

**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,

We are living in turbulent times, yet we are not without hope. A pandemic rages around us and the effects of Covid-19 have come close to home for some of us. Yet we have been blessed with the ability to remain in fellowship, shifting to Zoom worship at those times when we've needed to take extra precaution. Even though our nation's capitol came under siege, some of our fellow citizens continue to threaten violence, and our political leaders remain deeply divided, we know that our Lord Jesus Christ has the final word over all that goes on in our world because he is seated with sovereign power at the Father's right hand. "In [Christ], all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17) – in our families, in his church, and in our nation.;

Brothers and sisters, even as we are now more physically separated than usual, we are in fact bound together because we are in Christ, who's baptized us with the Holy Spirit, who unites us! "He is the head of the body, the church" (v. 18). Even though we have differences among us, let's do everything we can to maintain our unity, bearing with one another and forgiving each other. Let us live as a people reconciled to each other because we are reconciled to God in Christ – "through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things ... making peace" (v. 20). And our lives, individually and as Christ's body, will be a hopeful witness to our neighbors during these trying times.

In the love and unity of Christ,
Pastor Dan

“From the Office”

Hello! Thank you all who have been contributing to the monthly newsletters and for your Annual Report submissions. With the pandemic, lockdowns and quarantines, this past year has been particularly difficult. I've been trying to keep my regular office hours, which are Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. But with things being what they are, this too has been difficult. So, if you call the office and I am not in, please leave me a phone message or you can send an email to me, and I will get back to you.



The Bell Choir will be resuming rehearsals in March. Thank you for your understanding!

Sincerely,

Sue

Church News:

Grace Hendricks, would like to thank each and every person that took the time to send her a card, call or FaceTime her on her birthday. This brightened her day and made her feel loved. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this day special!

Communion Sunday is February 7th.

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. The First Sunday in Lent is February 21st.

The Annual Congregational meeting is Sunday February 21st after the worship service. Due to the pandemic, we will not be having the accompanying pot-luck. Thank you for your understanding!

Sunday February 28th , we will be installing the Church Officers during the worship service.

Ministry and Outreach:

News from your Missions Team~ Please keep our missionaries and their families in prayer in the days ahead as they reach out to others in 2021 in saving the Name of Jesus. We lift up the Lord's humble servants. John and Aruna Desai, Terry Slemmer and Grace Morillo to Him and ask for His protection, wisdom and guidance for each of them in the New Year. Also, please check out our bulletin board in the back of the church.

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

Deacon's Report- Happy New Year! May 2021 bring up (individually and world wide) health, cohesion and peace.

The Deacons are continuing with our usual activities including the Christmas candlelight service. This was held in accordance with the "Covid guidelines," and was well attended. The church was beautifully decorated and appreciated by all.

Unfortunately, the Christmas visits to shut-ins, was not done this year because of covid concerns.

As always, we hold all of you up in prayer. Please inform us of any special concerns that you have and need to be addressed. We look forward to the time when we can all worship together and praise God who is always faithful.

Joy to the World!

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



There is No Bridge that Cannot be Rebuilt
Read Revelation 21: 5

The Latin Bridge in Sarajevo Bosnia, formally Yugoslavia, is one of the oldest bridges in Europe. Built in the 1540s, it had always served as the bridge used between Christian Orthodox communities on one side of the river and Muslim majority neighborhoods on the other side. During the Bosnian Wars of the late 1990s it was the scene of countless atrocities, men women and children gunned down by snipers on both sides as they tried to get water and food. If you were from the wrong side of the bridge and caught by the other side, the common result would be hanging off a rope tied to the bridge. For all concerned and living through that time, the bridge became a symbol of hate, death and suffering, an eternal symbol to the lives and blood lost.

That was the bridge I had come to know as part of the NATO peacekeeping forces who entered the city in 1999. By that time the bridge had been bombed and collapsed, but off the stone piers hanged civilians which we cut down and returned to their families. For my relatively brief time in Sarajevo, the bridge became a daily symbol for myself and 2nd Marine Division of something almost impossible to ever think could be rebuilt. Four years of war had caused so much hate, so much mistrust, so much pain and suffering, that the best our Marines could do was keep the peace and deter folks from wanting to kill each other in the endless cycle of vengeance and retribution.

