

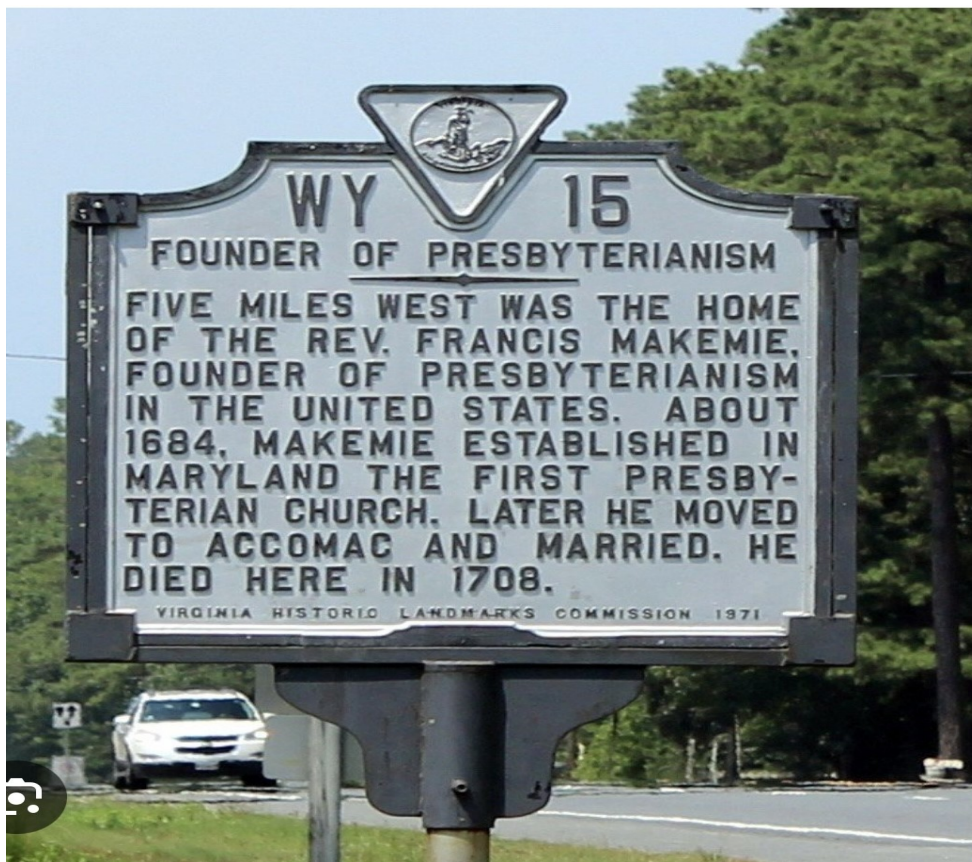


**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
First Presbyterian Church**

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

From Our Elder ~ Phil McCloughan

While Driving to Williamsburg Virginia we passed this roadside marker for Rev. Francis Makemie, who is credited for starting the Presbyterian Church in The New World:



**1683 - Father of American Presbyterianism
Rev. Francis Makemie**

The man known as the 'Father of American Presbyterianism' was born near Ramelton, County Donegal, around 1658. He studied at Glasgow University, where Ulster Presbyterian students were known as 'Scoto-Hibernicus' or Scotch-Irish. He was licensed by the Laggan Presbytery and ordained for work in America in 1683. Soon afterwards, he began a pioneering ministry that would last until his death in 1708.

From Our Elder ~ Phil McCloughan

While Driving to Williamsburg Virginia continued.....

Ministry

Makemie traveled widely in the course of his ministry, preaching in many places along the eastern seaboard of America as well as in the West Indies. He was the pastor of Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Maryland, which has been described as the birthplace of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. In 1706, Makemie was instrumental in organizing the first presbytery in America, which met in Philadelphia. The marker was an unexpected surprise to see. As we were traveling on vacation towards Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg. To learn more about the History and Founding of this country.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

“So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.”

God has given us food, drink, a place to lay our heads, the ability to enjoy the fruit of our labor, and people in our lives who provide good company. So often, we overlook these things that we are blessed with daily from the very hand of God. We take them for granted, forgetting that not everyone in the world enjoys these basic privileges.

There is the enjoyment that comes from cultivating our relationship with God, the enjoyment of the little things in life that He gives us daily, and then there are the many other blessings that God can bestow on us as well.

