

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

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

Our Elder: Pat Durborow~

I wasn't sure what I wanted to write about. As I prayed about it, I came across this article on the website that I am signed up for. The sight is called, *The Widows Might*. These stories have brought me through some tough times and I really feel this is not just for widows but for everyone facing the challenges that this new world brings. It's titled, Five Truths That Bring Hope. I hope that God blesses each one who reads this.

1. I can remember God's grace:

I have learned in my life that when I am overwhelmed, when my brain and my heart just can't take any more pain, I hold onto what I know to be true about God's character. God is love. It's not something He can choose to do or not do – it's His very essence, it's who He is! And I remember how He has demonstrated that to me. He created me. He formed me – every freckle, every hair, every bit of me and who I am. I wasn't a mistake, a coincidence, or something that just happened. He created me. He gave me life. And then He gave me eternal life! At tremendous cost to Himself. He did it because He loves me. And He did the same for each of you.

2. I can weep with those who are weeping.

Our society has a tendency to become desensitized to suffering but scripture tells us in Galatians 6:2 (ESV) to *"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ"*, (which means it's what you do if you love someone) and in Romans 12:15 (ESV) it tells us to *"Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep"*. It's ok to feel sad right now. A lot of people are hurting. We should hurt too and run to God for comfort.

3. I can seek wisdom.

When the whole world turns upside down, what can you do? The news hasn't been much help with one expert recommending this and another expert recommending something completely different. The truth is none of them know. There is only One who knows everything. James 1:5 (NIV) tells us *"if any of you lacks wisdom you should ask God who gives generously without finding fault, and it will be given to you"*. As a member of the Elder team at my church we were tasked with deciding if we should stop in person services. It felt so wrong to even consider closing the church, not something any of us had ever imagined having to do. But we asked God for wisdom and He led us to close before many others and He protected us before we knew it was the right thing to do.

Pat's Message Continued...

4. I can approach His throne with confidence.

I know God's truth brings me peace. Unfortunately, I'm human and I forget – five minutes later the fear creeps back in. What I know for certain is I cannot do it alone. Over twenty years ago God blessed me with a prayer partner. And over the years we have faithfully prayed together for our families, our friends, and our church families. When the pandemic started we committed to praying over the phone every night. It is the best thing I have done for “self care”. We have been so blessed by His faithfulness.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) says, *“Let us then approach God's throne with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”*. Each time I have laid my requests at God's feet, my fear has been replaced with my Hope which is in Him.

5. I can listen for my Shepherd's voice.

As the days of the sheltering in place turned into weeks which turned into months, it's been hard to know what to do. I have started feeling “untethered from real life”. I feel very disoriented and I find it hard to move forward. But I have been reminded by the Holy Spirit that His sheep know Him (John 10:14 NIV). It is God's job to shepherd me, to lead me to safety and protect me. It is my job to follow...wherever my Shepherd leads.

“From the Office”

Thank you to all who have been submitting information for the Newsletters. The Congregation is a big part of our Church Newsletters! Starting next week, June 1st, I will be in the Office Tues. Wed. and Thursday. Please continue to leave messages by phone or email. The Bell Choir is hoping to practice on Thursdays. As soon as our building is able to open safely for Worship services, we will do so. Thank you to Heather M. for setting up our weekly Zoom Tuesday Night check-ins, as well as our monthly Session Business Meetings. I would also like to thank the Elders for their contributions to the cover page of the Monthly Newsletters. This is the last Newsletter until September.

Thanks again and sincerely,

Sue



Church News:



Our Preaching Schedule for June:

All Dates are Tentative and Schedule is Subject to Change.

Please check your email/Church Website or the Church Answering Machine for updates! The church website: www.lampres.org

June 7th- We will be having Communion with Titusville Church via Zoom at 9:30 am. Ken Good is leading the service. I will send out more information as it becomes available.

June 14th- Is Flag Day. The Sunday Message, from Rich Hopkins to be posted on the Church Website.

June 21st- Father's Day. The Sunday Message, from Mark Dudick to be posted on the Church Website.

June 28th- The Sunday Message from Russ Topping, to be posted on the Church Website.

As soon as in-person services resume, after June 7th, our Worship time will be at 9:30 am, and will continue until Sunday September 6th.

The Joint Worship Service at Holcombe-Jimison on Sunday July 5th at 10:00 am is tentative at this time. As more information becomes available, our calendar will be updated.

Ministry and Outreach:

News regarding Roller Skating in November 2020...

Unless otherwise noted, roller skating will begin in November. I am sure there will be some changes, but at this time we don't know what our new normal will be. Maybe less skaters, maybe alternate weeks for different grades, but prayerfully it will open. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Cooie Pidcock

News from our Missions Team~ Dear Church Family:

Please check out the bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary!