If you would visit that same bridge and street today, you would see the flowerpots hanging again, children laughing and playing along its slopes, people driving and walking across the bridge to and from their destinations. Rebuilt by the EU in 2016 as part of a larger Serbian Bosnian agreement, the peace has held. But looking closer, you would also see the bullet holes and bomb cracks still visible from the earlier time. To say this is a happy story with a happy ending or that all came to a “Jesus” moment would be not true. There are still threats and forces that would want to restart the war. What this does show, though, is that no situation or condition is hopeless or beyond the power of God to change. There is no bridge that sits in ruins that cannot be rebuilt again. As God reminds us, “behold I make all things new again”. Write these words upon your heart.

Peter Gregory D. Min. BCC HR

CDR CHC USN (ret)

Thoughts from Russ Topping...

Some Days~

*Some days its hard to smile, even harder to laugh,
because life is so difficult, so tough
Some days God's word and promises are all I have,
but they are enough.*

He Touched Me

*He touched me,
and healed my broken heart and crippled mind.*

*He touched me
and opened eyes that had been so blind.*

*He touched me
and unstopped ears that had been deaf to the truth.*

*He touched me
and my strength was renewed, like that of a youth.*

*He touched me
with nail scarred hands, he touched me.*

*He touched me
and brought meaning and purpose to a life where there had been none before.*

*He touched me
and since he did, I haven't been the same.*

From Joanne DiBlasi~

This is an Engraving on a Cathedral Wall in Germany:

*Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us
“You call me Master and Obey me not;
you call me Light and See me not;
you call me the Way and Walk me not;
you call me Life and Live me not;
you call me Wise and Follow me not;
you call me Fair and Love me not;
you call me Rich and Ask me not;
you call me Eternal and Seek me not;
If I condemn you, Blame me not.”*



