



**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 the days get shorter this time of year, sometimes our moods become less bright. But into this increased darkness shines the hope of Advent – “coming” – the coming of Christ!

In our worship life, we symbolize Christ’s coming light by lighting candles on our Advent wreath. The church has taken ancient practices – lighting fires during the winter season and praying for the return of light – and re-centered them on Jesus Christ, the world’s true light, who’s able to overcome darkness everywhere.

As more candles are lit each week, reaching a climax with the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve, we have a powerful symbol of the growing light of Christ in our world today. And we’re reminded of our hope for his coming again in all fullness on that great future day when he’ll completely eliminate darkness forever.

During the four Sundays of Advent, we’ll be lighting candles that represent hope, peace, joy, and love. I leave you with the Lord’s promise of hope, which directs our attention to the Lord himself coming to us on that first Christmas day.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill  
the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause  
a righteous Branch to spring up for David;

and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

And this is the name by which it will be called:

“The Lord is our righteousness.”

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

In the hope of Christ, the light of the world,

Pastor Dan

## “From the Office”

Hi All!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! There will not be a Newsletter for the month of January. Please remember to submit your information for the Annual Report to me in January. If you have any questions about the Annual Report, please feel free to contact me at the office. I'll be out the last week in December and I'll be returning to the office on January 4th. As always, if you need to contact me, please send me an email or call the Church Office. Thank you!



Sue

## Church News:



See page 3 for the order form for the Christmas Poinsettias.

**On December 5th, we will be having Care & Share after the service. Karen Thatcher and Russ Topping are heading this up for the month. Please contact Karen if you are able to help in future Care & Shares on Communion Sundays.**

**The Ladies' will be having a Christmas Gathering on Wednesday evening, December 8th in the Church Library at 6:15 pm. There is Christmas caroling and we will be having a sing a long. The Guest Speaker is Helen Tielmann. Refreshments will be served and there will be Door Prizes, all Ladies' are welcome to attend!**

**Becky is away on Sunday December 5th. George Warner is our Guest Accompanist. Becky's last Sunday with us is December 26th.**

**The Skating for Youth up to 6th Grade and Friday Night Hang for Grades 7-12 will be on December 3, 10 and 17th. Skating is at 6:00 pm, and Hang starts at 8:00 pm. Skating and Hang will resume on Friday January 7, 2022.**

**The Children's Christmas Pageant is Sunday December 12th during the Worship Service.**

**The Christmas Eve Service is Friday December 24th at 4:00 pm. It is also going to be a Candlelight Service.**

**The Soup Sales to fundraise to see the show *David* at Sight & Sound, will be during basketball on Saturdays, starting January 8th. The time is from 8:45 am to 2:00 pm.**

# It's Time to Order Your Memorial Poinsettias

**Deadline for ordering the poinsettias will be Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> . 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 Pres. 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 worship service on Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup>*

## *Ministry and Outreach:*

**News From Your Missions Team~** Please see the bulletin in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

### **Greetings From Your Church Deacons~**

Holiday greetings to you all. We trust that you are all well and looking forward to the upcoming holidays. As usual, the Deacons have been actively working on several projects; the candlelight church service, helping put together family advent wreaths, decorating the church for Christmas, and, of course, setting up the outside nativity which brings smiles to those passing by. Thanks especially to our Phil, who puts his heart and hands into the process.

We continue to pray for all of you, especially those who have dealt with illness and sadness recently. Despite this, we know that God loves us and wants only the best for us. Have a blessed Christmas and a new year of promise and peace. See you in Church. With our love and prayers, the Deacons.

**Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, LaNelle Gallagher, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell**



## W O K E Worship Our King Eternal

- Now isn't that a more sensible, encouraging and uplifting acronym than what we are fed through the secular world.
- God created us as ONE human race, let's stop dividing ourselves.
- In scripture (God's word), we are encouraged to not deceive or be deceived. The only way to not be deceived by what we hear or see, is to daily study God's scriptures.  
     **\*Matthew 24:4-14 \*Galatians 6:7-11 \*1 John 4:1-6**
- Yes, at times it appears as though evil, lies and confusion have overtaken our world, governments and even our country. However, God is still the one with the final word on everything and everyone.
- Let's keep moving forward with what we know to be honorable and true.
- Jesus never played the WOKE game and neither should we.

God Bless America, and First Presbyterian of Lambertville.  
Joanne DiBlasi

### ***A quote from Billy Graham:***

*“Christ did not divide men and women into rich and poor, black and white, or educated and uneducated. He divided them into those on the broad road that leads toward destruction, and those on the narrow road leading to eternal life.”*

Which road are you on? Don't wait until it is too late to make that choice.

