



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,

During these short days of winter, we're in the season of Epiphany (from January 6th until Ash Wednesday). One meaning of "epiphany" is "brightness" – like that bright star shining through the dark night of Bethlehem long ago, giving light to those wise men from the East, revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

My least favorite part of winter is the shortness of daylight, so I am all the more turning my eyes to Jesus, *the* light of the world, whose brightness is able to overcome every dark day in our personal lives and in our world. Would you join me in getting to know Jesus more deeply in this season, and then reflecting his glorious light to those around us?

As the prophet Isaiah says,

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth ...
but the Lord's glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light. (60:1-3)

Our dear Grace Hendricks, whose life we recently celebrated, was one such light, shining like Bethlehem's star, pointing others to Jesus. In our many Facetime visits, I experienced Grace's heart of joy and gratitude, her humor, and her other-centeredness. Her life truly reflected Jesus her Lord, with whom she lived so intimately. Grace was a bright light, whose life revealed the glory of Jesus.

Joanne and I give thanks to the Lord for his gift of our first grandchild. It's with great joy that we announce the January 3rd birth of Lucien Daniel to our daughter Nouvelle and her husband Marshall. Lucien means "light" in French. Our prayer is that Lucien will come to Christ and live in his light. And we join you, dear Lambertville family, in prayers for your children and grandchildren as well.

In Christ,
Pastor Dan

“From the Office”

Hi All!

My family would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for mom, Marianne, as she has been having health issues.

Please submit your information for the Annual Report, by Monday February 7th. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday February 27th after church. I will be sending out the info. To Session soon, and the reports will be available on Sunday 2/20. The Bell Choir will be starting back on Thursday 2/24. As always, thank you for your submissions for the newsletters.
Sue



Church News:



On February 6th is Communion Sunday, and we will be having Care & Share after the service. The Bell Choir will be hosting this month's Care & Share. Please contact Karen if you are able to help in future Care & Shares on Communion Sundays.

Skating at 6:00 pm and Friday Night Hang at 8:00 pm will be continuing through the month of February.

The Soup Sales to fundraise to see the show *David* at Sight & Sound, will be held during basketball on Saturdays, February 12, 26 and March 5th, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm., in the Gym. The soup is \$10.00 per quart and \$6.00 per pint. There is also a sign-up for “David” in the hallway of the church. Please contact Karen Thatcher with any questions. Thank you.

On Sunday February 20th, we will be having a special service, of “What Jesus Means to Me”, during worship. Dan will be away.

For the month of February, George Warner, and Emily Atzert will be our Accompanists.

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~

It has been an interesting year for us. We as a church family have been challenged in many ways and with God's guidance, we have been able to accomplish what we needed to do.

As always, you are in our prayers and thoughts, and here for you and for our community. If you or someone you know needs our help, please let us know, and we will follow through.

Bless you all as we continue to pray for you and your return to our fellowship.

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



Renewing Our Personal Covenant with the Lord

Every New Year, a lot of us easily and joyfully make resolutions. Eat less sweets, exercise more, etc., etc. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, and we wind up forgetting about them.

As believers, there is one goal that each of us should be striving towards, and that is renewing our covenant promise to God. Not just in January, but every single day. That goal is only possible with help from the Holy Spirit.

From generation to generation, God is a covenant maker and keeper.

- Psalm 105:7-8. As humans, we always fall short regarding the covenants we make with God, with others and even with ourselves.

Let us remember to start each and every day renewing our personal covenant with God our Creator.

Joanne DiBlasi

The Voice

The voice of Jesus thunders
and the earth quakes with fear
the wind and waves obey
for they know their Masters near
He speaks to my troubled spirit
quiet, reassuring words
And all my fears and doubts

The Voice

The voice of Jesus thunders
and the earth quakes with fear
the wind and waves obey
for they know their Masters near
He speaks to my troubled spirit
quiet, reassuring words
Scatter like a flock of startled birds

