

**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,

As we enter this time of Advent, preparing to celebrate God's coming to us in Jesus, born in a humble stable, many of us are feeling weary and under pressure from dealing with Covid-19 month after month. Like those tired travelers, Mary and Joseph, we're looking for some peace and rest.

We don't know how our future will unfold, but we do know the One who does, and who holds us in his hands. So let us draw near in this season to Jesus who came to earth to draw near to us, becoming one of us.

My prayer is that the Lord gives us endurance and hope to walk together in unity day by day, step by step. Our risen Jesus, who's already endured every human trial, is able to sympathize with us and help us in our weakness.

And we know that

endurance produces character,  
and character produces hope,  
and hope does not disappoint us,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit  
that has been given to us. (Romans 5:4-5)

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas,

Pastor Dan

## “From the Office”

The Handbell choir thanks the congregation for their support! We are looking forward to playing during the Christmas season. My office hours are from Tuesday-Friday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please leave me a message, if I am not in. I will be out of the office from Wednesday December 24th until Monday January 4th. There is no Newsletter for the month of January due to the Annual Report. Please send in your submissions to the church office during the week of January 11th. If you have any questions regarding the 2020 Annual Report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Sue



## Church News:

**Women's Bible Study~ Will be meeting on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in the church building. Please remember to wear your mask.**

**Due to the Coronavirus, Skating and Friday Night Hang are cancelled for this season.**

**The Lambertville Basketball League is not meeting at this time, but they may be meeting in smaller groups in the near future, in the Church Gym.**

**Our Christmas Eve Service is on Thursday December 24th at 4:00 pm. This will also include the Candlelight Service.**

*It's Time to Order Your Memorial Poinsettias*

Deadline for ordering the poinsettias will be Sunday December 13th. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$9.00 each. Please fill out this form and give it to Donna Zambella or Gail Armitage. Payment is due at the time of your order. Thank you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: (Please Print)



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church and put "flowers" in the memo section.

Number of poinsettias you are ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of check/cash: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please Note: The poinsettias may be taken home after the 10:30 am service on Sunday December 27th.*

## *Ministry and Outreach:*

**News from your Missions Team~** Don't forget to check out our bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary!

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

**A Note from your Deacons-** Your Deacons have been busy, despite "Covid." God is faithful and directing our paths, hopefully what we do is pleasing to him. Carryover activities include: Trenton Mission clothing drive, all the donations filled their large truck. College Students (7), they will receive gift cards. Senior visits-poinsettia plants will be delivered by the Deacons. Other activities include: Setting up the Nativity, the Christmas Eve 4:00 pm service (there might be some changes), end of the year donations to various donations, and a mini pantry, made by Phil. One dedicated to Pastor Peter, and the other, outside to church which will be stocked by the Deacons.

As always, our #1 job is to pray-wherever it is needed. We value your input and ask for your prayers as well.

**Your Deacons: Gail Armitage, Debbie Crow, Jessica Cummings, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.**



## The Home Front

Christmas in Lambertville of course has changed over the years. It was common in postcolonial America to light torches and place them outside homes starting on Advent to light the way of the Christ Child. At the time of the churches founding in 1816 it would have been common for church folks to gather every Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday to sing hymns from the Psalms. Piano or organ music would have been considered too extreme for the very conservative Scott Presbyterians of the day.

During times of war in the church's history Civil War, WW1, 2 Korea, Vietnam it would have been common for the church to collect cards, presents and other items of home and send them to their loved ones overseas. During the Civil war many church members served in either the 110<sup>th</sup> Pa Volunteers or 15<sup>th</sup> NJ Rifles the local regiments raised in the area and mail would have taken about 3 weeks to get from the church to the battlefields of Virginia. During WW1 and 2 due to censorship and priority for the war supplies, Christmas mail would have taken up to 4 months to get overseas. It was common in the day that one would do their holiday shopping in June or July to get it over in time.