## **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes**

**29 Shoeboxes for Christmas were delivered on Monday November 22nd.**

December Birthdays

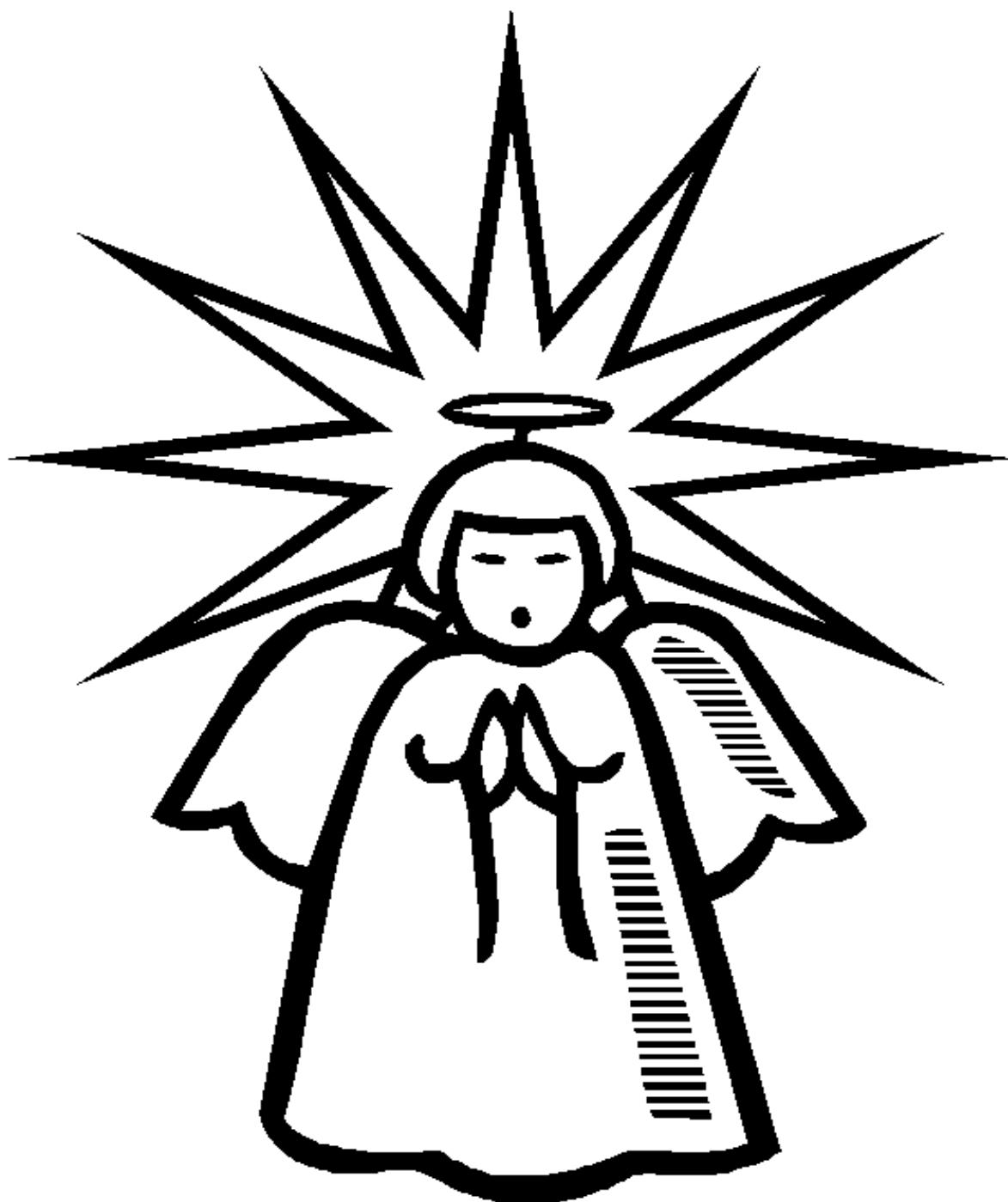
2 Brent Pursell  
4 Carol Griffiths  
5 Megan McIntyre  
14 Brittany Shurts  
18 Sandra Parker  
19 Jacob Pursell  
23 Daniel Fisher  
23 Chuck Robertson  
27 Heidi Danberry  
27 Levi Stratuik  
30 Caitlin Stratuik

January Birthdays

2 Matthew Moraski  
4 Scott Cummings  
7 Andrew Zambella  
8 Grace Hendricks  
11 Sarah McIntyre  
12 JoAnn Serlenga  
14 Dana Garrenger  
25 Alan Durborow, Jr.  
26 LaNelle Gallagher  
30 Erin Durborow



Just for Kids.....



**And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

***Luke 2:10-12***

## **December Assisting Schedule:**

### **Elder Schedule**

December 5- **Communion**/Karen Thatcher

December 12- Russ Topping

December 19- Pat Durborow

December 26- Carol Griffiths

### **Deacon Schedule**

December 5- **Communion** \*Phil McCloughan (**Stair Glide**), Jen Chernoski

December 12- Terry Peck

December 19- LaNelle Gallagher

December 26- Danielle Griffiths

### **Greeting Schedule**

December 5- Mark Dudick

December 12- Gail Armitage

December 19- Sue McCloughan

December 26- Stephen McCloughan

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

**Schedules are subject to change**

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



**Session Minutes**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville**  
**Westminster House**

**October 18, 2021 Session Business Meeting 7:00PM**

<b><u>Class of 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2024</u></b>
Pat Durborow Carol Griffiths Heather McIntyre Don Pidcock Russ Topping	Rich Hopkins	Karen Thatcher
Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator		Karen L. Thatcher for Sue McCloughan, Clerk of Session