It is important to know where you come from. Sometimes to help you understand how to move forward. Bring the Lord into your life and you will find the Lord is always with you.

Romans 15:4:

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance taught in the Scriptures and encouragement they provide we might have hope."

“From the Office”

Thank you to all who have contributed to the monthly Newsletters. Your input is greatly appreciated! April is a busy month here at the church. We have Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter and Shad Fest coming up. We have many ways that our congregation can help, so please take a look at the sign-up sheets in the downstairs hallway. Happy Easter and many blessings to you and your families!!
Sue



Church News:



Communion and the Fifth Sunday in Lent is April 6th. We will worshipping at Mt. Airy at 10:00 am.
The Ladies Bible Study is continuing on Wednesdays, 2:00 pm in the Church Library.
The Spanish Ministry will be meeting on Sundays at 3:00 pm.

The Timeline is up and running. Please stop down by the Adult Sunday School Room and check it out!

The Easter Flower Form is on the next page. Please give your form and payment to either Gail Armitage or Donna Zambella by Sunday April 13th, if you are interested in ordering. Thank you.

Palm Sunday is April 13th, and Worship is at 10:00 am.
Maundy Thursday is April 17th, and the Service is 7:00 pm at Kirkpatrick in Ringoes.
The Good Friday Service is April 18th, 7:00 pm at Titusville Presbyterian.

Easter Sunday here at First Presbyterian: 9:00 am is the Deacon Easter Sponsored Breakfast, starting at 9:00 am. An egg hunt will be following for the children . The Worship Service is at 10:30 am (Please note the change in time.)

Shad Fest– The Chamber of Commerce will be in the gym starting Friday April 25th. The Festival is on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 am-5:00 pm Rain or Shine!

Shad Fest Sunday– There is No Sunday School, and Worship is at 9:00 am. Please see the sign up sheets in the downstairs hallway, if you can help!!

2025 Easter Memorial Flowers Information

Your name: _____

Phone number: _____

Easter Lily \$9.00 Number: _____

Hyacinths \$8.00 Number: _____

Tulips \$8.00 Number: _____

In memory of (please print)

Deadline for ordering Easter flowers: April 13th (Palm Sunday)

Please fill out form and give it to either Gail Armitage
or Donna Zambella.

Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church and indicate “flowers” on the memo line. We must receive payment (check or cash) at the time you place your order. Thank you!

The flowers may be taken home after our Easter Sunday worship
on April 20th.

Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

OUR SOUP SALES WERE A BIG SUCCESS!

On Sat., November 8th, we will be going to Sight & Sound Theater to see “NOAH.” 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 \$2,542.00 selling soup! As a result, this has enabled us to offer a full day of “fun & fellowship” for the cost of \$125.00 per person.

Proceeds from the soup sales will also go toward the Dominican Republic mission trip scheduled for this Fall. Some of our 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, Pat Durborow, Grace Reading and their kitchen crew for providing a delicious variety of soups to sell each week. Also, many thanks to those who helped out with packaging and labeling the soup containers. Special thanks to those who showed up on Saturdays to sell the soups – we had many 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 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!

Your Missions Team:

Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella

Deacon’s Corner.....

Hi Everyone!

As we go into the Easter season, there is a lot coming up. There is a sign-up sheet in the downstairs hallway for the Easter Breakfast if you would like to bring a casserole. The Shad Fest is the weekend of April 26 & 27, if you can help, there are many opportunities, and those sign-up sheets can be found on the downstairs hallway bulletin board. If you need us, your Deacons are always here for you, and especially for prayer.

Gail, Jen, Heidi, Dana and Stephen.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Matthew 25:35 NIV