The point being in the over 200 year history of the church we have had a rich tradition in the care and feeding of the troops and their spiritual needs going back to almost the War of 1812. Today we see the same care and thought given to the yearly Operation Christmas Child boxes and the annual card and letter campaigns I would organize when Pastor for those in Iraq and Afghanistan. We always remember and do not forget. This Christmas time may we all take a few moments to remember in prayer and thoughts those far from home, far away, those who sail into Harm's Way for your liberty and freedom. It was President Truman who said during Korea that the freedom of religion is not bought or paid for by Preachers or theologians, but the blood and sacrifice of those serving on the front lines of freedom.

God Bless America and god bless you all.

Pete Gregory HR

CDR USN (ret)

**Thank You...**

**By Donald Pidcock**

Pictures of the many 50th anniversary cards and flower arrangement we received from our church family. Thank You So Much for making it a very special time. God Bless.

Desre and Cooie



### **A Message About Roller Skating and Friday Night Hang...**

Due to the increasing amount of Covid cases and parental concerns that we have received, we are sorry to inform you that Roller Skating and Teen Hang will be canceled for the remaining 2020 year. As we closely monitor the Covid status, we will be reacting accordingly and will inform all involved, praying that 2021 will allow us to resume our normal schedule. Again, thank your for your understanding and may God Bless you during this time.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

Thank you church family and friends, on Sunday Nov. 22 I will be delivering 31 completed shoe boxes to the drop-off location in Warrington. What a blessing you are every year to help Samaritans Purse spread the joy and gospel around the world.

Food for thought:

\* Isaiah 5:20....Woe to those who call evil good,  
and good evil;  
Who put darkness for light,  
and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

May we keep our eyes on the faithfulness and righteousness of our Mighty God no matter what turmoil surrounds us.