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

News from your Deacons~ Greetings! Although we are separated due to Covid-19, we are all still connected in the Spirit. You are all in our hearts and prayers! The Deacons have been in touch via email the last couple of months, but we plan to have a live meeting on June 16th (with proper social distancing, of course) to discuss upcoming activities and needs. God Bless every one of you, and please feel free to contact any one of us if you should need anything or have any concerns.

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



From Your Pastoral Search Committee

Pastoral Search/Nominating Committee Update:

- Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are still moving forward along with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry during these times of social distancing and Zoom meetings. We will be able to give you a more detailed report regarding our candidate for permanent Part-Time Pastor after our June 2nd meeting with the Committee on Ministry.
- Please continue to keep this process in prayer, thank you.

Your Search Committee,

Heather M.

Donna Z.

Phil M.

Russ T.

Joanne D.



Last week I heard a sermon on television from a 40-year-old Pastor and father about our “new normal” and people wanting to go back to the “old normal.” Remember God is still in control and allows world-wide events to occur not only to get our attention, but to redirect the course of the current times and the future.

The Pastor said “since when has soccer or any other sport for that matter, become more important than worshipping God?” Face it, at some point we’ve all complained about what happens Sunday mornings with families having to choose between participating in a sporting event or spending time worshipping God and fellowshiping in their church.

Let’s not forget what often happens during the week when we no longer spend quality time at meals since we are busy running from one event to another.

Yes, it has been very medically and financially devastating recently, but also wonderful the way the Lord has caused the entire world to stop. To reconnect with the family unit, to seek answers from their faith and to pray for a spiritual awakening.

Thousands of people world-wide who might never have taken the step to “go” to church, are tuning in to on-line services for strength and comfort. God has gotten our attention and hopefully instilled in us a desire to repent (turn from whatever is keeping us from walking closer with Him), whether it be work, sports, peer pressure, laziness, pride or just a lack of not understanding, the bigger picture in regards to who God is.

God is taking us to a “new normal” (His normal), just as he did with the Israelites, by removing them from the Bondage of Egypt.

God Bless,

Joanne D.

June Birthdays

3 Alfred J. Buchanan III
5 Dillon Gallagher
7 Jeffrey Shurts
10 Heather Pursell
27 Doug Pursell
27 Julia Garrenger
27 Dylan Richard Wiley

July Birthdays

9 Crystal Robertson
9 Mark Dudick
10 Peter Gilbert
11 Sharon Fisher
17 Courtney Hartpence
17 Giulia Reading
18 Ryan McIntyre
18 Steve Chernoski
20 Russ Topping
22 Jack Zambella
27 Pat Durborow
27 Donald Gallagher
28 Ruth Crews
29 Lauren Wiley
30 Connie Fisher
30 Sue McCloughan

August Birthdays

6 Danielle Griffiths
11 Jim Gallagher
11 Hannah McIntyre
13 Jennifer Wiley
15 Carin Gallagher
18 Gail Armitage
18 Vera Wiley
19 Bill Shurts
21 Torrey Pursell
22 Jen Chernoski
23 Debbie Crow
23 Phil McCloughan
27 Graham Cummings
31 John Frangakis



June Assisting, Greeting and Care & Share Schedule:

Elder Schedule

June 7- Communion W/Titusville Pres. via Zoom
June 14- Joanne DiBlasi
June 21- Mark Dudick
June 28- Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

June 7- Communion W/Titusville Pres. via Zoom
June 14- Phil McCloughan
June 21- Heather Pursell
June 28- Gail Armitage

Greeting Schedule

June 7- Communion W/Titusville Pres. via Zoom
June 14- Konni Sandford
June 21- Esther Johnson
June 28- Connie Fisher

Care & Share– Music Ministry

***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 upcoming schedules for July/August will be posted in the Bulletins as in-person church services resume.

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Via Zoom Online Meeting

April 20, 2020 Session Business Meeting 6:30 PM

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow	Rich Hopkins
Mark Dudick	Carol Griffiths	
	Heather McIntyre	
	Don Pidcock	
	Russ Topping	

Rev. Byron Leasure, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths,
 Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, and Rev. Byron Leasure

Excused: Russ Topping

Guests: David Redman, Liaison New Brunswick Presbytery

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

Devotion-Rich Hopkins

The devotion was based on 1 Peter 5: 1-4. During these unique times, remember that our “flocks” are not just our assigned lists of FPC members. It includes friends (near and far), neighbors, co-workers and relatives. It also includes those we come in contact with for just a passing moment. Always be ready to be a shepherd.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box- Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from the April 2, 2020 (this was the rescheduled March 16, 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. There was a **motion** for the Agenda for tonight’s meeting to be approved and to accept the revised Agenda that was sent out on Friday April 17, 2020 via email to the Session and Rev. Leasure. All were in favor. There was no Session Mail to be discussed at this time.

Extended Communion Training-Rich Hopkins was to discuss this topic this evening. It has been deferred until a future Session Business Meeting.