Submitted by Elder Russ Topping

February Birthdays

1 Josh Serlenga

3 Julia Armano

4 John Zambella

9 Marianne Clark

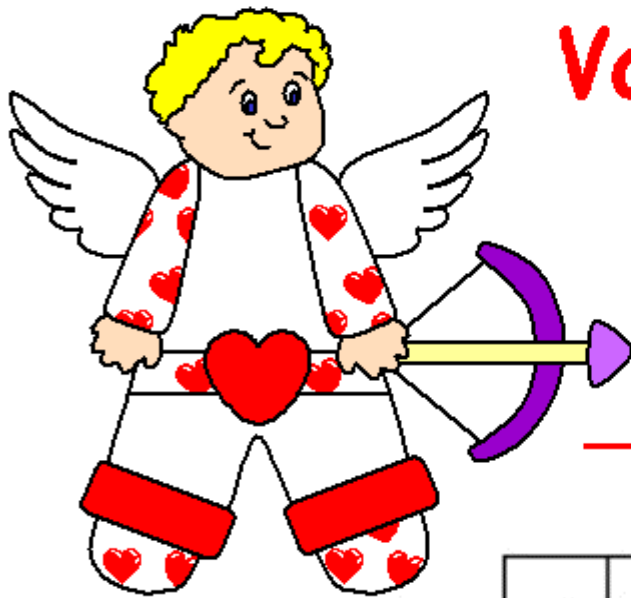
9 Peter Gregory

23 Joanne Dorrow

26 Joel Thatcher

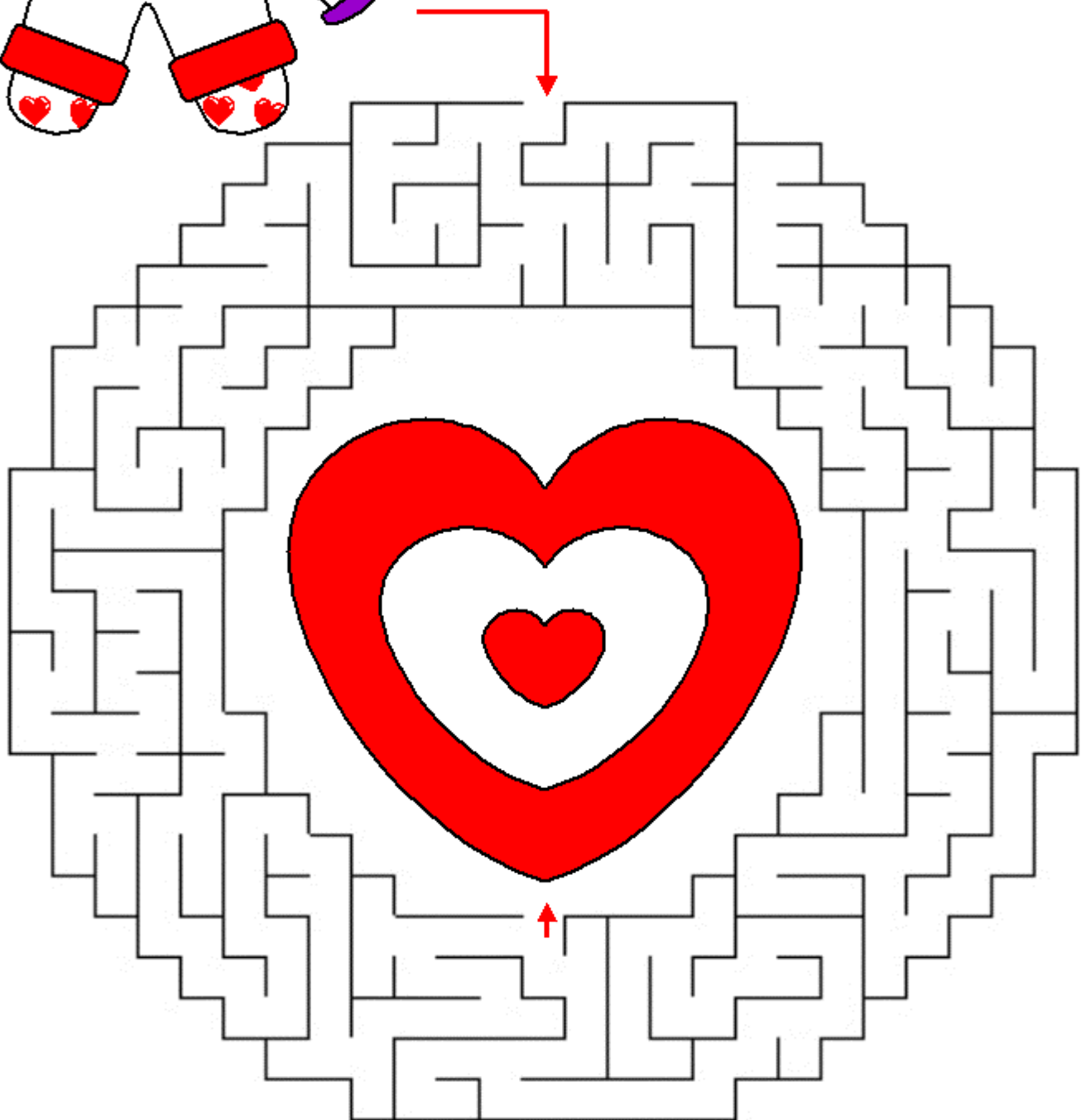


Just for Kids.....



Valentine's Day Maze

Help cupid aim
for the heart.



February Assisting Schedule:

Elder Schedule

February 6– **Communion**/Carol Griffiths

February 13– Rich Hopkins

February 20– Don Pidcock

February 27– Karen Thatcher

Deacon Schedule

February 6– **Communion**/ *Danielle Griffiths (Stair Glide), LaNelle Gallagher

February 13– Phil McCloughan

February 20– Jen Chernoski

February 27– Heather Pursell

Greeting Schedule

February 6– Gail Armitage

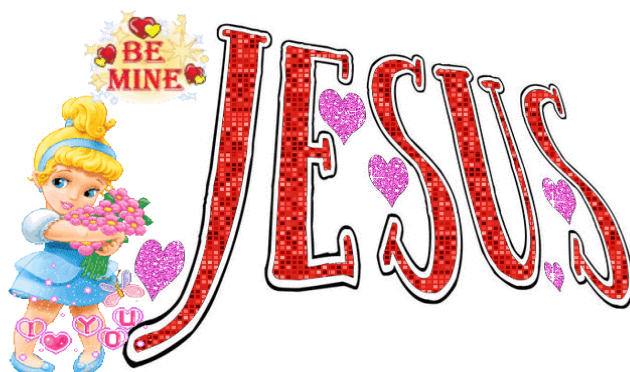
February 13– Sue McCloughan

February 20– Joanne DiBlasi

February 27– Mark Dudick

**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
Westminster House

Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons

November 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Class of 2022

Pat Durborow

Carol Griffiths

Heather McIntyre

Don Pidcock

Russ Topping

Pastor Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Class of 2023

Rich Hopkins

Class of 2024

Karen Thatcher

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Elders Present: Pat Durborow, Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock,
 Karen Thatcher, Russ Topping, and Pastor Dan Dorrow

Deacons Present: Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, LaNelle Gallagher, Phil McCloughan,
 Heather Pursell.

Deacon Treasurer: Debbie Crow

Excused: Elder, Carol Griffiths, and Deacon Terry Peck.

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

7:00 pm Devotion- Rich Hopkins/Start of Joint Meeting