Blessings,  
Joanne DiBlasi

**December Birthdays**

**2 Brent Pursell**

**4 Carol Griffiths**

**5 Megan McIntyre**

**14 Esther Johnson**

**14 Brittany Shurts**

**18 Sandra Parker**

**23 Dan Fisher**

**23 Chuck Robertson**

**27 Heidi Danberry**

**27 Levi Stratuik**

**30 Caitlin Stratuik**

**January Birthdays**

**2 Matthew Moraski**

**4 Scott Cummings**

**7 Andrew Zambella**

**8 Grace Hendricks**

**11 Sarah McIntyre**

**12 JoAnn Serlenga**

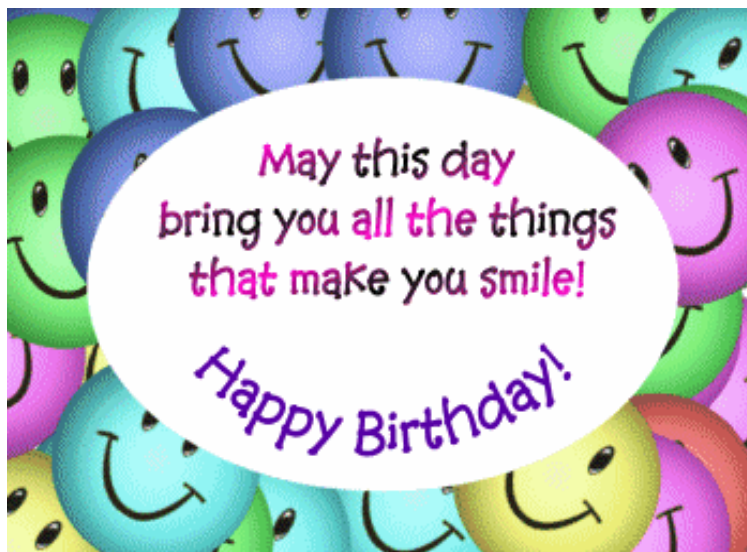
**14 Dana Garrenger**

**20 Alison Dudick**

**25 Alan Durborow, Jr.**

**26 LaNelle Gallagher**

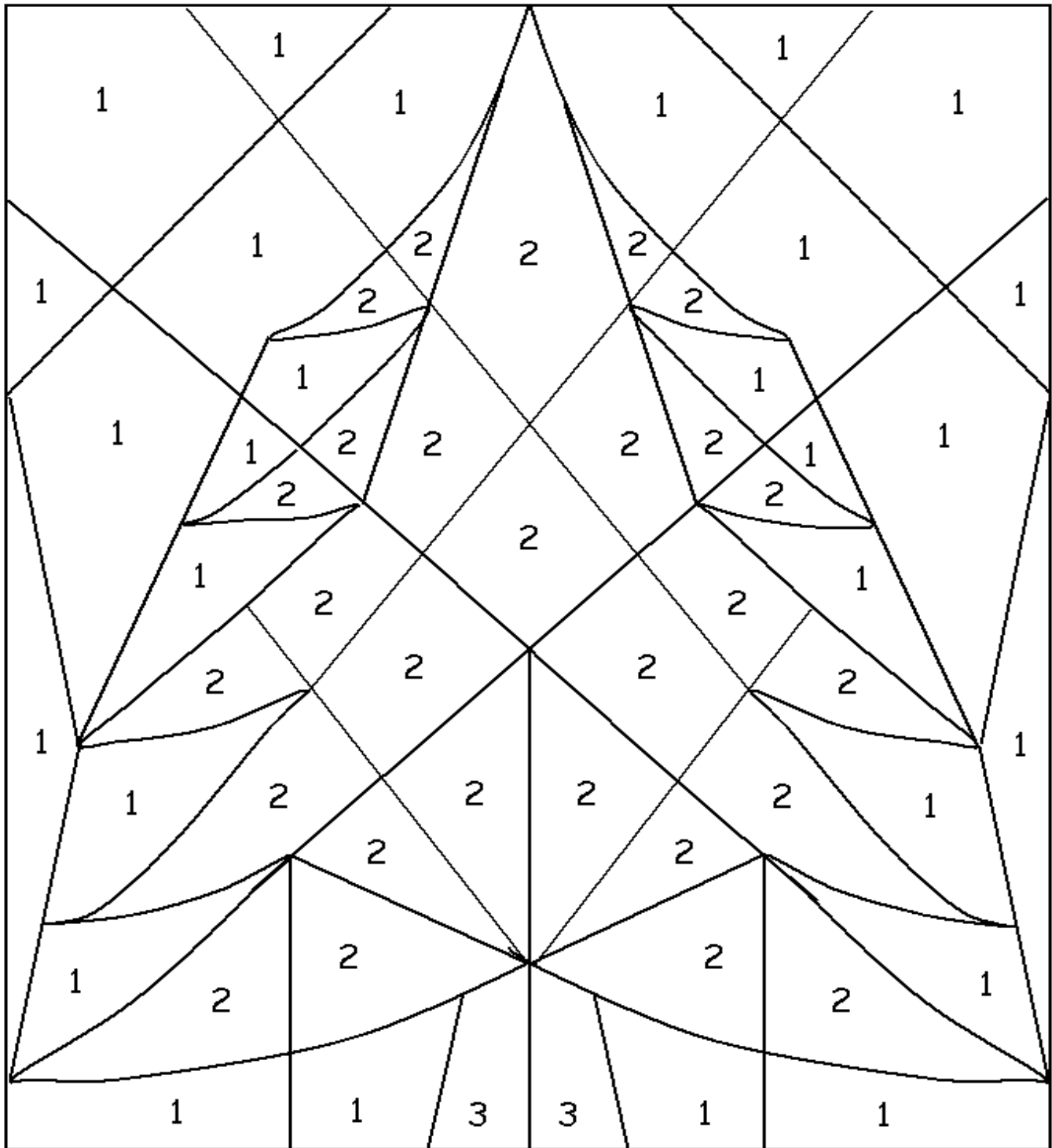
**30 Erin Durborow**





Just for Kids.....

Color by Number



1 = blue

2 = green

3 = brown

## **December Assisting Schedule:**

### **Elder Schedule**

December 6- **Communion**/Russ Topping

December 13- Joanne DiBlasi

December 20- Mark Dudick

December 27- Pat Durborow

### **Deacon Schedule**

December 6- **Communion**/\*Debbie Crow (Stair Glide), Heather Pursell

December 13- Phil McCloughan

December 20- Debbie Crow

December 27- Heather Pursell

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

**The January Assisting Schedule will be in the upcoming bulletins.**

**Schedules are subject to change**

Session Minutes  
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville  
Church Gym

Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons

October 19, 2020 7:00 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	

Pastor Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

**Elders Present:** Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins, Russ Topping, and Pastor Dan Dorrow

**Deacons Present:** Gail Armitage, Debbie Crow, Phil McCloughan, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell

**Excused:** Elders, Heather McIntyre and Don Pidcock. and Deacons, Danielle Griffiths and Jessica Cummings

**Welcome:** Pastor Dorrow, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the October Joint Session/Deacon Meeting and opened in prayer.

