



**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
First Presbyterian Church**

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

From Our Elder ~ Karen Thatcher

Spring forward in faith, and let the Lord lead . . .

We live in an area that has all four seasons year 'round, we are blessed for each season and I see each season as a new experience, enjoying the wonder that each season has to offer. I have been mesmerized by the changing leaves, watching them as they shift from green to fiery reds and oranges, and just recently the trees that spent the whole winter with bare branches have sprouted small buds of new life. It's truly beautiful to watch winter melt into spring. I go outside and feel the sun bring new warmth. It's familiar, but new all at once. Isaiah 43:19 NIV says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Sometimes in order to come into a new season and spring forward in faith, we have to let go of the old season. Isaiah 43:18 says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." One of the many lessons that life teaches us is to let go. We can't hang on to past hurts, past struggles, and past relationships. And, sometimes this means we have to give ourselves time to grieve in order to move forward.

We may have to let ourselves feel the loss, be sad for a little while, and talk to someone who cares. After we've grieved, we can pick ourselves up and start looking ahead once again. As spring starts to surface and the trees begin to bloom, we can see God's reminder to align our hearts to the new thing He's doing. Let us go to prayer, asking Jesus to help us embrace all the "new" he has in store for us:

Dear Lord, thank you for developing me into the person You want me to be. I have to admit, Jesus, that sometimes I find it hard to let go of old things even when I know they are holding me back. Help me, Lord, to truly see this spring season for what it is: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be. As flowers begin to adorn the trees once again and fresh grass rises up from the ground, renew in me the strength to let go of the past and move forward in my faith journey with You. Amen

“From the Office”

There is a lot of upcoming events for the month of April, it is a very exciting time!! The Bell Choir will be playing on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Please see the calendar for April on the website. The Maundy Thursday service on April 6th is at Mt. Airy, and the Good Friday Service on April 7th, will be here at First Pres. Both Services are at 7:00 pm. I will be out of the Office the week of April 10th. Thank you to the Session who have done or will be writing for the front page of our newsletters. It is very much appreciated! Happy Easter Everyone!
Sue



Church News:



Palm Sunday is April 2nd, Rich Hopkins will be preaching and Becky Hopkins will be our Accompanist. There is a Pot-Luck after the Worship Service, and will be honoring Rich & Becky for their time with us.

Easter is Sunday April 9th. The Easter Breakfast sponsored by the Deacons will be at 9:15 am and the Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow!

The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing at 2:00 pm on Wednesday's during the month of April.

Shad Fest is Saturday April 22nd and 23rd from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. The Chamber of Commerce will be in the Gym for their Annual Poster Auction. There will be sign-ups for the Deacon Table and Fish Pond coming soon!

The show "Pete" will be here at our church on Shad Fest weekend starting with Friday night at 6:30 pm. The show time on Saturday will be at 2:00 pm, outside, and Sunday during the Worship Service at 9:00 am.

Communion Sunday is **April 30th** and Pastor Gregory will be here. Care & Share is after church and Session will be hosting. If you are interested in hosting a future Care & Share, please reach out to Karen Thatcher.

The Seven “I Am’s”

Said by Jesus

- ***Read Exodus 3:13-14*** In Judaism, “I Am” is unquestionably understood as a name for God.
- 1. I Am the Bread of Life: Jesus was born in Bethlehem which means House of Bread. Read ***John 6:32-35***
- 2. I Am the Light of the World: Read ***John 8:12***
- 3. I Am the Door (Gate): Read ***John 10:1-10***
- 4. I Am the Good Shepherd: Read ***John 10:11-18***
- 5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life: Read ***John 11:17-26***
- 6. I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life: Read ***John 14:1-7***
- 7. I Am the True Vine: Read ***John 15:1-8***
- There are more “I Am” statements that are not metaphors (symbolic of something else) as those statements above.
- There are “I Am” statements that are declarations of God’s name applied by Jesus to Himself:
 - ***John 4:25-26***: I Am the Messiah
 - ***John 8:58***
 - ***John 18:1-8*** I Am He

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
OUR SOUP SALES WERE A HUGE SUCCESS!**

On Sat., September 23rd, we will be going to Sight & Sound Theater to see “MOSES.” This year, the soup sales were held to raise funds for the show tickets, our lunch at Bird-In-Hand Restaurant and for the bus. God has truly blessed us in our endeavor as we made approximately \$5,000.00 selling soup! As a result, this has enabled us to offer a full day of “fun & fellowship” for the cost of \$100.00 per person.