Rich read from *Colossians 4:7, about Tychicus*. He will tell you the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

Tychicus is only mentioned 5 times in the Bible. Once in Acts, as part of Paul's inner circle while traveling with Paul on his third missionary journey. And, the other four times in four of Paul's epistles towards the end of each of those letters. What the Bible doesn't tell us is that Tychicus delivered three of Paul's letters (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon) from Rome to Asia Minor, or modern-day Turkey. As far as we know, Paul had made no other copies of these letters. The trip is over 800 miles if you draw a straight line from Rome to Ephesus. It's almost 1300 miles using modern day roads. Of everyone that Paul knew, God led Paul to choose Tychicus to deliver these letters. If Tychicus had failed, those three letters might not be in our Bibles. God must have had tremendous faith and trust in Tychicus that he could safely deliver those letters to their ultimate destination.

Like Tychicus, God has chosen all the folks in this room to lead this small congregation in Lambertville. Like Tychicus, God must have tremendous faith and trust in us that we can safely deliver this congregation into the future, and into the hands of the next generation.

Deacon Report: Debbie Crow-Two handouts were given and discussed, the Deacon's Treasurer and the Mid-Year Report. The highlights of the mid-year report were: Plate Offerings, monies for families in need, this included some of the flood victims from Hurricane Ida. A memorial donation was given to the church from the Deacons, in Esther Johnson's name. Debbie would take questions as needed, and she was thanked for her service.

