

From Our Elder ~ Don Pidcock

COMMUNION ON THE MOON

We all can remember that famous date of July 21, 1969, when two men, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, walked on the surface of the moon and Neil spoke the well-known words, "This is one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Millions of people can recite these words at the drop of a hat but not many people know what happened inside the lunar module previous to their exiting the landing craft.

A few minutes after landing, Buzz Aldrin made this statement to all peoples listening in, "This is the Lunar Module pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication (purposeful radio blackout) and 250,000 miles from home, on the surface of the moon, Buzz Aldrin read a verse from John's Gospel and took Communion.

This is what Buzz later said: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up on the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.' I had intended to read my communion passage back to Earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I do not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly.... I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

Buzz Aldrin was an Elder at his local Presbyterian Church in Texas. Knowing that he was going to be one of the first people to set foot on the moon, he wanted the occasion to be significant so he previously asked his pastor to consecrate a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine.

Although this event was not largely publicized, we now can enjoy this "behind the scene" gesture of Buzz Aldrin and know that whether we are with our church family or many miles from home (even on the moon), we will follow Jesus' command to celebrate communion to always remember Him for what He has done for the entire world.

"From the Office"

The Lenten season has begun! Please see each month's calendar that is posted on the website, to

see any information regarding any upcoming Lent services. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday March 12th at 2:00 am, don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** 1 hour! The Bell Choir has started back, and will be ringing in church on Sunday March 19th. Thank you for your support of the Bell Choir, we do have a very dedicated group :-) The Newsletter Items are due to the Church Office on the 20th of the month, so thank you for your submissions!



Church News:

Sincerely,

Sue



Communion Sunday is March 5th and we will be having Care & Share after church. The Bell Choir will be hosting. If you are interested in hosting a future Care & Share, please reach out to Karen Thatcher.

Ordination and Installation for the Church Officers is Sunday March 5th. Pastor Peter Gregory will be here.

The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing at 2:00 pm on Wednesday's during the month of March.

The last week for Skating and Friday Night Hang is Friday March 10th.

There is a Soup Sale on Saturday March 4th, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. The sales are to benefit various ministries of the church.

The last week of LBL is Saturday March 18th.

The Men's Bible Study will be meeting on Thursday 3/23, 8:00 am at Sneddons in Lambertville.

Animal Alliance will be in the Gym on Friday March 31st from 4-10:30 pm. This is their annual Bingo Night.

<u>HOPE</u>

- Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass because God Promised it will, it has nothing to do with wishing.
- Hope is part of our faith. Please read: Romans 5:1-5

Hebrews 11:1-3

1 Peter 1: 3-12

- Hope in scripture (God's Word) means a strong and confident expectation centering around the Hope of a Savior-Jesus Christ.
- Hope impacts how we see ourselves, what we value and how we live our lives.
- Hope motivates us to be optimistic.
- Hope allows us to see the beauty of life.
- Hope makes us more resilient and adaptable.
- Hope gives us strength when we are grieving.
- Hope allows us to let go of the past.
- Hope gives us the courage to start over.

*Hope is a healer, a motivator, a source of energy, Hope is contagious!

Submitted by Elder Joanne DiBlasi

Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

Please see the Missions bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

Greetings from Your Deacons~

The Deacons are discussing activities for the upcoming months, the Shad Fest on April 22nd and 23rd, and getting the Junior Deacons started, just to name a few. We continue to be apart of the Lambertville community including skating, the Friday night hang, and our outside food pantry.

"That In every moment we can give thanks to the lord for his love and provision and rejoice in the hope we have in Jesus who makes all things new." (**REV 21: 5**)

In His Love~ Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, LaNelle Gallagher, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan and Heather Pursell.



March Birthdays 1 Don 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...



Just for Kids...

Lent p. 2



March Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

March 5- **Communion**/Karen Thatcher March 12- Joanne DiBlasi March 19- Pat Durborow March 26-_Phil McCloughan

Deacon Schedule

March 5-Communion/*Jen Chernoski (Stair Glide), Terry Peck March 12- Heidi Danberry March 19- Gail Armitage March 26- Heather Pursell

Greeting Schedule

March 5- Connie Fisher March 12- Dana Garrenger March 19- Joan Yannarella March 26- Sue 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

<u>Session Minutes</u> <u>First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville</u> <u>Westminster House</u> <u>December 19, 2022 7:00 PM</u> <u>and via Zoom</u>

Class of 2023 Don Pidcock Class of 2024 Karen Thatcher Class of 2025 Joanne DiBlasi

Russ Topping

Karen Thatcher

Heather McIntyre

Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher, Russ Topping, and Rev. Dan Dorrow

Excused: None

Guests: Jeanne Radak, Leader of the Highlands NJ Presbytery and Make Atzert, Committee on Ministry (COM) Liaison, Highlands NJ Presbytery

Welcome: Reverend Dorrow, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the December 19th Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Karen Thatcher

Karen started the devotion by talking about different things that were important to her and her family

while she was growing up during the Christmas season. A couple things that Karen mentioned were, her mom's Christmas flower, and a movie "I Remember Mama", since these represent love and that we need to love the Lord both spiritually and physically. We should be on our knees to pray.