**7:00 pm Devotion- Pastor Dan/Start of Joint Meeting**

Dan read excerpts and discusses the book from Henry J.M. Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*. We are shepherds and Dan spoke of Peter and Jesus and about shepherding and that ministries are communal and mutual. We are being sent out two by two and that Jesus is there when two go out. Jesus heals and speaks, and that Jesus is Lord. The Lord reveals himself in us. Jesus knows His own shepherds. Service takes place and needs much care. We are a “gateway” to God’s way, and that Jesus gave his life to serve many. Dan closed his devotion with prayer.

**Deacon Report: Debbie Crow**-Two handouts were given out and discussed. The Deacon’s Treasurer and the Mid-Year Report. The highlights of the mid-year report were: The Deacon’s are wrapping up projects from 2019. The Church Directory was divided up and the Deacons called members of our congregation to see how things were going during the pandemic. Backpacks and the Clothing Drive. Special communion supplies were ordered due to the pandemic.

**Veteran’s Day: Phil McCloughan**-Phil talked about our Veteran’s Day service that we are going to do on Sunday November 15, 2020. We are planning on inviting back Peter and Kris Gregory and give them “Peter’s Pantry” a project that has been worked on. A **motion** was brought to present “Peter’s Pantry” to the Gregory’s on November 15. The motion was approved. Examples of what the pantry will contain, bibles and canned goods. Phil read a synopsis of a letter from Veteran Benjamin Janyszeski as his letter responds to a student being in World War II. He would like to read the letter to the congregation in honor of Mr. Janyszeski and Veteran’s Day. Phil will make copies of the letter and give to Dan, to see what to do next.

**Calendar Highlights from October-December 2020:** Women's Bible Study will be starting on Wednesday afternoons starting on October 28. The gates to the church will be locked from Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Turning the clocks back one hour on 10/31 was discussed. Sunday School and Care & Share is still not being held at this time. The trip to Sight and Sound is still a go on November 14. More information soon on the time the bus is to leave the CVS parking lot in Lambertville. Pastor Dan is away the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> so Russ Topping will be preaching. The church is being decorated for Christmas the week of Nov. 23. The Deacons to put up the outdoor Nativity Scene in front of the church at the end of November. Skating and Friday Night Hang is scheduled to start on Friday December 4. 6:00 pm for skating and 8:00 pm for FNH. Lambertville Basketball League is starting in the Gym on Saturday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Jim Troutman is the contact, and this will run into March 2021. Christmas Eve Service was discussed briefly, more to come at the next Session Business Meeting.

**Extended Communion Training-** Pastor Dan gave out handouts from the Presbytery "Extended Serving of the Communion of Church" and the "Directory For Worship" as it pertains to giving communion to shut-ins. The highlights of the extended communion training were: To read scripture to the person(s) that are getting communion, to call to make sure the person can be visited, communion can possibly be done on a Sunday or any day during the week that the Pastor or Elders/Deacons are available. Both Elders and Deacons can do extended communion. It is ideal that two Deacons and two Elders would participate, both the Deacons and Elders have been able to do communion to shut-ins since 1999. Debbie Crow mentioned that if communion was given to shut-ins, that the poinsettias during Christmas time can be given.

**8:00 PM-Dismissal of the Deacons with prayer.**

**8:05 PM Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box-** Susan McCloughan

**Review of Minutes:** Session reviewed the minutes from the September 21, 2020 Session Business Meeting.

A **motion** was called to accept the 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.

Sue discussed Tilly Fire's quote to come and service the fire extinguishers for the church and Westminster House later this month. A **motion** was called to approve that Tilly Fire comes to service the fire extinguishers. All were in favor. So, the quote will be emailed back to Tilly for them to come later in October. Also, it was asked if I could contact Kel our website administrator to see if the weekly sermon can be paused on our website. I said I would contact Kel and look into it. I purchased software from NCH to edit the weekly sermons from my office computer. This is so the sermons won't keep running over into another date.

