



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
First Presbyterian Church

Many voices with one faith, one heart.
One family under God.

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear church family,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

This is the joyful and central claim of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Easter faith is about a real event; it's more than just an inspiring thought. Consider what John Updike says in his poem, *Seven Stanzas at Easter*.

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

From the Pastor's Pen cont...

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

The resurrection brings us real hope because our Lord is risen and is truly present with us today! So in this Easter season and all year long, let's joyfully come together before our risen Lord Jesus – in person or by Zoom – in worshipping him, in praying before his throne, and in hearing his Word.

In Christ – crucified, risen, and reigning today,
Pastor Dan

“From the Office”

Hello! Thank you again for all who have been contributing to the monthly newsletters. I love all the diverse information. Don't forget the items for the Newsletters are due to the Church Office by the 20th of the month. There will be Newsletters for May and June, then starting again in September. I won't be in the office April 5-7, due to the Easter holiday. Shad Fest is postponed until October 9-10 2021.

Sincerely,
Sue



Church News:



The Zoom service for Maundy Thursday is 6:45 on 4/1. Our Good Friday Service on 4/2 will be in person limited to First Presbyterian of Lambertville only. The service will also be on Zoom. The service starts at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunday Service is in person, April 4th, and it is Communion Sunday. Prelude starts at 10:20 am and Worship is at 10:30 am.

Women's Bible Study is on Wednesday's during the month of April at 3:00 pm.

The Lambertville Basketball League will be in the Gym, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, in the evenings. Please see the upcoming calendar for times.

Ministry and Outreach:

News from your Missions Team~ Please check out our bulletin board in the back of the church!

The Missions Team: Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Konni Sandford, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella

Deacon's Report~ Greetings from your Deacons. We send our love and best wishes and hope you are all well and coping with our present situation. As usual, we continue to hold you up in our prayers and please remember that we are always here for your needs, whatever they may be. Also remember that First Presbyterian church is alive and well, either in person or by Zoom. We miss you and hope to see you soon, perhaps at the Easter Sunday service. God Bless.

Your Deacons: Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, LaNelle Gallagher, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.



I Think it's Time to Cancel Today's Cancel Culture

- Everyone has skeletons in their closet, and the folks shouting the loudest to cancel others are doing it to distract from their own history.
- How would Jesus handle this? Actually, it is nothing new, remember they tried to cancel Jesus when he was alive. (Luke: Chapter 23)
- Cancel culture uses the failures of mistakes of others against them.
 - *Jesus does not cancel us, he cancels our sins, he forgives us. (Colossians 2:14)
- Ever since Christ came to earth, the cancel culture surfaced to cancel all that was sacred and holy. The cancel culture is one of Satan's latest weapons to divide the world and to distance us from God and one another. Remember this is more of a spiritual war then one based on race or politics.
- Since the 1960s, the influence of the Christian church has been in decline. Popular culture instead chooses to trust feelings rather than facts. We cancel everyone and everything that challenges our opinion.
- The 1960s brought about the cancellation of prayer in schools and fueled the governments drive to remove the Christian faith and morality from our education system. *61% of Christians have neglected to hold firmly to the teachings of Christ.
- Matthew 5: 13-16 *Jesus tells us we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
- A crisis should not signal Christians to panic, but it should ignite our faith and increase our obedience
- We all face the challenge of trying to discern the difference between truth and falsehood. Even the so-called "fact-checking" websites, have hidden agendas that spread falsehoods.
- Humanity is made in God's image, but we are subject to the fall. (Genesis: 1-3.)
- We are created for good, but without Christ we are captive to evil (Romans 6: 20-23.)
 - *Praise God that because of Jesus, we can be forgiven, renewed, redeemed and reborn.
- **Take Aways:**
 1. See persecution as a call to courageous perseverance (Psalm 16: 8.)
 2. Seek the reward of God before the praise from the culture (Colossians 3: 23-24)
 3. Choose to engage the culture with truth and grace. (Colossians 4: 5-6.)
 4. Be wise about your words (Matthew 12: 36-37.)
 5. Believe in Redemption (1 John 1: 9 and Isaiah 43: 1)