April Birthdays

2 Becky Hopkins

4 Kendra Thatcher

7 Dan Serlenga

9 Julia Stratuik

9 Donna Zambella

11 Jason Shurts

14 Elise Stratuik

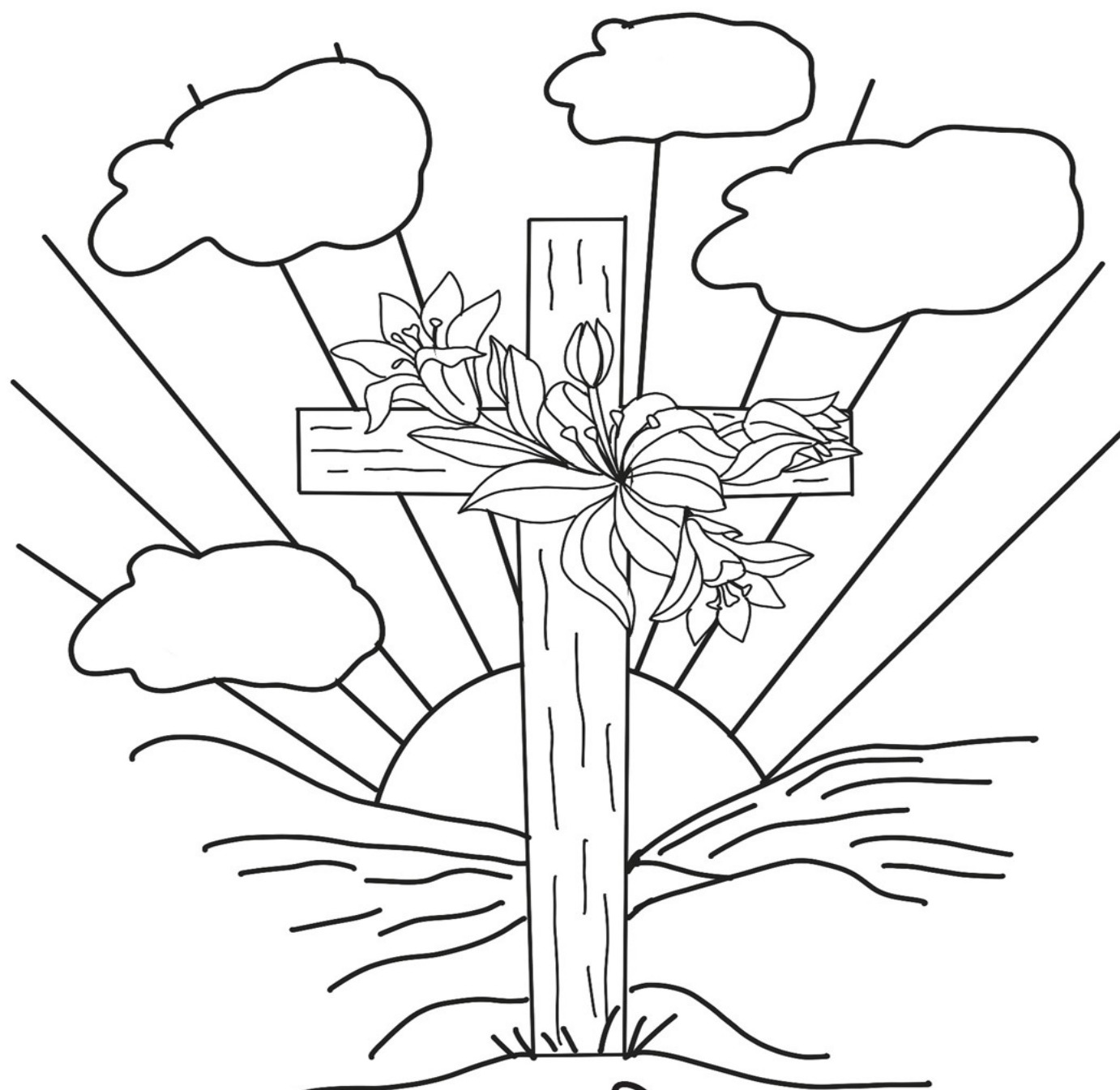
15 Carol Shurts

28 Suzanne Zambella

28 Richard Coleman



Just for Kids.....



He is Risen

April Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

4/6- Communion Sunday @ Mt. Airy.

4/13- Karen Thatcher

4/20- Russ Topping

4/27- Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

4/6- Communion Sunday @ Mt. Airy.

4/13- Stephen McCloughan

4/20- LaNelle Gallagher

4/27- Jen Chernoski

Greeting Schedule

4/6- Communion Sunday @ Mt. Airy.

4/13- Connie Fisher

4/20- Donna Zambella

4/27- 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
February 24, 2025 3:00 pm

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow	Don Pidcock
Heather McIntyre	Phil McCloughan	Karen Thatcher
Rev. Jeanne Radak, Moderator		Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre
Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Rev. Jeanne Radak

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Radak, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the
February 24, 2025 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

3:15 PM-Devotion, Pastor Radak

The Devotion is from *Luke 10:1-12*. This was read at the Discernment Meeting earlier from
“Dwelling in the Word.”