February Birthdays

1 Josh Serlenga

3 Julia Armano

4 John Zambella

9 Marianne Clark

9 Peter Gregory

23 Joanne Dorrow

26 Joel Thatcher

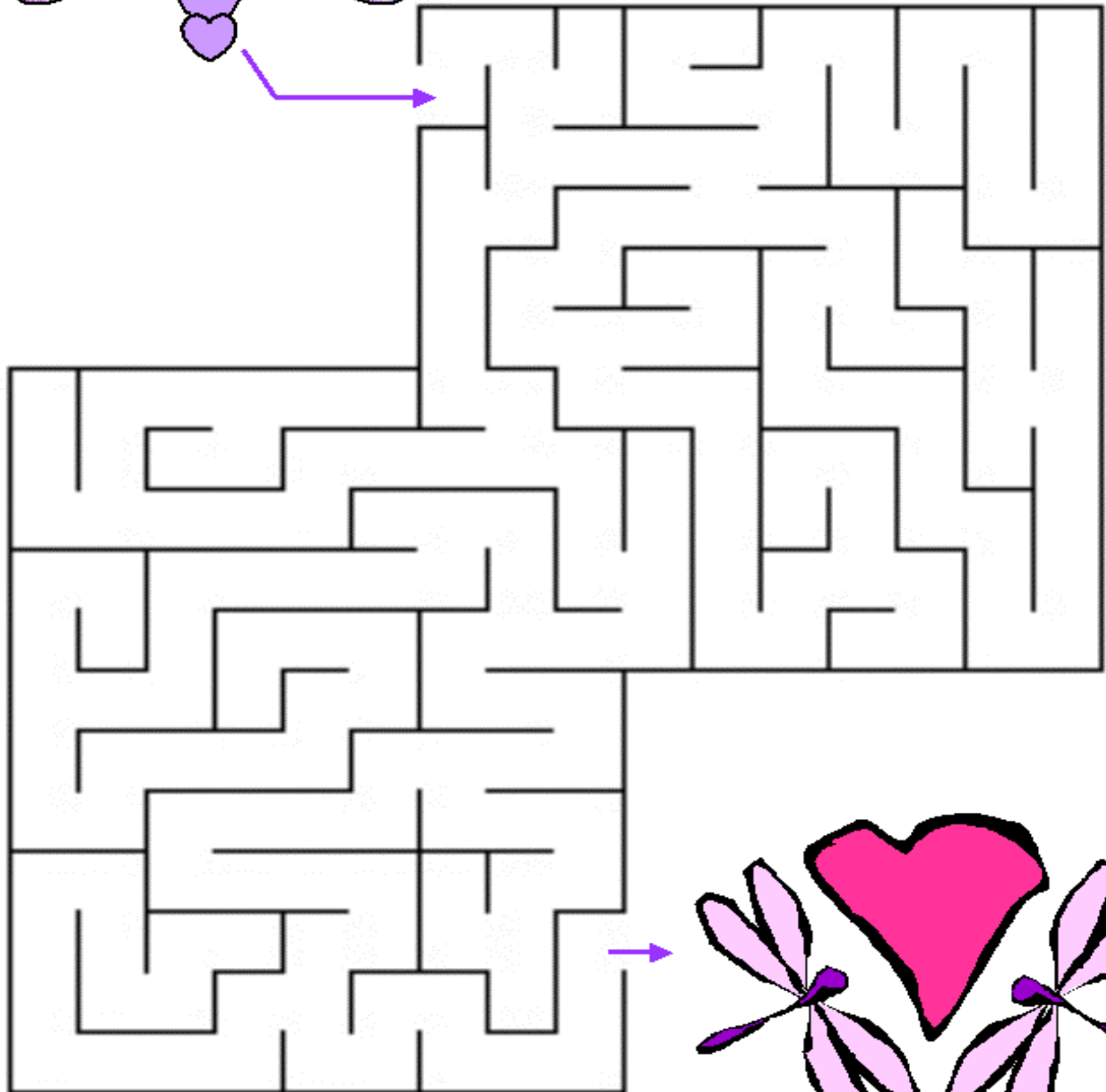


Just for Kids.....

Valentine's Day Maze



Help the dragonfly find his friends.



February Assisting Schedule:

Elder Schedule

February 7- **Communion**/Joanne DiBlasi

February 14- Mark Dudick

February 21- Pat Durborow

February 28- Carol Griffiths

Deacon Schedule

February 7- **Communion** *Gail Armitage (Stair Glide), Heather Pursell

February 14- Terry Peck

February 21- Danielle Griffiths

February 28- TBD

**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
Via Online Zoom Meeting

November 16, 2020 Session Business Meeting 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	

Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, Russ Topping and Rev. Dan Dorrow

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

Devotion- Joanne Di Blasi

Are we men and women after God's own heart? Our hearts response to God will determine whether God sees us as men and women after his own heart. Of course, when we say that phrase, we think of David. Throughout the Psalms we see many characteristics of David's heart toward God. David had many flaws, as do we. David showed humbleness, reverence, trust, devotion faithfulness, obedience, but also times of anger, doubt, sin, fear and pride. In the midst of all those characteristics and emotions we can say that David had a **believing heart, a bold heart, and inquiring heart and most importantly, he had a repentant heart.**

What areas in my heart does the Holy Spirit need to work on:

1. Believing Heart: Jeremiah 29:11-13, 2 Tim. 3:16-17. 2. An Inquiring Heart: Proverbs 3:5-6
3. A Bold Heart: Acts 4:12, 2 Tim. 1:7 and 4. A Repentant Heart: Psalm 139:23-24.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box- Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from the October 19, 2020 Joint Business Deacon and 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.

Upcoming in-person Session Business Meetings were discussed. It is a possibility that since the October business meeting was held in the Gym, that future business meeting could be held that way. It would be decided in mid-December if in person meetings would be possible, and would be looked into as the December meeting date gets closer.

Calendar Highlights from November 2020-February 2021:

The church will be decorated for Christmas during the week of the 23rd. The Deacons will be putting the Nativity scene outside in the front of the church during the last weekend in November. The First Sunday of Advent is the 29th. We will be using the 2 fold Advent Bulletins for this season. Ladies' Bible Study continues in the month of December. The Children's Christmas Pageant is cancelled this year, because of there being no Sunday School. The Christmas Eve service is Thursday December 24th at 4:00 pm. This combines, the Family and Candlelight service. Communion Sunday is scheduled for Sunday January 3rd, and February 7th, and Boy Scout Sunday is on 2/7/21. The submissions for this year's *Annual Report are due to the Church Office during the week of January 11th. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. The First Sunday of Lent is February 21, 2021.* The Annual Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck is after church on 2/21/21.