Proceeds from the soup sales will also go toward the Dominican Republic mission trip scheduled for this Fall. Some of our own church family will be bringing the “good news of the gospel” to the people of the DR and once again, the Lord has abundantly blessed us with funding for their trip.

A BIG “thank you” to Heather Pursell and her kitchen crew for providing a delicious variety of soups to sell each week. Also, many thanks to those who helped out with packaging the soups and labeling the containers for us. Special thanks to those who showed up on Saturdays to sell the soups – we had many wonderful compliments from people who came back each week to buy more! We are especially grateful to our Deacons who provided much-needed funding to help buy our supplies and get us started! Finally, “thank you” to our church family for your ongoing support buying soups each week. We wouldn’t have had the success we did without everyone coming together to lend a hand! God is good and we are so grateful! Amen!



Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

Please see the Missions bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

Here are the upcoming events and activities from the Deacons!

- The Deacons will be hosting the annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday April 9th. Breakfast will begin at 9:15 am and the egg hunt will begin at 10am.
- On Shad Fest Friday April 21st at 6:30 pm, there will be a performance of “Peter” in the Church Sanctuary followed by light refreshments in the Church Library. The Deacons will be having their table at the ShadFest. A Sign-up sheet to help out will be coming soon!
- The Deacons are seeking any youth interested in being a Junior Deacon! If you have questions or know a young person who might be interested in being a Junior Deacon, please email Jen Chernoski at: jenniferchernoski@gmail.com

In His Love~ Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.



April Birthdays

2 Becky Hopkins

4 Kendra Thatcher

7 Dan Serlenga

9 Julia Stratuik

9 Donna Zambella

11 Jason Shurts

14 Elise Stratuik

15 Carol Shurts

28 Suzanne Zambella

28 Richard Coleman

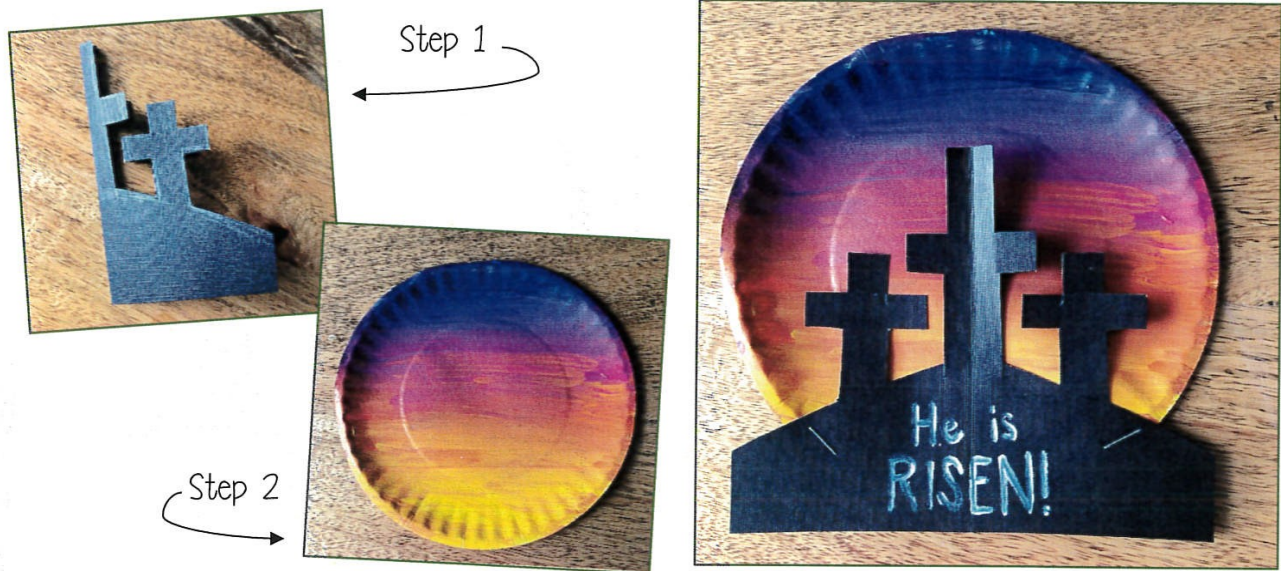
30 McCade Cummings



Just for Kids...

Children's Worship
Bulletins™ 

Easter Sunrise Craft



Supplies you'll need:

- Paper Plate, any size (1 per child)
- Paint, Crayons or Colored Pencils
- Black Construction Paper
- Glue or Stapler
- White Crayon or Pen (optional)

Instructions:

1. Instruct children to color a sunrise on the paper plate, starting with yellow, then adding orange, red, purple and finally blue.
2. Fold black construction paper in half and cut out crosses (or precut, depending on age).
3. Attach black construction paper to paper plate using a stapler or glue (we used staples).
4. Optional: Write a Bible verse or "He is Risen!" on the bottom of the black construction paper.

April Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

April 2- Don Pidcock
April 9- Karen Thatcher
April 16- Joanne DiBlasi
April 23- Pat Durborow
April 30- **Communion**/Phil McCloughan

Deacon Schedule

April 2- Gail Armitage
April 9- Terry Peck
April 16- Jen Chernoski
April 23- Heather Pursell
April 30- **Communion**/*Heidi Danberry (**Stair Glide**), LaNelle Gallagher

Greeting Schedule

April 2- Connie Fisher
April 9- Addie Andino
April 16- Dana Garrenger
April 23- Donna Zambella
April 30- Joanne DiBlasi

**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
Adult Sunday School Room
February 20, 2023 7:00 PM
and via Zoom

Class of 2023

Don Pidcock
Russ Topping

Class of 2024

Karen Thatcher

Class of 2025

Joanne DiBlasi
Heather McIntyre

Rev. Brad Morgan, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock,
Karen Thatcher, and Rev. Brad Morgan

Excused: Russ Topping

Guest: Mike Atzert Highlands Presbytery-COM Liaison

Welcome: Reverend Morgan, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the
February 20, 2023 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Joanne DiBlasi

Manage the Greenhouse of your Heart. Taken from a Max Lucado Devotional. People harvest what they plant. Read *Galatians 6:7-10*. *Think of your heart as a Greenhouse*. It is difficult for the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work in us and through us when our hearts hold onto “weeds and thorns.” (Anger, bitterness, resentment, etc.) Read *Psalms 103:12-18* *Preparing the Heart*.

As our lives and surroundings get more chaotic, we need to stay focused and faithful to our Lord God so we can be that example of Hope to those around us. We need to prepare our hearts through confession for God to work His will in it, bringing about *Psalms 103:12*.

Is my heart a Greenhouse of weeds, rocks and thorns? Or is it healthy soil which will produce flowers of Hope, Truth and Optimism. Confession invites God to work the soil of our soul.

Around the Room - The Elders, Brad and myself went around the room and shared our concerns. Brad closed this section with prayer.

Moderator Time - Rev. Brad Morgan

Brad deferred his Moderator Time to Mike Atzert. The Session welcomed Mike Atzert our COM Liaison to the Business Meeting. He will be conducting the Exit Interview regarding Pastor Dan Dorow. He asked Session to give their positive thoughts. Examples were: Miracles can happen through prayer, more bible based, the Presbytery is better, Joanne Dorow was a big part of our Music Ministry. Some of the challenges were: The Pastor came during Covid, more availability was needed here at the church.

What should the next step be? Where will our next minister come from, and what type of leader do we need? Mike asked the Session to pray about the next step, and it should be with energy and excitement. Through the Presbytery, there is a regional website “Call Finders” where churches can post who or what type of leadership they are looking for. Pastors that are looking for a church can also post their information on the website as well. Sue was asked to pull out the old pastor job position, and it may be possible to put an updated pastor job description on this website. Mike will send Sue the information to the website if needed. He talked about different ways a new pastor is found, and more on finding a new pastor to be discussed at future business meetings. Joanne talked about how we are set for Pastor Gregory to come on the next few months of Communion Sundays. As well as Past and Present Elders giving the sermons on non-communion Sundays.

Dissolution Agreement Letter- between Pastor Dan Dorrow and the First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville: A **motion** was brought forth regarding the letter, and was seconded and approved by Session. The letter was signed by Joanne DiBlasi (Session member), Mike Atzert (COM), Pastor Brad Morgan (Moderator), and Susan McCloughan (Clerk). Also, a Separation Ethics Covenant was signed by Dan, Sue and Mike Atzert. Both letters are on file in the Church Office. The letters will be talked about at the Annual Meeting on 2/26/23.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from January 16, 2023. All were in favor. The minutes will be sent to Sue/Church Office to be printed in the Book of Minutes and to be included in the Church Newsletter.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- A tax id letter was drawn up by Heather M., in regards to act in the church’s behalf, regarding recovering unclaimed funds, and given to Session to sign. It was signed, forwarded to Heather and is on file in the Church Office. The Session Minutes Review Checklist was received by Sue for this year’s review for the Presbytery. This will be completed soon.

