for 2011. Pat will investigate possibility of locking in a price for the upcoming heating season. Pat will also get information on solar conversion. A fuel oil surcharge for tenants using the gym will be discussed in September. Installing grab bars for disabled in gym bathrooms to be discussed in September.

Westminster House - Nate will begin repair work in July.

Familias de Hoy - Sergio may not continue soccer this fall as it no longer fits into their ministry goals.

Budget and Finance - Year to date giving for 2011 is still approximately \$2,000 ahead of budget. Semi-annual business meeting will be held July 17th after the morning service. Discussion followed on whether to continue providing refreshments during Saturday basketball. Motion by George and seconded by Russ that we no longer provide refreshments for Saturday basketball. Motion carried.

Christian Education - Princeton seminary professor will come on July 19th to teach on parables. Peter scheduled meeting to set up church calendar for the coming church year for August 12th.

Session Action in Response to General Assembly - Discussion on “Church Quorum” change made by General Assembly. Motion by George, seconded by Pat, and carried that Session adopt the following language:

We the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville, NJ acting as both Trustees of the Corporation and duly elected Elders do set forth on this day, June 20, 2011 that we retain the historically defined quorums for meetings of the Corporation as 1/10th of members in good standing on the roles of the church on the date of the meeting. We further set the minimum number of ruling elders as 3 present for a valid meeting of the Session, First Presbyterian Church Lambertville.

Discussion followed on new ordination standards set by General Assembly. Peter passed out information to be read by Session and discussed in September.

Sharing of Prayer Praises and Concerns

Time of Prayer

Adjournment of Meeting - Meeting adjourned at 9 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hopkins

**ISI Annual Garage Give-Away for
Every International Student and scholar**

PLACE: LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
407 NASSAU STREET & CEDAR LANE
PRINCETON, NJ 08540

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 (Rain Date 9/17)

TIME: 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. DELIVERY TIME
8:00 – 10:00 A.M. SET UP TIME
10:00 – 11:00 A.M. OPEN TO STUDENTS & SCHOLARS
11:00 – 12:00 Noon CLEAN UP TIME

HELPERS ARE NEEDED BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

MUCH SOUGHT AFTER ITEMS:

KITCHEN: POTS & PANS, DISHES, SILVERWARE

BED & BATH: SHEETS, BLANKETS, PILLOWS, TOWELS, COMFORTERS, THROW RUGS

APPLIANCES BICYCLES, TOASTERS, IRONS, & ELECTRIC HEATERS, FANS

FURNITURE: DESKS, DINING TABLES, LAMPS, CHAIRS, COUCHES, BEDS, BOOKSHELVES

NOT NEEDED:TELEVISIONS, COMPUTERS, MONITORS, TOYS, CLOTHES, GAMES, BOOKS, CURTAINS, DRAPES.

* DONATED ITEM MUST BE **CLEAN AND IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION.**

** PLEASE INFORM US IF **LARGER** ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR PICK UP AT A FUTURE DATE.

*** **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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