Deacon Update: Gail talked about what the Deacons have been up to. She read the Deacon report from the November Newsletter. She also talked about how that LaNelle and Jen are our newest Deacons. Communion was back to the way it was before Covid. Everyone was glad about that.

Discussion of Mission Funding: Debbie and Heather M. talked about this to date. A disbursement went to Campus-Cru (Sarah Tielmann.) Also discussed, a one-time gift going to the De la Vega's, we have given to them in the past.

Calendar Highlights from November 2021-February 2022:

Phil asked if the Deacons could possibly do a fundraiser similar to what the Lambertville Elks are doing as a "Hoop Shoot" in our Gym, on November 20th. Phil will follow up with the Deacons. 11/21, the Ramblers are having a banquet in the Gym on Sunday evening. The week of November 22nd, the church is being decorated for Christmas. The Nativity display is going to be put outside the church the weekend of November 27th. Roller Skating and Friday Night Hang will continue for December, with a break on 12/24-25. The Ladies' Bible Study will be having a get together for all the ladies, on Wednesday evening 12/8. The Children's Pageant is scheduled for December 12th. Christmas Eve Service is 12/24 at 4:00 pm. We will be having Communion on Sunday 26th, instead of January 2, 2022. Dan will be away, and Rich Hopkins will be leading the service. Advent is from November 28-December 19, 2021. The week of January 10, 2022, the annual reports are due to the Church Office for the year of 2021. Soup Sales are being done by our church as a fundraiser starting on Saturdays in January to benefit the church's trip to Sight & Sound to see *David*. This is going to be done during LBL's season. The soup sales will continue for the month of February. Karen Thatcher is the contact person for the soup sales. **The Annual Congregational Meeting** after church will be held on Sunday February 27th. The Handbell Choir will ring in January, and will not be ringing in the month of February.

Nominating Committee for 2022- I will email the Nominating Committee regarding when we should get together to start the process for the upcoming year. **This year's Nominating Committee:** Mark Dudick, Sue McCloughan, and Konni Sandford. Pat Durborow is the Elder Representative and Phil McCloughan Deacon Representative.

Zoom on Sundays- This will continue in the long term. Maybe we will look into live streaming possibly on YouTube. More will be discussed regarding live streaming our church services. Since Rich is stepping down at the end of December, we will need a person to Zoom for January and beyond.

7:50 PM-Dismissal of the Deacons with prayer.

7:55 PM Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box- Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2021 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.

Rich will talk to some of the congregants regarding returning of "C" keys, and that the keys will be returned to the office. Steve C. will get a key for Roller Skating. Heather will talk to Tilly Fire regarding the email that was sent, to see what is include in our yearly check up of the Fire Extinguishers, as well as any other issues. Reports were discussed from the Hunterdon County Health Dept. We have gotten a "Satisfactory" rating, and the certificate is posted in the kitchen.

Worship and Music/Church Life-Karen Thatcher

Sight & Sound-Soup sales in January and February. We received the COI from Franklin Mutual regarding the Sexual Misconduct, as well as our Sexual Misconduct policy that we have on file here at the church. This was looked over by Session and was acceptable. A copy of both was sent to the Highlands Presbytery, this was asked for by them. Sue will email a copy of both before 11/24/21. This is that date that the Presbytery requested. If this information isn't accepted by the Presbytery, Karen will look into the "Small Church's Children and Youth Protection Policy."

Rich asked for a substitute for 11/21 and 12/5. Pat D. will Zoom on 11/21. *Under the Moon* a restaurant in Lambertville, is asking for a Liquor License, and asked Rich to draft up a letter. This was done, and was notarized. The letter was given to *Under the Moon* on November 2, 2021. No news regarding the Accompanist/Music Director position. Dan mentioned the Communion table that is on the Alter of the church, that it should stay there, even when there isn't Communion, with the bread (wax type), cup used for decoration.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Don Pidcock

The clothes were removed from the gym that were there from the Hurricane Ida relief. Addie Andino and Joanne Di Blasi, are looking into different organizations where to bring the clothes or have them picked up. There was no news regarding Martinez Landscaping or the bathroom at Westminster House. Skating and Friday Night Hang have been on track. A letter for Skating will be done by Don, and given to the Skating families at the Roller Skating. Pat will call Tim McKenzie who will be taking care of the church sidewalks during this winter.