**Worship and Music-**Joanne DiBlasi

The Ladies' Afternoon Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons is starting on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Joanne talked about how it's going to be getting dark earlier and that 3:00 pm would be better at this time.

Sunday morning, we are starting with a prelude at 10:20 am. Becky is playing or there will be singing from members of the congregation. The Worship Service starts at 10:30.

We are looking for a time when our young people can come back to church.

**Building and Grounds**- Pat Durborow

Nate McIntyre was here this am to inspect the heaters/boilers. He'll report what was found to Heather McIntyre and then she'll be looking into getting quotes to fix the heaters/boilers in the church before the cold weather sets in. Nate also cleaned out the gutters on the church building and the roof was checked at that time. It looks like the roof will need to be replaced, and this will be discussed in the near future. SDG alarm continues to go off, so Sue spoke to Heather and she will contact SDG to find out how to fix this problem. The kitchen still needs to be repainted. More information regarding the kitchen will come as soon as it becomes available.

**Budget and Finance**-Rich Hopkins

Our Year to Date Summary is that our plate giving is down \$12,251.37, as of October 19, 2020. This was reviewed by Rich to session. Our yearly insurance review with the Duryea Agency for this year is not going to be in person. Karen Thatcher is our point of contact. Any updated insurance information, would be given to session by Karen. At the November Session Business Meeting, Rich will be giving the yearly budget review, with the vote on that at the December Business Meeting.

The Lowell Hunter Estate is being reviewed by the State of NJ. This could take 12-18 months, and Rich will continue to follow this.

**Sunday School/Junior Deacons**- Mark Dudick/Carol Griffiths

There is no **Sunday School** at this time.

**Youth Group**- The New Hope Community Church youth group is meeting this Sunday. They have been meeting at each other's homes. Mark asked if our gym would be available for the youth group to meet. Mark will let me know so I can put the NHCC youth group on the calendar to use the gym. He'll reach out to Nate Wilson, the leader of the youth group to see if they would like to use our gym, as they have done in the past. As far as our church, session expressed a movement for our youth, possibly to have a "kids sermon" during the worship service. Also, to ask Heather Pursell to reach out to the mothers of our Sunday School children, to see about taking turns in our Nursery, so that the older children of the parents could attend church. Dan suggested a youth group for our youth, but this is already being done by the Wilson's.

**Junior Deacons**- Pastor Dan has the list of the youth in our church. Carol will reach out to Heather McIntyre to see about calling the Sunday School parents, to see if they would be interested in being a junior deacon. If not Heather, then Carol would reach out to the Sunday School parents. Carol spoke about the Sunday evening bible study that her granddaughter is attending in Doylestown.

**Moderator Time-** Pastor Dan Dorrow

Dan talked about how he loves having music as a prelude worship, before the regular service starts. The feedback he received was to have more known hymns to be sung, to have the congregation more involved, and to have a mix is important. Maybe to have the numbers of the hymns to be put over the doorway, in the Sanctuary. Dan would like the hymns to be announced, and to keep the prelude worship easy and informal. Dan also talked more about the Covid-19, and that we need to have clear boundaries, and try and keep to the guidelines that were in the September newsletter. Should we add other boundaries? The feedback was that we should continue doing what we are doing. Masks wearing in the building, hand sanitizers and masks at the entrances. Not all churches are meeting in person at this time. The Pastor will be taking vacation from November 22 until November 28. He met with Jim Troutman and they talked about the Lambertville Basketball League and their meeting in the gym starting in December.

**Around the Room**

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** World Wide Communion Sunday was held on October 4, 2020.

**Sight & Sound-** There are 8 tickets that were not sold. Do we make them Blessing Tickets or do we get a refund for them? This was discussed. Session to contact Karen Thatcher to let her know what has been decided.

**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.

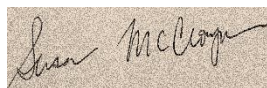
**Prayer Meetings-** Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

**Session Devotion Rotation-**For the November Meeting is: Joanne DiBlasi, followed by Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow and Carol Griffiths

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan