



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

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

**From Our Elder ~ Heather McIntyre**



**Spring is in the air!**



It's hard to deny that Spring is a time when the beauty of God's creation is everywhere. Snow is pretty when it falls, but the cold, dark, dreary days of winter seem endless. By March, we are ready to hear the birds chirping and see the flowers blooming. We are ready for vibrant colors and a time of new birth. The warmth and beauty of Spring bring new hope to the world. I don't think its an accident that the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated in the Spring.

Jesus performed many miracles during his time of earth. Most noteworthy Jesus turned water into wine, he fed people and he healed people, people who were afflicted with many different ailments. He even raised Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days. In John 11, we learn that Jesus purposely took his time reaching Lazarus. Why did Jesus take his time reaching Lazarus? We did Jesus let Martha lose her brother, prepare his body for the tomb and then begin mourning his death?

Jesus had been performing miracles and the word was spreading... but there were many doubters. People who didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God tried to explain away his miracles. Like any doubters, they were looking for proof that Jesus was the real deal. So he waited until Lazarus was dead. He wasn't nearly dead, he wasn't in a comatose state, he wasn't freshly deceased. He was all the way dead. Martha worried there would be an odor when the stone was rolled away. Jesus wanted to be clear that this was a miracle, that he was raising Lazarus from the dead. All of the people that came to mourn Lazarus and to pay their respects to Martha were witness to the miracle. What better way to quash the doubt circling Jesus?

Jesus brought hope to his followers, just as he brought hope to Martha and those who witnessed his miracles. But the story of Jesus bringing hope to the world, had only just begun at his death. After his time on the cross, Jesus was buried in a tomb. John 19 tells us that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus prepared Jesus's body for burial and laid him to rest in a tomb that had not been previously used for burial. Not only was he buried but his body remained entombed for 3 days. This was long enough to satisfy the doubt surrounding his death. He was dead.

*From our Elder cont...*

Jesus's disciples had lost their leader and friend. They witnessed his humiliation, his torture and his agonizing death. They feared for their own lives. They were in need of some hope. So when Jesus came to his disciples, he came to them through a locked door saying "peace be with you" (John 20:19). He showed them his wounds. They witnessed his life after death with their own eyes. They were given hope in the clearest form.

In the 40 days after Jesus's resurrection before he ascended into heaven, he visited more than 500 people. The miracle of the resurrection was personally witnessed by many people. They gave details that prove that Jesus was not a ghost or an apparition, he appeared in the flesh. Why is this important? The message of hope that Jesus gives to each of us, starts on the cross. It continues into the tomb and culminates in his resurrection. The message of hope for each of us is rooted in the belief that Jesus died for us and then overcame death. It is crucial that we BELIEVE in the resurrection. We must believe but we have proof... proof in the New Testament, in the books of Matthew, Mark Luke and John. God has given us everything we need to accept the gift of eternal life. He has shown his faithfulness and patience with us, giving us proof beyond doubt. God sent us Jesus to give us hope for eternity, to give us hope for a time of new birth, God gave us the promise of an eternal spring time after the dreary, often depressing time on earth.

None of us truly know what to expect in heaven. There are some descriptions found in the bible but most of the biblical description just leaves us with more questions. Heaven is a place where there will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more sorrow (Revelation 21:4). That sounds amazing.

But where will I live? In John 14 we are told "In my Father's house there are many rooms." But it doesn't specifically give us details that answer our questions. God doesn't want us to worry or to focus on our lives as we live on earth. He is a patient father telling us that heaven will be better than our wildest imagination. Romans 8:18 sums up this "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." HOPE. Hope for the future without details to allow us to worry. Just hope for a glorious future.

So in this time of confusing weather, when the world is trying to come back to life, let us focus on the cross. But more importantly, let us be patient and focus on the tomb. Focus on the days that came after the cross. Let us focus on the message that Jesus delivered to each person that he visited after his resurrection. Let us focus on our savior that suffered and died for us and then spent 40 days on earth proving that he suffered and died for us. Let us focus on the hope that we are promised. And knowing that we will never be worthy, let us spend every day living in a way that shows our appreciation for this hope. Let us walk with Jesus and thank him daily for his love for us. Let us accept the hope that he offers and look forward to our time in eternity.

## “From the Office”

Happy Easter!! I will be out of the Office until Monday April 8th. There are many things going on at our church in April, especially Shad Fest. There are sign-up sheets in the downstairs hallway to participate in Shad Fest, and it is a busy weekend for sure, but very rewarding!



Please continue to send in your information for the Newsletters by the 20th of each month.

Thank you,  
Sue

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## Church News:



Communion will be on Sunday April 14th and Pastor Peter Gregory will be here. Care & Share will also be on Communion Sunday as well.

On Sunday April 7th there is a Hymn Sing at Mt. Airy Presbyterian, 7:00 pm. All are welcome! Refreshments to follow.

The Riverside Symphonia is in our Sanctuary on Friday April 12th, and Saturday April 13th. The concert is the 13th at 8:00 pm.

The Chamber of Commerce will be using the Gym from Thursday April 18th until Sunday April 21st, for their Poster Auction.

Shad Fest is Saturday and Sunday April 20 & 21 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

Our church service here at First Pres. on Sunday April 21st is at 9:00 am, and there is no Sunday School.

The Handbell Choir will be playing on Sunday April 21st outside in front of the church during Shad Fest.

## Ministry and Outreach:

### News From Your Missions Team~

Please see the Bulletin Board in the back of the Sanctuary.

#### Your Missions Team:

**Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Konni Sandford, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella**

### From Our Deacons~

We continue to be there when help is needed with community outreach activities. We assisted in the soup sale with donating money and selling.

The last meeting we said goodbye to Gail Armitage and welcomed Dana Garrenger. Thank you for your years of service, Gail.

Coming up we have lots to do with the Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. Also, Shad Fest is right around the corner.

Thank you to all who help!

Your Deacons,

**Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher,  
Dana Garrenger, 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...



# EASTER

How many different words can you make using these letters?

\_\_\_\_\_

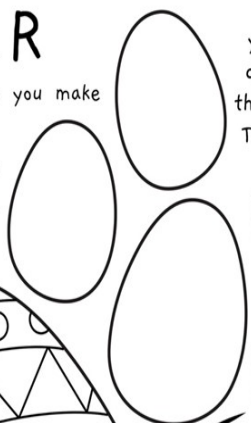
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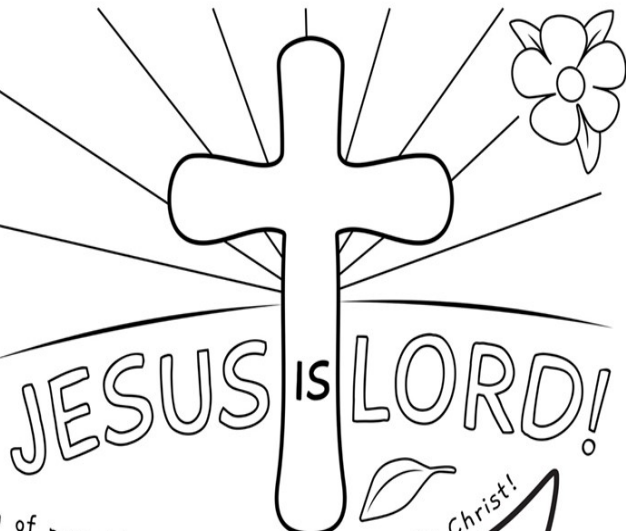
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Make your own design on these eggs. Then color them!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Eggs are a sign of new life, just like our new life in Christ!



**JESUS IS LORD!**



**HAPPY EASTER!**

You can have new life too! Use the alphabet code and your Bible to solve the puzzle and find out how.

Can you find 9 other symbols of new life on this page? Circle each one, then color them!

Use the grid to draw the other side!

"IF YOU C \_\_\_\_\_ WITH YOUR

3 15 14 6 5 19 19

MOUTH THAT \_\_\_\_\_ IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN

10 5 19 21 19

YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE

8 5 1 18 20

DEAD, YOU WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_."

19 1 22 5 4

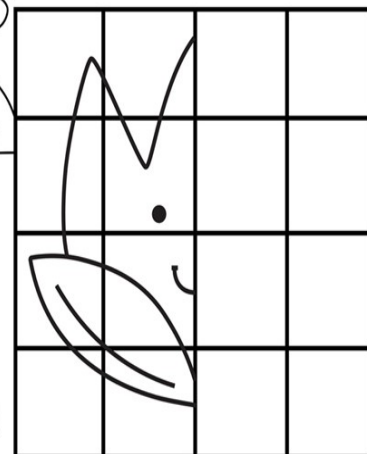
ROMANS 10:9, ESV

He is not here, for...