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi

April Birthdays

2 Becky Hopkins

4 Kendra Thatcher

7 Dan Serlenga

9 Julia Stratuik

9 Donna Zambella

11 Jason Shurts

15 Carol Shurts

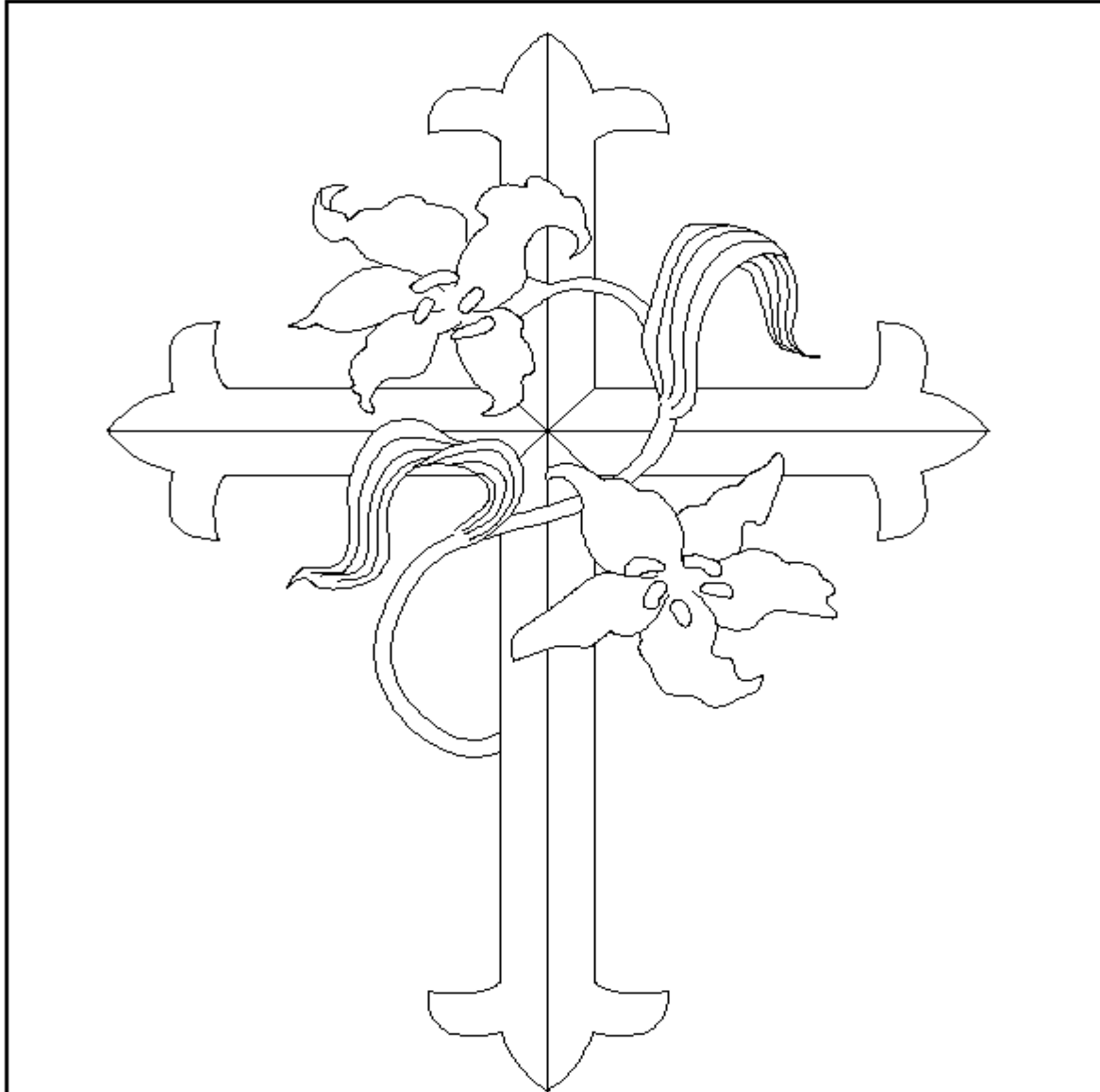
28 Suzanne Zambella

28 Richard Coleman

30 McCade Cummings



Just for Kids.....