Calendar Highlights from March-May 2023

Communion is scheduled for 3/5, 4/30 and 5/7, with Pastor Gregory. Care & Share will continue on Communion Sundays with different groups hosting. Soup Sales are in the month of March. The last day for Skating and Friday Night Hang is March 10th. The last day for LBL is 3/18. Men’s Bible Study will continue on mornings once a month at Sneddon’s. Animal Alliance is in the Gym on Friday March 31st. There will be Services on Maundy Thursday to be hosted by Mt. Airy Pres., and Good Friday to be hosted by First Pres. of Lambertville, both to be at 7:00 pm. There will be a pot-luck for Becky and Rich Hopkins on Sunday 4/2, after church. Easter Sunday 4/9, the Deacons will be sponsoring the Breakfast and the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt. The Annual Shad Fest is April 22-23, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Karen and Heidi will be selling hot dogs for fundraising. The COC will be in the Gym from 4/21-4/23 for their poster auction. We will be having a special event here at 9:00 am on Sunday 4/23-Shad Fest Sunday during worship time. More details to come soon. The National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 4th. The Women’s Retreat is scheduled for Friday May 19-21 at Sandy Cove in North East, MD. Pastor Gregory will be here on Memorial Day Sunday, 5/28.

Annual Meeting on 2/26/23- Brad asked if the minutes were approved at the meeting. The congregation authorizes Session to approve the minutes that are taken at a later upcoming Session Business Meeting.

Installation Sunday of Church Officers- Is March 5th, and Pastor Gregory will be here, as well as Communion. This was ok with the Presbytery.

2022 Church Statistical Report- The report was sent to the Session via email on 1/31/23. Then was submitted to the Presbytery on 2/14/23. A **motion** was to approve the Statistical Report tonight. The report was approved.

Worship and Music/Church Life – Joanne DiBlasi/Karen Thatcher

Insurance Review- Nothing for tonight's meeting.

Children's Time- is going well.

Sight & Sound- A sign-up will be posted in the downstairs hallway for the show on 9/23/23. Karen is the POC.

Audio Recordings-Are being done at this time, but Joanne will reach out to George W. regarding the glitches that are happening to see if they can be fixed.

Accompanist/Pianist- The Job Description was renewed on the AGO website. We haven't had any new resumes. We have Accompanists until May. They are listed in the weekly bulletins.

Building and Grounds – Don Pidcock

The **new technology** for recording our church service was discussed, and is currently being worked on by Don, Stephen M. and Pastor Brad. Stephen sent an email to Session regarding the camera, laptop, etc.

Sue spoke about the **organ**. We are waiting for an estimate from Steve Emery for more repairs to be done. Sue will keep the Session updated on its progress.

Church Roof- The gutters need to be replaced as well. Updates to come.

Small Church Bathroom- Joanne gave an estimate tonight for repairs needed to the bathroom. The ceiling and walls need to be fixed, as well as other items. The **motion** was made to have Joanne and Addie repair the bathroom, and all were in favor. Joanne and Addie will be repairing the bathroom under the stairs as soon as possible. The Church Hallway was also discussed, and will be repaired soon. In the spring, the front doors of the Church will be painted.

Skating and Friday Night Hang- The last Friday for both is March 10th. Don mentioned that Steve and Jen Chernoski are doing a good job with skating. Steve is looking to have more parental involvement in Friday Night Hang.

Westminster House-Don will be getting a split heating system for the Church Office. There have been many issues as of recent with the heating system.

Budget and Finance – Karen Thatcher

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out, from 1/1-2/20/23, and we are over in our Plate \$690.83. The Morgan Stanley and Plate Summary information was given out to Session and they were asked to review the information, and to get in touch with Heather if they should have any questions.

Boy Scouts- Nothing new at this time.

Manual of Administrative Operations- This has been completed and is on file in the Church Office.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Don mentions that another Sunday School Teacher is needed. Karen said there have been about 5-6 children attending Sunday School.

Junior Deacons- Joanne talked about the Junior Deacons, she has a list of the possible children who would be involved. Phil M. will be speaking to the Deacons for them to draft up a letter to go along with the handout of what the Jr. Deacon responsibilities are. More information to follow.

Missions /Nominating Committee– Joanne DiBlasi

The Mission Team- will be meeting next month. The funds are distributed to our Missionaries in March, July and November of each year.

Nominating Committee- Was discussed by Session and Pat Durborow's name will be added to the ballot for returning as an Elder.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday February 5, 2023

Annual Meeting of the Congregation- To be held after the Worship Service on 2/26. Pastor Brad will be the Moderator for the meeting, all reports will be "Blanket Approved."

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 be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

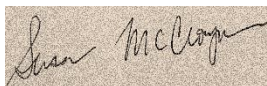
Session Devotion Rotation- For the March Meeting is Heather McIntyre, April is Don Pidcock.

and May is Karen Thatcher.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session