Budget and Finance-Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary is that our plate giving is down \$2855.22, as of November 14, 2021. This was reviewed by Heather to session. Heather did talk about the investments with Morgan Stanley, and that these accounts will need to be evaluated by them, and Tim Stevens from Morgan Stanley will be coming to speak with the Session in early 2022. Heather will be getting appraisals for the stained-glass windows in the church. Pat will take pictures of them and send them to Heather. There is a plan down the road to have the windows refurbished. The weather is a factor in the condition of the stained-glass windows. The Lowell Hunter Estate is still being worked on, and should be resolved shortly, as per Rich. Rich has been working with the Boy Scout Council regarding the lawsuits that have been happening. Session agrees that we should have legal protection for our church post 1976. More details regarding the Boy Scout lawsuits as they come up.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons/Youth Group- Don Pidcock

Sunday School is going well at this time, there has been a good turnout. Steve Chernoski is working with Don this year for roller skating, and it is going well. The Youth Group and Junior Deacons were not discussed tonight.

Moderator Time- Pastor Dan Dorrow

Dan asked if there was any feedback, and he always welcomes this. He has 1 more week vacation for this year, he'll be off the last week of December. We'll be having Communion on 12/26, and not on 1/2/22, because he'll be away. Rich Hopkins will be preaching for Dan. Dan asked Session to reflect on the questions that were asked last month-"What to let go of, What to hold onto, and What's next? More discussion to come.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on November 7, 2021

Rich went to Hunterdon Care Center and was able to hold Communion with Grace Hendricks.

Prayers-For our community.

Friday Night Roller Skating-Don Pidcock talked to Session about Steve Chernoski eventually taking over the roller skating.

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.

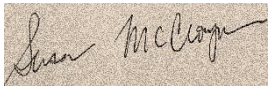
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the December Meeting is: Pat Durborow and followed by Rich Hopkins and Heather McIntyre.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville via Zoom
December 20, 2021 Session Business Meeting 7:00 PM

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Pat Durborow	Rich Hopkins	Karen Thatcher
Carol Griffiths		
Heather McIntyre		
Don Pidcock		
Russ Topping		

Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan 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 December Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion - Pat Durborow

Pat based her devotion on *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*. Some churches hold a “Blue Christmas” service, on usually the shortest day of the year. Some people are depressed during this time and not everyone embraces Christmas. Sometimes, there is still an empty spot, but that we always try to stay hopeful, and if we are missing our loved ones, there is hope that we will see them again. In the text, Paul talks about how God is with us, and that being with God is the heart of the matter. An example would be how we as Christians, have to be patient and be different to the rest of the world, and God shows us how to do this.

Around the Room - The Elders, Dan and myself went around the room and shared our concerns.

Dan closed this section with prayer of what was discussed.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from November 15, 2021 at tonight’s 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.

Mail Box- We received by email a letter regarding Per-Capita from the Highlands Presbytery, regarding giving. Heather M. talked on how we give our money that would go for the Per-Capita to Missions. This seemed to be the way to keep going. Everyone was in agreement, but Dan spoke about how we should stay connected to the Presbytery, with monetary contributions.

Calendar Highlights from January-March 2022:

It was discussed that Rich Hopkins will stay on as the Adult Sunday School leader. Session was very happy about this development. Skating and Friday Night Hang will continue during this period. The Soup Sales will be starting in January and going through March to fundraise for the church's trip to see David at Sight & Sound in October 2022. Hilary Orlando will be our Accompanist for the month of January. George Warner and Emily Atzert are our Accompanists for the month of February. We are still looking for an Accompanist for the month of March. George Warner has agreed to be our Accompanist for Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday is on March 2, 2022. Lent begins Sunday March 6th. Dan would like to revisit Lent at the January Business Meeting. The last week for LBL is Saturday March 19, 2022. Handbells will be ringing in Church in January, but will have the month of February off. The bell choir will be resuming their practices in late February. The Ladies' Bible Study will also be continuing.