He is Risen

April Assisting Schedule:

Elder Schedule

April 4– **Easter/Communion**/Karen Thatcher

April 11– Rich Hopkins

April 18– Pat Durborow

April 25– Carol Griffiths

Deacon Schedule

April 4– **Easter/Communion** *Phil McCloughan (Stair Glide), LaNelle Gallagher

April 11– Danielle Griffiths

April 18– Gail Armitage

April 25– Heather Pursell

**If you unable to serve your scheduled dates,
please find a replacement and contact the church office. Thank you.**

Schedules are subject to change

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Via Zoom

February 15, 2021 Session Business Meeting 7:15 PM

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow	Rich Hopkins
Mark Dudick	Carol Griffiths	
	Heather McIntyre	
	Don Pidcock	
	Russ Topping	

Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, Russ Topping and Rev. Dan Dorrow

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Dorrow, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the February Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion- Pat Durborow

Pat's devotion was based on "The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson. Day 39-the place. Israel is out of captivity. Moses was talked about and how he tended sheep, saw the "Burning Bush" and how he saw God. The place, is that God can meet you anywhere, and there is no devoid of God's presence. Pat also mentioned her walk with God, and that she turned to Him in times of trouble. Pat also referenced a quote from Patsy Clairmont, "You are more than you know." Psalm 51 was spoken about, and how she turns to that scripture when in need. Pat asked the Session to pray for her.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box- Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from December 21, 2020, and January 13, 2021 Session Business Meeting. A **motion** was called to accept both Minutes as written. All were in favor. The approved Minutes will be sent to Sue/Church Office to be printed in the Book of Minutes and to be included in the Church Newsletter.

2020 Annual Church Statistical Report- The statistical report was sent out to Session via email on 2/4/21 to review. It was reviewed and the information was then done online by Sue and submitted to the New Brunswick Presbytery on 2/10/21. Session approved the statistical report at tonight's business meeting.

Annual Review of Minutes for the NB Presbytery- Sue McCloughan will be meeting with Sally Horner from Stockton Presbyterian to complete the annual review for the minutes for the Presbytery. This will be the last time for the minutes review with the New Brunswick Presbytery, as our church will be merged with the Northwest Presbytery of New Jersey.

Book of Registry- Session was updated with information in the Book of Registry for 2020. There were zero marriages and baptisms. There were two deaths of members: Sam Marriott and June Worstall.

Clerk of the Corporation- A **motion** was made to have Rich Hopkins act as the Clerk of the Corporation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 21, 2021. The **motion** was accepted for Rich to act as Clerk of the Corporation, for the annual meeting. A new Clerk of the Corporation will be elected at the next Session Business Meeting.

Franklin Mutual Insurance-Our policy was received for Workman's Compensation for February 2021-22, and was discussed. The policy is on file in the Church Office.

Calendar Highlights from February- March 2021:

We will be having services with our River Churches during Lent this year via Zoom. The Services Start on Ash Wednesday February 17th and will be on 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 and 3/24. The Maundy Service is on 4/1, and Good Friday Service is on 4/2. The Annual Congregational Meeting is being held on Sunday February 21, 2021 in the Sanctuary after worship. 2/28/21 is the Ordination and Installation of the Church Officers. March: The Boy Scouts are still not meeting in the Gym. Daylight Savings Time was mentioned. Palm Sunday is March 28, 2021. For the month of April, Easter Sunday is 4/4, there is no Easter Breakfast or egg hunt, due to the pandemic. Communion Sunday is on April 4th. The Shad Fest is not in April this year, it was moved to October 2-3, 2021 by the Chamber of Commerce due to the pandemic, and Session was made aware of the change.