The Election of the Clerk of the Corporation and President of the Corporation- Needs to be done at the end of a Church Service where the Congregation is present. This will election will be decided when the Session/ Congregation can meet again during an in-person service.

Treasurer of the Corporation-A motion was called to re-elect Debbie Crow as First Presbyterian of Lambertville, Treasurer of the Corporation for the year 2020-2021. This was not done at the Annual Meeting in February 2020. The motion was seconded and approved. The term for Treasurer of the Corporation will expire in February 2021.

Calendar Highlights from May-July 2020:

All in-person church services/activities are suspended at this time, due to the Coronavirus. May Sunday Services will be pre-recorded. June and July in-person services will be determined at a later date. The National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 7, 2020. Sue in the office is to order 2 posters to be displayed outside of the church. The last Sunday for the 10:30 am worship service is Sunday June 7, 2020. The 9:30 am service starts on June 14, 2020 and run until Labor Day weekend. As of now, the Joint Service with our Sister Churches is still a go. The date is Sunday July 5, 2020, Holcombe-Jimison Farm at 10:00 am. More information will follow soon.

Worship and Music-Joanne DiBlasi

Taped messages will be done by Russ Topping 4/26, Ken Good will host a Zoom Service/Communion on 5/3, our congregation will be participating with Titusville. Rich Hopkins 5/10, Dan Serlenga 5/17, Pastor John Desai 5/24 (Memorial Day Weekend,) and Russ Topping on 5/31.

Joanne will assist by recording the messages, and Sue McCloughan will put them on the website.

***The Pulpit Supply List: Here is the list of Elders (and Guest Pastors) who will be preaching on Communion and Non-Communion Sundays:**

See above, under Worship and Music/A June Schedule will be following soon.

***All In-person services are cancelled at this time.**

Weekly Zoom Check-In- Heather McIntyre will send out an email invitation to our congregation for a weekly Zoom check in to see how all are doing. Session thanked Heather for her initiative in this endeavor.

Pastoral Search Committee- Joanne will be giving a write-up for the May Newsletter to let the congregation know how the search for the new pastor is coming. Joanne spoke with Bob Tomlinson from the New Brunswick Presbytery to see what the next step(s) will be. He suggested that David Redman from the Committee on Ministry be at our Session Meeting tonight and to discuss the steps with David. David suggested that we review the candidate, bring them to Session, Congregation then Presbytery. This process is moving along.

Taping of the Sermons-Joanne will contact Craig Reading to see if he will be able to clean out the old sermons from our computer in the Sanctuary, so that the old tapings don't interfere with the new tapings.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Don Pidcock

A walk around the buildings was done by Don Pidcock. The heat in the buildings is ok, the building itself seems to be ok, with the exception of the façade facing Westminster House. A piece from the side of the roof is missing, and when Nate McIntyre is available to come and check the rest of the façade and fix what needs to, he will do so. Don put up a saw horse, shut the gate and put a piece of "Caution Tape" on the gate leading to the Gym, to keep that entrance from being used at this point. Pat was also able to secure the area.

Plaque for Dr. Henry-Carol Griffiths talked about getting a plaque to recognize Dr. Henry (a former pastor of our church) for the Gym, since he was the person who was instrumental in having the Gym built. A discussion will continue next month to include Pat Durborow and Don Pidcock in having a plaque installed.

Budget and Finance-Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Banking Summary presented year to date. The Weekly Plate Spreadsheet was emailed, from January 1, 2020 through April 2, 2020. This was reviewed by Heather to the Session. There was no change. David Redman suggested that our church look into online giving, since we aren't having in-person church service at this time. Heather spoke about how people of the congregation are sending their pledges in by mail, but she is looking at applications for online giving, and will research further. Online giving would most likely give our church more of a resource for income.

Lowell Hunter Estate- Rich Hopkins contacted two attorneys/New Jersey Secretary of State to close the Estate. This is moving in the right direction.

Youth Group Ministry/Sunday School- Mark Dudick/Carol Griffiths

Mark Dudick spoke regarding the Youth Group. The youth group is meeting virtually at this time. Mark will send information to the Church Office regarding the link for the youth of our congregation so they can be included.

Junior Deacons- Carol Griffiths spoke with Danielle Griffiths, there will be a list of junior deacons in the future. This is on hold for now, until in-person church resumes.

Moderator Time-Rev. Byron Leasure

Reverend Leasure spoke and said that our May 18, 2020 Session Business Meeting will be done via Zoom.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

Notations

Holy Communion- Due to the Coronavirus, Communion was not held on Sunday April 5, 2020, and there was not an in-person service.

In-Person Church Services- Are not being held in our church building at this time.

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.

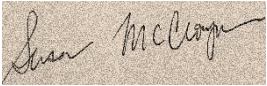
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the May 2020 meeting, is: Heather McIntyre, followed by Don Pidcock, Russ Topping and Joanne DiBlasi.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Susan McCloughan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Susan McCloughan

Clerk of Session