**Present:** Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Karen Thatcher, Russ Topping and Rev. Dan Dorrow

**Excused:** Don Pidcock

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

**Devotion** – Russ Topping

Russ has been experiencing pain in his neck. Using Advil, ice, heat and rest to alleviate and reduce the pain, Russ prayed – Lord what are you trying to tell me? In **Psalm 105:4** we read, ‘Search for the Lord and for his strength and keep on searching.’ Thoughts ran through Russ’s mind – God’s strength begins in our weakness; God says, ‘My grace is sufficient’; the saying ‘This too shall pass’; and the best prayer – ‘Lord have mercy.’ Amen Brother Russ.

**Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box** – Karen Thatcher

**Review of Minutes:** Session reviewed the September 20, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes; Rich Hopkins moved to accept the Minutes as writing and 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.

**Session Mail Box:** Willet Houser Letter was received. They are a Stained-Glass Studio offering an inspection of our stained-glass windows. Artech Church Interiors advertisement card was received, also noting Stained Glass Restoration. Both the Willet Houser Letter and Artech Church Interiors card will be sent to Heather to see if they do appraisals. Sarah Tielmann newsletter was received. Karen will scan and send to all Session Members and to Sue to be printed for the Church Family.

**Calendar November and December Review:** Session members reviewed the calendar of events for both November and December 2021. Some highlights:

Nov 15/Monday -Joint Session/Deacon Business Meeting

Nov 16/Friday - Skating and Friday Night Hang will begin

Nov 20/Saturday – Lambertville Elks in the gym/Hoop Shoot

Please see the Church Website for the updated Calendar.

**Worship and music/Church Life** – Karen Thatcher

**Sight & Sound/Bird-n-Hand Contract** – the contract has been signed and submitted for the David Performance October 15, 2022. 50 tickets. Fundraising has been set for a Soup Sale during the Basketball Season. Heather Pursell (and committee) will be in charge of making the soup; as Donna Zambella and Karen Thatcher will make contacts for those to sell the soup. We are hopeful that Lambertville will be back on track for the Spring 2022 Shad Fest for hot dog sales.

**Insurance** – The Accident policy has been renewed and paid.

**Accompanist Search Committee** – The job description for Accompanist/Music Director has been posted in a few places. The Committee will meet on Sunday 10/24/2021 to discuss and move forward to make contacts from the substitute list for January, February 2022. The Committee is prayerful that God has a plan.

**Children's Time/Sermon** – We are grateful for those who have come forward to be part of this time in our Worship Service.

**Care & Share** – Karen Thatcher and Russ Topping will host the first C&S on Communion Sunday November 7. The plan is to have C&S each Communion Sunday. We are keeping it simple, those interested please see Karen.

**Greeting/Greeter List** – Connie Fisher has reached out and contacted a few of our church members and has a schedule for the rest of 2021. We are grateful to

Connie for her heart in this matter and those who have come forward to be a Greeter.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Pat Durborow

Pat advised that the donation clothes that are left in the gym will be gone by the end of October and Pat will contact a company that will come and collect the bagged clothes. The gates to the cemetery and garden will be locked during Halloween weekend. Roller Skating and Friday Night Hang will resume on November 19 and we will follow the CDC Guidelines. We are grateful for the those who volunteer their time to continue our outreach ministries.

**Budget and Finance** – Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Rich went over the year-to-date summary and noted that the plate offering is down as expected due to low number of attendances. The Lowell Hunter Estate is still in audit by the State of New Jersey and Rich will keep Session posted to updates. Heather advised that she emailed the Finance paperwork to all Session Members and reviewed the Morgan Stanley Account and the Zoom Attendance with Session.

**Sunday School/Youth Group** – Carol Griffiths

Carol reviewed with Session that the Children's Sunday School will begin on November 7. Carol will contact the Sunday School Teachers as reminder to contact the children by phone call or email. Sue will send out an email to the Church Family as well. Regarding the Junior Deacons, Carol will contact the Deacons for a list of Junior Deacons and ask that they come prepared to discuss this at the Joint Meeting.

**Moderator Time** – Rev. Dan Dorrow

The three questions posed to the Session by Pastor Dan – 'What to let go of? What to hold on to? What's next?' The Session members discussed, shared thoughts and prayed over the questions Pastor Dan posed to them at the last meeting. Pastor Dan took notes and will send this list to all Session to review and for future discussion. We thank God that He placed our church in the center of Lambertville and has seen fit to keep our doors open to all. We know that the

Lord will guide us as we move through the COVID Pandemic and toward our Church's mission.

### **Around the Room**

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

### **Notations**

**Holy Communion** - was held on August 1, September 5 and October 3.

**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** – continue to be the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. At this time, the Session continues with zoom prayer meetings and if there are reasons beyond our control, we pray wherever we are during the 7 o'clock hour.

**Session Devotion Rotation** – For November Meeting Pat Durborow followed by Rich Hopkins.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at about 9:00PM and the meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen L. Thatcher, Elder