Worship and Music/Church Life - Karen Thatcher

The soup sales to raise money for the church's Sight & Sound trip will start in January. The cooking will be done in the church kitchen and our church members will help sell the soup on Saturdays. The Certificate of Insurance for our Sexual Misconduct Policy was discussed and a copy of our coverage was sent into the Presbytery. Karen spoke with the Duryea Agency regarding this. If more information is needed regarding this policy, we will get it to the Presbytery. The committee to find a Music Director/Accompanist is being worked on, and one of the places that we are looking at is Westminster Choir College, Ryder University. We are praying on this. For Children's Time during the worship service, the congregation is looking to Pastor Dan to do the children's sermon. Dan is praying on this, and will get back to Karen on this.

Building and Grounds - Pat Durborow

There has been a lot of repairs for the church at this time. The hot water heater had to be replaced. Glenn Case the plumber and Garden State was here because we were having an issue with the heat. Both the water heater and heat are now working properly. Don (Cooie) replaced a light outside which was broken. Martinez Landscaping cleaned the outside gardens, and will cut down the tree by Dan's office window.

We are following the Governor of NJ to see what happens with Skating and Friday Night Hang, in January and beyond. The devotion for FNH will be moved to 8:30 pm, Russ talked about this change. For the Skating, Don is working with Steve Chernoski, who eventually will be taking over Skating. Pat talked about how life has been different in the last two years, we don't seem to have as many children, and we will keep Skating and FNH in our prayers.

Budget and Finance - Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Heather went over the Year-to Date Summary from 1/1-12/15/21, we are down \$2623.36 in our plate offering. The expenses of the church were also discussed. Heather spoke with Tim Stevens from Morgan Stanley and our investments are staying on a good trend. Tim will speak with Session soon, regarding our investments. This will be done by Zoom or in-person. The Lowell Hunter Estate is still being audited by the State of NJ. Rich will keep Session posted on the updates of the estate. As of today, we have not heard back from the NJ Attorney General's office. Rich will follow up.

Updates on the Boy Scouts and what is going on with the were given as well. We are waiting to see what happens legally in other places. We are protected after 1976, as per our insurance company. Rich will keep Session posted on any new developments.

Rich went over the Budget Review for 2022 and compared the numbers to 2021. He spoke of the budget in the long-term as well. More to be discussed at the January meeting. The budget for 2022 will be voted on then. Rich will be stepping down from Session in February 2022. He will talk with Heather M. and Debbie Crow to see if they will be able to take over the financial and budget portion of the Session Business Meetings.

Sunday School/Youth Group - Carol Griffiths

The Sunday School for the Children is going well. The Christmas Pageant is going to be held on Sunday December 12, 2021 and is being coordinated by Jen Chernoski.

Carol also talked about the Junior Deacons, and that a list of potential Jr. Deacons was sent to Danielle Griffiths. Danielle suggested to Carol that she would send what should be emailed to the parents of the perspective children who would be Jr. Deacons. I will send out the email to the parents when Danielle sends me the info. Examples of what the children would do would be: To greet, read scriptures, collect the communion cups, etc..

Moderator Time - Rev. Dan Dorrow

Dan would like this to be on going at the Session meetings: 1. What should we let go of? 2. What should we keep? 3. What's next? To keep up our involvement in the community. An example is that our church was an active presence after Hurricane Ida. To keep up our music program, that is a big part of our worship. Members of Session shared ideas, that our community has changed, a lot of people have stopped going to church. The Lord knows what is possible for our church, and we should keep praying about this. It's hard not to get discouraged, Covid hit us hard, but we should try to maintain our joy. Most people don't think about dying or eternity. The budget was shared, and our church needs to grow, and not maintain the status quo. We should be open to new or different ideas on how to expand our church. Also, our music program was discussed, and maybe we should invest in the music program with someone who would lead this.

Dan asked that we be in prayer during this time. He would like to revisit the above during Moderator Time at the January meeting.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday December 5, 2021. Communion will also be held on Sunday December 26, 2021. There will be no Communion in January 2022.

Covid Policy Update- This was discussed, for Christmas Eve and beyond. Heather McIntyre and Russ Topping are the Elder Contacts for this policy. Masks were recommended while in the church building, and the church will provide them if needed. This information will be sent in an email to the church family by Sue.

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.

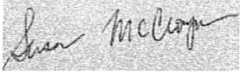
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will continue on Zoom. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the January Meeting is: Rich Hopkins, and is followed by Heather McIntyre and Don Pidcock

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan McCloughan", is written over a rectangular, textured grey background.

Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session