



**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 have good things to hope for. Spring is coming after this challenging winter; as I'm writing, the sun is brightening the sky and the air is warming. By God's grace, Covid-19 cases are falling, raising our expectations that life will move back to "normal" again. And best of all, Easter is coming after Lent, giving us hope for new life because Jesus Christ was raised for us.

But in order to embrace our new life in Christ that's beyond the power of sin and death, we must first die with him. Resurrection cannot happen without death coming first. This is why Lent is a time of repentance: we need to "die to" those things that prevent us from living our new lives in God's presence. As Paul says, "I die every day!" (1 Cor. 15:31). Our repentance means daily "letting go" of even the good things God has given us so we can have the best possible life – eternal life with God, here and now – remembering that God alone is our ultimate desire and our reason for living.

Our Lenten practices can help us to let go of (die to) everything that hinders us from following Christ alone. Praying, fasting, and giving offerings are concrete ways to surrender our time, our longings, and our security so that we can more fully embrace our new life in Christ. Let's pause for a few moments to ask the Holy Spirit, "what are you calling me to do this Lent?"

In Christ,  
Pastor Dan

## “From the Office”

Hello! Thank you all who have been contributing to the monthly newsletters. I love all the interesting information! We held our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 21, 2021 in the Sanctuary. We talked about what our church had done in 2020, and elected our new Elder and Deacons. Pastor Dan is away the week of March 8th, and Russ Topping will be preaching on Sunday March 14th. Don't forget the items for the Newsletters are due to the Church Office by the 20th of the month. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Sue




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## Church News:

**Our Wednesday Lenten Services continue, on Zoom. You can sign in at 6:45 for the 7:00 pm service. The services on Wednesday's are: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 and 3/24. The Zoom service for Maundy Thursday is 6:45 on 4/1, and Good Friday is 4/2.**

**Women's Bible Study are also on Wednesday's in March at 3:00 pm.**

**Palm Sunday is March 28th.**

*We are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas in the words of Howard Thurman's poem, "The Work of Christmas."*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.*

## *Ministry and Outreach:*

News from your Missions Team~ 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**— Well the Christmas Season is unofficially over when we took down the Nativity Scene. The response from the community about the Nativity Scene has been great. Peter's Pantry seems to be a hit as we find plenty of dry goods being dropped off. When the weather breaks, the Deacons will install another pantry at Mt. Airy church in West Amwell, per Peter Gregory.

We will be welcoming LaNelle Gallagher back as a Deacon, and first time Deacon Jennifer Chernoski. Gail Armitage is coming back and completing her second term. We are sorry to see Jessica Cummings and Debbie Crow go, but Debbie will be staying on as the Deacon Treasurer.

The Deacons should be getting ready for the Annual Shad Festival, but that was rescheduled for the beginning of October, and this is due to the Covid pandemic. We will continue to have the Fish Pond, and table out front for the festival. But the Church Gym may be available to use during the Shad Fest, and the Deacons may have something special planned.

We hope that everyone is getting ready for Easter, but because of the pandemic, the Easter Egg Hunt and Deacon's Breakfast won't be happening this year.

If anyone needs help, or has questions, please reach out to any one of us.

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



### *What's Love Got to Do with It?*

This past month of course we celebrated Valentine's Day. Now how a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian martyr to the Romans got all involved in flowers, chocolates and romance is a story for another time. But love indeed has many forms and expressions. The ancient Greeks for example had a word, "phylous" which we have always thought as brotherly or family type of love, between members of the same household. But that is not the best translation of the term. The closest English word to the Greek concept of brotherly or family love is the term "charity". Which we would find in the KJV of how 1 Corith 13 is translated. "If I have not charity".

Today we normally think of the term, Charity, to imply some form giving, or dropping coins into a Salvation Army kettle or sending a check to a "charity". Paul had a far more broad and deeper level of the concept. What he is trying to communicate is that the closest and best form of God's love for us, and in turn the love we are to express to others is what the true meaning of charity implies. Grace, forgiveness, mercy and peace. And when you think about what Valentines' Day is supposed to be, it does make sense. For what value of a card, a box of chocolates or even telling someone, "I love you" if you do not extend to that same person the gifts of Grace, forgiveness, mercy or peace. If our actions do not back up our words, no matter the words of love, they ring hollow and meaningless.

Kris will tell you am I not the most external romantic person, never have been. I am far more happy with the practical, everyday expressions of love 364 days of the year, vice some special blowout dinner on 14 Feb. I am from the "if you love me then help me shovel out the drive way" person than, gee honey lets go to Golden Corral for the Friday special. But again, the lesson of this or any other Valentine's Day or month is deeds, not words. Show me, just don't tell me. Jesus said many, many things, many words. But those words would have been meaningless or nothing if he did not back those words up by a Cross and Empty Tomb. Ponder those words and His actions and what His "Valentine" is for you.