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed, shared praises and concerns, and blessings to all.

Moderator Time - Pastor Jeanne Radak
This was done during the devotion.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from December 16, 2025. All were in favor.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- Friendsgiving was postponed due to the weather, and will be rescheduled sometime this spring. The Facility Use Agreement was received from the Chamber of Commerce for renting the Gym and Kitchen for the Shad Fest April 26 & 27. A **motion** was called to approve the request from the COC. The **motion** was approved. Sue will get back to Amy at COC to let her know their request was approved. Yearly, our Highlands Presbytery requests that a “Necrology Report” be done for our Elders. None have passed away in 2024, and this information was emailed to the presbytery on 1/16/25. A letter was received from Pastor Stephanie Templin-Ashford from Thompson Memorial regarding the use of our Kitchen and Gym for the weekly luncheon that was previously done at Centenary Methodist in Lambertville. Sue was asked to reach out to Pastor Stephanie to see when she can come to a business meeting to discuss this. The Tyndale monthly publication is going digital as of January 2025. If there is a charge for this, we will no longer be getting the publication, but if there is no charge we will be. Sue will call to find this information out. Heather sent a 50% deposit to Martinez Landscaping regarding fixing the outside rock wall. This will most likely this will be done in the spring. More information to come. Our Worker’s Comp. Policy was received for 2025-2026, and is on file in the Church Office. A **motion** was called to approve the 2024 Church Statistical Report. The **motion** was approved, and the report was sent to the Highlands Presbytery. Heather mentioned that the yearly Audit from Franklin Mutual Insurance has been completed. Karen asked that Sue send a message to the congregation to see who can help from 9 am-1 pm at upcoming Soup Sale on 3/1.

Discernment Process- The Session is continuing to review the “Turn the Page” documents that were handed out previously in looking for a new Pastor. The first meeting was done earlier today with Jeanne as our Facilitator. Those in attendance went through “Retreat #1 Gathering the Stories.” One of the outcomes of this meeting was to see where God is calling us now as a church? Retreat 2 will be scheduled in the near future, and Retreats 3 & 4 will follow. If the congregation has a question regarding the Discernment Process, please reach out to a Session Member or Sue.

Pastor Search Committee- Jeanne suggested that we get together with Mt. Airy to come up with a position description together. What does the pastor do with each church? How would a pastor share their time with each church? Pension and benefits can be less when sharing a pastor. Sue was asked to reach out to Jack Williamson Mt. Airy’s Clerk of Session to see when both Sessions can sit down together and talk about this. Jeanne also talked about how Elders can take classes to be put on the Pulpit Supply List. The class would include: Polity, Worship, and Pastoral Care. Elders would take an Internship after the classes, then would be Commissioned. Interested Elders should contact Steve Shussett the Stated Clerk for our Presbytery.

Calendar Highlights from February-April 2025

Communion is scheduled on 2/2 and 4/6 at Mt. Airy, and 3/2 here at First Pres.

The information will be continuing in the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. Bell Choir Rehearsal resumes on 2/27. The Session Prayer Meetings will take place on 2/3, 3/3, and 4/7. The Spanish Ministry will be continuing to meet at our church on Sundays at 3:00 pm. The last day for Roller Skating is 3/14/25. The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday February 23rd after the worship service, with Installation Sunday on 3/5/25. There is a Soup Sale on Saturday March 1st. There is a Shrove Pancake Supper at Stockton Pres. on Tuesday March 4th. Ash Wednesday is on March 5th, and there is a service at Reaville Church in Ringoes-7:00 pm. The First Sunday in Lent is March 9th. The Session Business Meeting was moved from 3/17 to 3/10. Riverside Symphonia is in the Sanctuary on 4/4 & 4/5. The Concert is April 5th. Palm Sunday and Easter Services are here at First Pres. of Lambertville, and Maundy Thursday is at Kirkpatrick and Good Friday in Titusville, both services are at 7:00 pm. Shad Fest is April 26 & 27. The COC will be in the Gym starting 4/25. There will be 9:00 am Worship w/ no Sunday School on 4/27.

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

Insurance Review- We have insurance through Franklin Mutual, which is administrated by the Duryea Agency.

Young Adult Time- A message is given when the young adults are in church during the worship service.

Accompanist/Music Director- We will continue looking to fill the position. Our Accompanist Schedule is filled through the end of April.

Spanish Ministry- Joanne spoke about the Spanish Ministry, and they are meeting here on Sundays at 3:00 pm.

There will be a pastor coming to speak to the ministry from Cuba. Jeanne brought up that they will need to have Liability Insurance. And that our church First Presbyterian of Lambertville will need to be listed as the additional Insured. This will be looked into.

Joint Communion Services- This was discussed earlier in the Calendar section.

July Joint Service at Holcombe-Jimison- The committee will be getting together in March/April 2025 to discuss the service. In 2024 Russ Topping did the sermon. Karen and Phil will reach out to Stockton Pres. to see if their pastor would like to do the sermon this year. Phil mentioned that he would be available to give the sermon also.

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

The **new technology** for the Livestream- Stephen McCloughan spoke at the Annual Meeting yesterday. He explained that the Wi-Fi works better for Facebook than YouTube, so at this time he will be Livestreaming the Sunday Service on Facebook. Comcast is going to get in touch with us to see when they can come to set up a new landline phone and other services, they have sent us a cell phone with the new plan. Heather will reach out to them to see when this will happen, and Sue will contact Comcast if necessary.

Church Organ- It will need regular tunings, but we will wait until next year for any major overhauls. Debbie the Church Treasurer will need to be contacted as well so she is included in anything major that needs to be done.

Church Roof- Is done, and all are happy with the outcome.

Skating- Resumed on January 3, 2025, and will conclude on March 14th for the season. There have been more youth attending.

Martinez Landscaping- They are continuing to service our yards, as well as take care of our sidewalks when it snows or is icy. Martinez will be fixing the stone wall in the spring.

Hallway in Church/Bathrooms/Front Door Issues- Hallway and front doors, will be taken care of in the spring. Joanne mentioned that the bathrooms need to be ventilated. Also, the pipes in the Church Kitchen where the gas stove is, are freezing. Don, Phil and Addie will be moving the stove to see where the pipes are. Jay Huff the local plumber will be called to help assist with this issue. More to follow on this.

Church Heaters/Monthly Fire Inspections- The heaters seem to be working in the Church proper, but the heater in Westminster House goes off from time to time. Garden State will be called to see if they can find out why this happens. Don has been doing the monthly checks on the smoke detectors and Exit Signs. Two smoke detectors had to be changed.

Friends of Israel Conference- This will be held on Saturday March 15th in Readington, NJ to talk about the Middle East. Don, Phil and Jim Gallagher will be attending.

Pastor Search Committee- Sue was asked to send the resume for the pastor to Princeton Seminary once Session was able to look it over and ok it. The resume was sent to Princeton on 2/13/25. Sue is waiting for a response and will let the Session know when this happens.

Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery- Phil attended the Zoom meeting in November, and he will be Zooming into the upcoming meeting on March 11, 2025.

Church Safe- This holds the church's historical documents. Heather will look into getting the combination for the safe.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

The Year-to-Date Summary from 1/1-2/24/25, and that our plate giving is over \$158.48. This was reviewed by Heather to Session.

Lowell Hunter Estate- No updates at this time.

Boy Scouts- No updates on the state of NJ lawsuits. Don is our Point of Contact for the Boy Scouts.

2025 Per Capita- It's in the budget and the money for the per capita goes to our Missions. Jeanne said that the General Assembly is working on a new per capita funding model. They have been working on this for some time.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School is ongoing, and more teachers will be needed for next year. Jr. Deacons, are being used to help during the Worship Service when they attend church.

Missions – Joanne DiBlasi

Missions will be meeting in March.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on February 2, 2025 at Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church.

Sight & Sound- The trip to Lancaster, PA., will be on 11/8/2025, and the show is "Noah." Karen has gotten 50 tickets, and there is a sign-up sheet in the church hallway. The Buffet is at Bird & Hand and the bus are included in the price. LaNelle asked that the monies be paid for the trip in March.

Lambertville Chamber of Commerce- Sue is in the process of getting information from the Lambertville COC regarding membership.

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 6 o'clock hour.

Session Moderator- Thank you to Jeanne Radak our Presbytery Leader for leading us during this month and possibly in March as well.

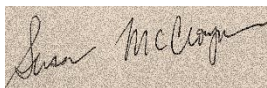
Session Members- A special thank you was given to Joanne and Heather for their service on session.

Session Devotion Rotation- March is Don Pidcock, April is Karen Thatcher, and May is Russ Topping.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature appears to read "Susan McCloughan".

Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session