**HE IS RISEN!**

Matthew 28:6



## **April Assisting Schedules:**

### **Elder Schedule**

April 7- Karen Thatcher

April 14- **Communion**/Joanne DiBlasi

April 21- Pat Durborow

April 28- Phil McCloughan

### **Deacon Schedule**

April 7- Heidi Danberry

April 14-**Communion**/\*LaNelle Gallagher (**Stair Glide**), Dana Garrenger

April 21- Jen Chernoski

April 28- Jen Chernoski

### **Greeting Schedule**

April 7- Connie Fisher

April 14- Donna Zambella

April 21- Carol Griffiths

April 28- Joan Yannarella

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

**Schedules are subject to change**

**Thank you!**

Session Minutes  
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville  
Westminster House and Zoom  
February 19, 2024 6:30 PM

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Don Pidcock	Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow
Karen Thatcher	Heather McIntyre	Phil McCloughan

Rev. Brad Morgan, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

**Present:** Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre,  
Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Rev. Brad Morgan

**Excused:** None

**Guest:** Tim Stevens from Morgan Stanley

**Welcome:** Reverend Morgan, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the  
February 19, 2024 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

**6:30 PM Tim Stevens-Morgan Stanley**

Tim Stevens spoke regarding the church's annual investment review, and that our portfolio is going strong. A copy of the Custom Report was distributed to the Session Members. Tim was available for questions. He has been handling our account for the past 12 years. A copy of the Morgan Stanley Report is on file in the Church Office. Tim was finished with the presentation at 6:55 pm.

**7:00 PM-Devotion, Don Pidcock**

**Encouragement from God: Psalm 91-** *God's Security, Philippians 4:13-* *I can do all things through Jesus Christ which strengthens me. Isaiah 40:29-* *He gives me strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

**Isaiah 40:31-** *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint. Isaiah 41:10-* *Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**Joshua 1:9-** *Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. 1 Peter 5:7* *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

**Psalm 118:6** *The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. John 14:27* *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

We are all in God's hands. We'll do the right things. Don closed the Devotion in prayer.

**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

He let us know that this is his last month that he will be our Moderator. Brad is moving out of the area, and the Session thanked him for the time that he has been our Moderator for the Business Meetings as well as the Annual Meetings. He will moderate the Annual Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, this will be his last time with us. Mike Atzert our COM and Jeanne Radak from the Highlands Presbytery will be here to moderate the March meeting as well as talk with us to discuss the next steps in finding a pastor. Brad talked to the men and asked Don to reach out to Steve Nash at Titusville Pres. to talk to him about starting up a Men's Breakfast Meeting. Brad's last Sunday at Mt. Airy Pres. is March 10<sup>th</sup>. Mike and Jeanne will find us another moderator for next month's meeting and beyond.

**Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box** - Susan McCloughan

**Review of Minutes:** A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from January 15, 2024. All were in favor. The 2023 Church Statistical Report was emailed out to Session on 2/1/24. A **motion** was called to approve the 2023 Church Statistical Report, all were in favor. Report sent to the Presbytery on 2/9/24. A copy will be put into the minutes.

**Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence-** We have received letters and donations from the Lambertville Elks thanking us for the use of our gym in November for their Hoop Shoot, and from John & Mary Potter thanking us for holding the Ash Wednesday service on 2/14 at our church. A letter will be sent to John & Mary thanking them for their donation. Sue will call the Lambertville Chamber of Commerce to get an updated COI for the Shad Fest in April.

**Calendar Highlights from March-May 2024**

Communion is scheduled for 3/3, 4/14 and possibly 5/5 with Peter Gregory. Pastor Bob Louer is coming to give the sermon on 2/25. The Handbell Choir is starting rehearsals on February 29<sup>th</sup>. See the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays. LPS is continuing with the use of our gym. The last Soup Sale is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Maundy Service is scheduled for 3/28 at Mt. Airy, and 3/29 Good Friday service at Titusville, both services are at 7:00 pm. Sue will reach out to the Deacons regarding the Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt for the children. Riverside Symphonia will be using our Sanctuary 4/12 and 13. We will be having a short and maybe an outdoor Sunday Worship Service here at 9:00 am on 4/21-Shad Fest weekend. The COC will be in the Gym 4/19-4/21 for their Poster Auction. On Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the National Day of Prayer. Sue will order a poster and bookmarks for the day, and our Sanctuary will be open for prayer. Pat will get carnations for the women on Mother's Day. Pastor Gregory will be here on Sunday 5/26 to commemorate Memorial Day. Sue will reach out to Mr. Stephens from SHR to see if some of the Marching Band would be able to play for us during the time out at the flagpole. I will send out an email regarding the Accompanist List for April, May and June. Nothing from Fred Kenney about having him come back to our church to perform "Pastor Pete", he may have moved out of our area.

**Book of Registry-** Longtime members John (Jack) Allshouse passed away in April, and Jim Buchanan in December 2023.

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

**Insurance Review/Morgan Stanley-** Karen reiterated that we've received our Workman's Comp., and the policy was talked about earlier. The rates for the policy may come down. More to come. Heather spoke with Tim Stevens about our investments with Morgan Stanley. He will most likely come to speak with Session in the new year.