She also talked about how our church is going through change, and quoted the poem: "Where You Lead I Will Follow" (the author is unknown), the writer follows up with scriptures, John 8 and John 12 were mentioned. God is shaking us, don't be afraid, be strong. With change, put

all your hope in Him.

<u>Around the Room -</u> The Elders, Dan and myself went around the room and shared our concerns. Dan closed this section with prayer.

Moderator Time - Rev. Dan Dorrow

Dan asked what the Elder's long-term visions were, he then turned the meeting over to Jean and Mike.

Jeanne spoke about a few things, the examples were- that Dan needs to fill out a couple of forms to be separated from our church which will be done soon, and she explained the different types of pastors-Installed, Covenant Supply, Transitional, etc... 4 Handouts were given and are on file in the church office, these were explained in detail. The Elders can fill in to preach with the exception of Communion Sundays, in which we would obtain a Pastor from the Pulpit Supply List. Sue will get the contact information for the Pulpit Supply List from Sonja Gaertner the Presbytery's Adm. Assistant. We are good with a Pastor on Communion Sundays for Jan-Mar. 2023. Jean mentions the "The Northeast Crossroads Call Finder" on the Presbytery webpage, this we can use this to help to recruit pastors as well as list a job position that may be needed at our church. Options can be, that pastors could be shared from other churches in the area. Seminary students can also be used as an option while a permanent pastor is being searched for. The Elders were asked what they thought of the above information, and discussed at length. Mike then let the Session know that he will be the Point of Contact for the next steps and to let him know what the next steps will be to find a new pastor. Jean thinks our church is in a good location to do many things, and she asked Session to think about the direction they want the church to go. At this point, Dan asked for thoughts, and Session wants to review the handouts from Jeanne and Mike. Session will be getting back to them in the near future regarding the handouts and the direction of the church.

Jeanne Radak and Mike Atzert left the Session meeting at this time.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from November 21, 2022. All were in favor. The 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/Clerk Correspondence- An email was received from the Animal Alliance in Lambertville, they had asked to use the Gym on 3/31/23 for their Annual Bingo Night. Session agreed, and Sue will get back to Denise Nardi from Animal Alliance regarding the date. The Elders were asked to give their name for the monthly News-letters cover page- for the dates from Feb.-June. The information was given.

Calendar Highlights from December 2022-March 2023:

Communion is scheduled for 1/8, 2/5, and 3/5/23. The Christmas Eve service is at 4:00 pm. Elders Joanne Di-Blasi, Don Pidcock and Russ Topping will be reading during the service. Lucia Lee is our Accompanist for 12/24 and 12/25. The Christmas Day service is at 10:30 am. Dan's last Office Hours are on Wednesday 12/28. Those giving the upcoming sermons, will be listed in the bulletins. Natalie Dorrow's wedding is on 1/7/23., and a **motion** was brought to have Communion during the wedding. Session approved. Session will be doing the1st Monday of the month prayer meetings in person, with any Session members not able to make in-person, to be able to attend on Zoom. Karen will reach out to get the Accompanist schedule for Feb. and March. The reports for the Annual Meeting are asked to be submitted to the Church Office the week of 1/23. Pastor Brad Morgan will be our Moderator for the Annual Meeting on February 26, 2023 after the worship service. Brad will also be asked to Moderate our Installation of Officers on 3/5/23. Sue will reach out to Pastor Brad. Skating and Friday Night Hang are continuing until 3/10. The last Day for LBL in the Gym is 3/18. **Ash Wednesday** is 2/22, and the First Sunday in Lent is 2/26.



During this section of the meeting it was discussed that an Elder will need to oversee the Boy Scouts. Karen will send an email out to Session soon, so that an Elder can handle this responsibility.

Worship and Music/Church Life - Joanne DiBlasi/Karen Thatcher

Insurance Review- Nothing at this time.

Children's Time-Joanne is in the process of getting the adults of the church to volunteer.

Sight & Sound- Karen was able to obtain 50 tickets to see Moses on 9/23/23 for the 11:00 am show. The contract for the luncheon after for Bird & Hand is being obtained as well. We'll be getting a bus to take the congregation, more information as it becomes available. There will be fundraising to raise money to lower the cost of the show here at First Pres., in the coming months.

Accompanist/Pianist- We will look into putting the Job Description on the Presbytery's Call Finder website.

Building and Grounds - Don Pidcock

The **new technology** for recording our church service was discussed, and there is an application that we will submit to the Presbytery for a grant to fund the YouTube livestreaming. Casey Carbone is our contact for this. Once the grant is given, Don will get back in touch with Casey to start the process of upgrading the livestreaming.

Sue spoke about the **organ**, which was tuned by Steve Emery. Steve spoke with Pat Durborow and Lucia Lee (they were here when the organ was being tuned) on how the organ has been performing. Steve will send a list of what needs to be fixed since the tune-up has been done. Make sure to include Pat and Session in what was found.