New Jersey Presbyteries- Pastor Dan attended a Zoom meeting with regarding the combining of the Presbyteries of New Jersey. We are currently a member of the New Brunswick Presbytery. Representatives from all the NJ presbyteries sent 1-2 people to vote. The vote was "yes" to combine the presbyteries. The churches in Hunterdon County will be moving to the Northwest Presbytery most likely in the first quarter of 2021.

Worship and Music-Joanne DiBlasi

Dan's headset was broken and needs to be fixed. Joanne is going to look into having it repaired. The Prelude Worship before our regular worship service has been beautiful. Dan also added that the prelude worship is going very well so far. Pat mentions possibly moving where the announcements are being during the worship service. **Ladies' Bible Study**, Joanne talks about that there have been about 6 ladies that have been attending. The bible study has been held in the Adult Sunday School room, and that it feels good to be back together.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

Don went over the report that we received from Tilly Fire regarding the fire extinguishers. They are in all parts of the building and some had to be replaced. The report is on file in the Church Office. Don and Pat also let the session know that **Skating and Friday Night Hang** have been suspended until further notice, due to the Coronavirus. Steve Chernoski spoke with Don regarding Skating, and to possibly send out an update/notice about the skating program.

Heather spoke to to SDG regarding the alarm and how it hasn't been properly fixed. This problem has been looked at since about 2009. A new part has to be ordered, to boost the signal. Heather will continue to monitor this issue, and keep Session informed. Heather also is dealing with the issues with our HVAC/heating system. She spoke with the company Garden State Heating and Cooling to get our heating system running smoothly.

Plaque for Dr. Henry- Prices on the plaque are being checked on, and more information will be talked about at our next business meeting.

Budget and Finance-Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary is that we are down \$13,428.23 as of November 16, 2020. This was reviewed by Heather to the Session. Regarding Morgan Stanley, Tim Stevens will come sometime in 2021, to discuss the Church's investments, with Session.

Church Budget for 2021- Rich spoke regarding the budget for 2021 and beyond. Handouts were given to Session for their review. Rich asked Session to pray about the budget and for ideas on how to keep our church healthy for the future. The budget would be voted on at the December Business Meeting.

Sunday School/Youth Group/Nominating Committee- Mark Dudick/Carol Griffiths

There is no Sunday School at this time. The parents are concerned for the children's safety. The Youth Group from New Hope has been meeting from time to time.

Junior Deacons- At this time the Junior Deacons are on hold, but to come in the future.

Nominating Committee-Carol spoke regarding the Nominating Committee for this upcoming year. The following persons are on the committee: Tom Crews, Heidi Danberry, Tucker Griffiths, Joan Yannarella. Mark Dudick is the Elder Representative. Phil McCloughan is the possible Deacon Representative. The Deacon rep. needs to be clarified, and Carol will let Sue know at the next session meeting. Also, the committee will let Sue in the office know when they will be meeting, so the information can be put in the bulletin.

Moderator Time-Rev. Dan Dorrow

The last Advent candle is going to be lit Christmas Eve, and people in our congregation have been lighting them during this season. The reading that goes along with the lighting of the candles, will also be cumulative on Christmas Eve. Dan will send an email to the persons/families that are participating to give them the readings. The Christmas Eve service is going to be at 4:00 pm, it will be a combined family/candlelight service. There will be a number of scripture readings, hymns and special music, and we will advertise to see who is available for participation in these for the service. This will be done either by a sign-up sheet or email. Elder Rich to find out who will do Special Music, and he will follow up with Dan. Ideas for seating, is to have Ushers seat people as well as seating every other row. Seating and spacing for the Christmas Eve service will be discussed at the next Session meeting.

December 27, 2020 Service- Dan would like that service to include "Testimony Time." To have members of the congregation give a five-minute testimony. There will be no sermon that Sunday. He will reach out to three people to participate. More discussion at the next business meeting.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday, All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

Soup Sales-Heather McIntyre brought to Session, that Grace Reading would be interested in heading up soup sales during the LBL Basketball on Saturdays. Heather will check to see if licenses would be needed for this, if the licenses are needed, they would be gotten, and that soup sales would be all right with Session.

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.

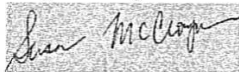
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the December Meeting is: Mark Dudick, followed by Pat Durborow Carol Griffiths, and Rich Hopkins.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session