Worship and Music-Joanne DiBlasi

Ladies' Bible Study-Will continue through Lent, and weather permitting. We have had in person worship, as well as Zoom. The Lenten Wednesday night services have been Zoom only, with our sister churches at 7:00 pm. The link is sent out each week by Sue in the Office. Joanne will update Worship and Music as needed. Rich Hopkins let the Session know that Becky will be away, 5/2 and 6/20/21. Sue in the Office will look for a Substitute for those dates, and Heather will issue checks for the Substitutes.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

Heather M. called Garden State Heating and Cooling to repair the church heaters. Don is taking care of overseeing that the heaters get fixed. SDG- the alarm has been normal for 2 weeks. The wireless alarm as been a problem for some time. They will be coming to test the wireless alarm to see if it is defective. This is going to be a free test. The church may have to change over to a wired system, to replace the wireless. We owe them some fees, and Heather is looking to resolve this. We will be moving forward with the wireless/wired system once SDG does their test. The Iron Fence will be repaired in the spring. Estimates will be taken. The Kitchen-Pat will obtain an estimate to have someone to paint, but it will not include the kitchen cabinets. The Façade/Dental Work of the Church- Nate McIntyre took care of that, and the roof was patched. The Church will need a new roof eventually. The snow removal is going well. This was done in the past by Mitch Ege, but he has sent one of his colleagues to shovel and take care of our sidewalks for us. We are waiting on billing information.

Budget and Finance-Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

The Year-to-Date Summary emailed to Session and was discussed, from 1/1-2/15/21. As of January 31, 2021, the collection plate is down \$2165.35. Heather received a 1099 form from Santander Bank, and she was going to look into this. The Lowell Hunter Estate was discussed by Rich, and Buchanan, Law Office in Lambertville is accounting this estate as well as the State of NJ. Once the accounting is completed and approved, our church will be able to collect on the Hunter Estate.

Paycheck Protection Program or (PPP)-was discussed, and Heather reached out to Wells Fargo to file the necessary paperwork to obtain the grant from the Federal Government to see if we are eligible to receive the grant to cover expenses. The **PPP** is due to the Coronavirus.

Church Stewardship- Two examples of how we did stewardship in the past was sent out to Session via email earlier in February. Rich Hopkins thought Session should retake a look again at the Stewardship again at another time. Session agreed to revisit Stewardship (collection of tithes) in the fall of 2021.

Dan spoke about Stewardship, and he/Session will continue to pray on this.

Per Capita of the New Brunswick Presbytery- Heather discussed the Per Capita that was assessed for our church for 2021. We haven't paid this in a few years. The money that is required by the Presbytery, we have been putting towards our Missions. We wrote a letter to the NB Presbytery a few years back, regarding the Per Capita. Dan thanked Session for giving him this information.

Sunday School/Youth Group- Mark Dudick/Carol Griffiths

Youth Group and Sunday School are not meeting at this time. It was brought up that when most of the youth return to school, maybe we will have a special Zoom for the Sunday School.

Don (Cooie) Pidcock talked about having him, Desre and LaNelle, providing activities for Easter, for all our school aged Sunday School children. Possibly delivering bagged activities, and leaving on doorsteps to minimize in person contact. Also, maybe to send activities in the mail as well. More details to come at the next Session meeting. Cooie also talked about in the future having the youth join the church. Some of our Youth did join the church in 2019.

Moderator Time-Rev. Dan Dorrow

Dan discussed the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting, and that the meeting should kept fairly informal. All should have time to discuss their reports.

He asked Session for their thoughts on having a greeter for outside before church gets started. What was discussed, at this time weather is an issue. Maybe have a Deacon who is on Stair-Glide be the greeter, and to welcome people as they come in the front door. Dan is going to share his thoughts with the Deacons. Possibly to have coffee in the courtyard when the weather gets warmer.

Joanne and Pat talked about the fact that we always should have our doors open, especially when the weather gets warmer.

Dan is planning on being on vacation from March 8 to March 14, 2021. Joanne will let Session know who will fill in to preach on Sunday March 14th. Dan's new office hours are Thursday's from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, and they seem to have been going well so far.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday, January 10 and February 7, 2021

Continuing of Education- Elders are encouraged to continue in and share the word of God through reading His Word, devotions, prayer and to be involved in education.

Elders-Are to continue Pastoral Care as needed.

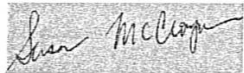
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the March Meeting is: Carol Griffiths, followed by Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre and Don Pidcock.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session