Peter Gregory HR

CDR CHC USN (ret)

## Examining Our Prayer Life

Prayer brings us into fellowship and the very presence of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. During these moments, we are on Holy Ground, and we always remember that.

Scripture also tells us to “Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.” It is during that stillness that we can hear His whisper to our hearts and spirit.

Blessings,

Joanne DiBlasi



### March Birthdays

- 1 Cooie Pidcock
- 7 Ashton Durborow
- 8 Stephen McCloughan
- 12 Zach Griffiths
- 13 Missy Pursell
- 14 Declan Durborow
- 18 Marcus Reading
- 19 Nick Armano
- 25 Rich Hopkins
- 29 Desre Pidcock



## Just for Kids.....

### The Story of People Waving Palms to Jesus

(from DTLK site for kids)



As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem, he asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a donkey tied up. Untie it, and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the donkey, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it and He will bring it back as soon as He's done with it.'"

So, the disciples did as Jesus asked. They soon found the donkey tied at a doorway. As they were untying it, some people were standing nearby visiting. They didn't recognize the men and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying the donkey?"

They replied just as Jesus had told them to. Explaining that the Lord needed it, the people let them go.

When they brought the donkey to Jesus, some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. They did this out of respect for Jesus. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem.

As He was traveling, some people saw Jesus coming and came running towards Him. They had heard He might be coming and they wanted to see him because he had just helped a dead man come back to life.

One by one, they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people that weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down.

These people knew that Jesus was special. It was like when a King or Queen would come to town, and people would roll out a red carpet for him or her to step on. This is what these people did for Jesus when they laid down their coats and branches.

As they got even closer to the town, more and more people noticed Jesus. A crowd surrounded Him and started to shout praises to Him for all the miracles He had done: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!"

The word Hosanna means *save us*. They said this because Jesus was helping them and doing amazing things. They wanted to praise Him, and they wanted Him to keep helping them.

Some men named Pharisees (these men thought they were important; a lot of the people listened to them). They heard the crowd praising God. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?"

The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention from the people. They wanted to be the most important, but everyone was listening to Jesus instead.

Jesus replied, "If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!" Even the rocks knew that He was God; after all, Jesus did make them.

Now Jesus could see Jerusalem and it made Him very sad. He came to help the people, but no one realized that He was God, and they didn't accept Him.

## **March Assisting Schedule:**

### **Elder Schedule**

March 7– **Communion**/Rich Hopkins

March 14– Heather McIntyre

March 21– Don Pidcock

March 28– Russ Topping

### **Deacon Schedule**

March 7- **Communion** \*Terry Peck (Stair Glide), Gail Armitage

March 14– Phil McCloughan

March 21– Heather Pursell

March 28– Danielle Griffiths

**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  
Church Gym

December 21, 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, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins,  
Don Pidcock, Russ Topping and Rev. Dan Dorrow

**Excused:** Mark Dudick and Heather McIntyre

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

**Devotion- Russ Topping**

Russ's devotion was based on **Matthew 20: 25-28**. He read from the bible, and talked about how we are unfamiliar with serving, given our culture. The passage talks about serving God, and that serving should be dedicated to their master, and not to question the master. All servants are equal, and being a servant today is difficult. We tend to think of "me" first. What Matthew wants us to know is, that a servant gives up everything and to serve our master, which is God and Jesus. We should give everything up, and be good and faithful servants. This passage is to remind us that God is in control, and we should serve without reservation.

**Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box-** Susan McCloughan

**Review of Minutes:** Session reviewed the minutes from the November 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.

**Calendar Highlights from December 2020- March 2021:**

Pastor Dan is away the week between Christmas and New Year's. Rich Hopkins will be preaching on Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to Dan being away, Communion Sunday is now scheduled for Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Report submissions are due to the Church Office during the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>. Rich will talk to Brian Claus the leader of the Boy Scouts, to see if they will be participating in Boy Scout Sunday on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Dan will speak with our sister church pastors to see if we will be participating in the Wednesday services during Lent. The First Sunday of Lent is February 21, 2021. The Annual Congregational Meeting is after church on 2/21/21. There is not going to be a pot-luck, due to the coronavirus. March 28, 2021 is Palm Sunday.

**Worship and Music**-Joanne DiBlasi

**Ladies' Bible Study**-Joanne talks about the bible study and how the ladies have met in the Library. So far so good, and the Ladies' Bible Study will continue.