**Young Adult Time-** Joanne spoke and let us know that this is continuing, and when the young adults are in church a message will be given.

**Care & Share-** Joanne let Session know that this past Communion Sunday, Dawn and Anthony Martini are leading this ministry, and there was a "big spread." The Martini's will continue hosting C&S.

**Soup Sale and other Fund Raisers-** There is normally a big sign out in front of the church for the soup sale, but not this week due to the bad weather that is forecasted, a sign will be put on the fence instead. The soup sale from Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, raised \$788.00.

**Accompanist/Music Director-** George Warner will be playing for us in the upcoming weeks, Karen also texted Lucia Lee to see if she can play for us. For the upcoming Communion/Boy Scout Sunday on 2/4 Kris Gregory will tell a story before the Praise Band sings. Our resume for the Accompanist/Music Director is still active on "Call Finders" the Presbytery Website.

**Nominating Committee 2024-** This past year of 2023 Nominating Committee are: Carol Griffiths, Danielle Griffiths, and Heather Pursell. The Elder Representative is Karen Thatcher and the Deacon Representative is Gail Armitage. We will need 3 people for the Nominating Committee for 2024. For Elder, both Karen and Don are returning. For Deacon, Jen and LaNelle are returning, and we will need one more Deacon to fill the spot that is being vacated, which is being worked on at this time. Karen talked about having adults who have been attending church on a regular basis and who are not members to see if they would be interested in joining. Sue will put something in the bulletin on who would like to join our church. Pastor Brad would be willing to do a new member class. More information to follow.

**Pastoral Search-** Phil asked to see a job description of when Peter was here. Sue will send that out to Session as soon as possible. It was decided to empower Session to start the Pastoral Search, then send an email to Brad and Mike from the COM, a compiled job description.

**Building and Grounds** – Pat Durborow/Phil McCloughan/Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

The **new technology** for the Livestream has been bought and a date has been picked in later January for the equipment to be installed.

**Martinez Landscaping-** Will be maintaining the church property for snow removal.

**Church Roof-** This is ongoing, and Phil suggested that the companies that we should contact are: Eisman, Rainmaker and Kanga. It was also discussed that we should use the company that suggested using scaffolding on the side of the church. At the next Business meeting it was suggested that it's decided which company will be fixing the roof. Fixing the gutters will be done at this time. It was also mentioned that we should see about a grant to fix the roof. Session would be contacting someone soon regarding this.

**Skating and Friday Night Hang** – Pat talks about skating and there are no issues at this time. Friday Night Hang is not being held this season, but it's suggested by Session to talk FNH up during skating with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and for them to stay after for FNH in the future.

**Hallway in Church/Bathrooms-** Joanne talked about the hallway and that it will be taken care of shortly. Also, the bathrooms are being addressed. The front doors of the church are working well.

**Heating in the Church/Westminster House-** Phil has been working with Garden State Heating, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> heater is up and running in the church. When the heating season is over, the heaters in Westminster House, and the church nursery will be checked. This is to make sure that they are not interfering with the SDG alarm.

**Budget and Finance** – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out and was discussed, from 1/1-2/19/24, and we are under in our Plate by \$780.34 and Heather reviewed this with Session. The Workman's Comp. Audit has been done.

**Lowell Hunter Estate-** No updates at this time.

**Boy Scouts-** No updates at this time.

**Usage of the Gym for LPS during the 2023-2024 School Year-**They haven't paid as of yet. This is due to the fact that they didn't receive the Facility Use Form back signed. Heather signed the form and sent it back to Jim Troutman. Sue will check to see if the form was sent back in September when the request was received.

**AED Equipment-** Erin Durborow was asked to check the AED out and get back to Heather to see if it is working properly.

**Per Capita 2024-**This was discussed and before we send the Presbytery any funds, we need to know where they stand on a few issues. Until this is clarified, our church will still use the money that we would send to the Presbytery for the per capita, for our missions. Also, we will not look to the Presbytery for grants for our church improvements, since we don't know if we are sending in the per capita. The Per Capita will be visited again at the next business meeting.

**Sunday School/Junior Deacons** – Joanne DiBlasi

**Sunday School-** Is still continuing.

**Junior Deacons-** When we have the young people in church, they have been participating in the service.

**Missions** – Joanne DiBlasi

The next meeting for the Missions Team is in March. Missions giving had gone well in 2023.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** Was on Sunday February 4, 2024 and performed by Pastor Peter Gregory.

**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.

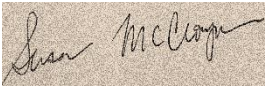
**Prayer Meetings-** Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending,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

**Session Devotion Rotation-** The devotion for the March meeting is Karen Thatcher, and April is Joanne DiBlasi.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan  
Clerk of Session