**Building and Grounds**- Pat Durborow/Don Pidcock

There is no work being done on the kitchen or fence at this time. The façade or dental work around the church building will be worked on this spring. Nate McIntyre fixed the roof, but was patched only, more work to come to the church roof this spring as well. The chimney was removed from the church roof. Lights have been changed in the gym ceiling. Pat is in the process of getting in touch with someone to have our ice/snow removed in front of the church and gym area. Mitch Ege was our person who has done this, but he is no longer available.

During this past snowstorm, Phil McCloughan made himself available to remove the snow/ice in front of the church. A **motion** was brought forth to pay Phil for this snow removal. The idea is to get Phil a gift card, which Pat would take care of. The **motion** was approved.

**Budget and Finance**-Rich Hopkins

The Year-to-Date Summary wasn't discussed at tonight's meeting.

**Church Budget for 2021**- Rich spoke regarding the budget for 2021 and beyond. Handouts were given to Session for their review. The church needs a plan going forward, so the savings aren't depleted. Different ideas are being discussed, and the budget needs were talked about long term.

Dan talked about having a pledge drive. We have done this in the past. Sue will give Dan the pledge information. What does God want us to do? What is our vision and what should our congregation do in the future. Session also talked about the future, and the property of Westminster House. A **motion** was to approve the 2021 Budget. The **motion** was approved. The 2021 budget information is on file in the church office.

Dan spoke about having an outside group being brought into the church. This may help our financial situation as well. Session should pray on this.

**Sunday School/Youth Group/Nominating Committee**- Carol Griffiths

**New Hope Community Church Youth Group**- Is still meeting weekly. Maybe once our Friday Night Hang resumes in 2021, NH youth would like to get together with our church on Friday nights with our youth. This could not be done this year due to Covid-19.

**Sunday School** with our youth is still on hold, as well as the Junior Deacons.

**Nominating Committee**-Mark Dudick is the Elder Representative. Danielle Griffiths is the Deacon Representative. Joanne DiBlasi will send an email or call Mark to see how the Nominating Committee is going.

**Moderator Time**-Rev. Dan Dorrow

The Christmas Eve service was discussed. Music is planned with readers. The service will also include the candlelight service. The Deacons are in charge, passing out the candles to the congregation. Dan asked for Ushers to make sure that seating is done so that social distancing can be followed. Make masks available for those who may not have them. The December 27<sup>th</sup> service is not a sermon, but "Testimony Time." A few members from our congregation will be sharing their stories. The two fold bulletin will be used for this service.

**Around the Room**

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion**- Was held on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

**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.

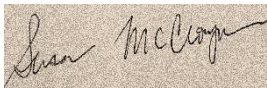
**Prayer Meetings**- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan  
Clerk of Session

Minutes of Session Meeting 7PM January 13, 2021 via Zoom

Present –Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths, Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, Russ Topping, and Pastor Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Excused – Don Pidcock, and Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Devotion – Dan read Psalm 23.

Worship and Music – Joanne reported that services were running smoothly all things considered. She also reminded session to keep Joe Feraco and Grace Hendricks in mind for communion visits when their respective facilities open again for visitation. Dan raised the possibility of increasing the frequency of having communion. Currently, communion is celebrated monthly. Session agreed to pray about this and to discuss further at the February session meeting.

Buildings and Grounds – Pat reported that since there was no fall clean-up outside, the gardens will be cleaned and mulched in the spring. Cooie continues to work on the water damage to the drop ceiling in the gym. Pat bought a gift card for Phil as a thank you from session for his work in removing the ice from the sidewalks in front of the church after the recent storm. Christmas decorations will be removed from the sanctuary at the end of January.

Budget and Finance – Heather is working on the final reports for 2020 and will forward them to session upon completion. Rich agreed to look into the possibility of a PPP loan/grant as a result of the most recent stimulus package passed by the federal government. A discussion followed on paying church volunteers. Session agreed we are blessed by the many volunteers who keep our church running on a weekly basis. For 2021, it was agreed that piano/organ substitutes for Sundays would be paid as follows: \$100 will be paid to substitutes who attend FPCL, and \$250 will be paid to substitutes who are outside professionals. A **motion** made by Heather and seconded by Carol.

Covid Updates – Session agreed that the Sunday services for January 17<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> will be done via Zoom. In-person services will resume on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Dan proposed a 2-person committee to inform the congregation on all Covid-related issues. Russ and Heather volunteered to serve. The committee will contact the congregation using multiple methods, including texts, emails and snail mail. There will also be a voluntary sign-up sheet placed in the back of the church before each Sunday service for attendees who wish to be contacted regarding any new Covid-related exposures within the congregation. The list will only be used for that purpose. Future emails from the office will include our Covid guidelines at the bottom. An additional guideline to be added will ask the congregation to please not attend Sunday services if they may have been exposed.

Around the room prayer requests and praises. Session closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hopkins