Skating and Friday Night Hang was discussed in the calendar section.

Martinez Landscaping has been done to the Westminster House gardens.

Bathroom on 1st floor of Westminster House-Not discussed. The bathroom in the church under the stairs was discussed, and that needs some work. Joanne asked Addie Andino to send an estimate of what needs to be done.

Don said that the church hallway needs to have some work done, to make this more inviting. The paint is peeling off the outside front of the church, Joanne and Don to repaint, this will be addressed in the spring.

Budget and Finance

Heather was excused from tonight's meeting, so this section was not discussed.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Karen and Don asked that we keep praying that the children keep coming to Sunday School. Sue mentions the Children's Bulletins that are usually up in the Sanctuary. Karen asked Sue to print them up and leave them in the Sunday School room so the children can get them there.

Junior Deacons- What is the age to become a Deacon? Not a Jr. Deacon. Sue will reach out to Jean Radak of the Presbytery to see if there is an age limit, and get back to Session.

Missions – Russ Topping

Russ spoke about the Missions Team, and the funds that will be dispersed to our different Missionaries soon.

Nominating Committee- The Nominating Committee for the next year is being worked on at this time. Updates will be coming soon. There are 2 Elders coming off Session, and 2 coming on. With the Deacons, 2 are going off, and 1 is coming on.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday December 4, 2022.

This was Pastor Dan's last Session Meeting with the Elders, and he thanked all for their service.

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 be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, Zoom will be available. 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 Russ Topping, February is Joanne Di-Blasi and March is Heather McIntyre.

<u>Adjournment</u>

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan

Session Minutes First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville Westminster House January 16, 2023 7:00 PM and via Zoom

Class of 2023 Don Pidcock

Class of 2024 Karen Thatcher

Russ Topping

Joanne DiBlasi

Class of 2025

Heather McIntyre

Rev. Brad Morgan, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher, Russ Topping, and Rev. Brad Morgan

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Morgan, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the January 16, 2023 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Russ Topping

Russ's devotion was based on Psalm 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. We live in a society where everything is in a hurry. God teaches us patience and perseverance. In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells a story to his disciples, about an unjust judge and a widow, and Jesus told his disciples to keep praying and not give up. In God's time justice will come, but we have to have patience and perseverance and keep praying for it. Oswald Chambers talks about being patient and how to persevere in his books, that we should continue to pray, and that prayer is the greater work. Take time out of our busy days to devote more time in prayer.

Around the Room - The Elders, Brad and myself went around the room and shared our concerns. Brad closed this section with prayer.

Moderator Time - Rev. Brad Morgan

The Session welcomed Pastor Brad, and thanked him for being our Moderator. Brad asked where we see our vision for our church. This will be discussed more in the upcoming months.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A motion was called to approve the minutes from December 19, 2022. All were in favor. The 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/Clerk Correspondence- The Elders were asked to give their name for the monthly Newsletters cover page- for the dates from Feb.-June. Joanne-Feb., Don-March, Karen-April, Russ-May, and Heather-June. Sue thanked the Elders for their help for the Newsletters. Our Workers Compensation policy was received for 2023-2024, was reviewed, and is on file in the Church Office.

Calendar Highlights from February-April 2023

Communion is scheduled for 2/5, 3/5. The regular Communion Sunday may be changed from 4/2 to 4/30.

Peter Gregory will be here on 5/28 for Memorial Day Sunday. Communion-6/4, 7/2 (possibly to be at Holcombe-Jimison) and 8/6. The Skating and Friday Night Hang will be continuing until Friday March 10th. There are Soup Sales in the Gym on Saturdays-2/4, 2/18 and 3/4. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 2/22, and the River Churches will be possibly be having services during this time. More information to follow soon. Handbell rehearsal will resume on Thursdays, Feb. 23rd at 7:00 pm. The persons who are giving the sermons on Sundays will be listed in the upcoming bulletins, as well as the Accompanists. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 26th after the Worship Service in the Sanctuary. Installation Sunday is Sunday March 5th. The last Saturday for LBL is March 18th. The Animal Alliance will be using the Gym for their annual Bingo Night on Friday 3/31. Palm Sunday is 4/2, and Easter is April 9th. Rich and Becky Hopkins will be here for those Sundays. Pastor Brad talked about services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. More information on that soon. Shad Fest is the weekend of April 22-23. We will be having Worship Service on Sunday 4/23, time to be determined. There will be a special presentation at the church on Shad Fest weekend. The Chamber of Commerce will be in the Gym for their annual Poster Auction.

Worship and Music/Church Life – Joanne DiBlasi/Karen Thatcher

Insurance Review- The 2023-2024 Workman's Comp. Policy was discussed earlier.

Children's Time- Joanne asked to have Rich, Peter and Don to do the upcoming Children's Time when they are scheduled to give their sermons.

Sight & Sound- Karen was able to obtain 50 tickets to see Moses on 9/23/23 for the 11:00 am show. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the downstairs bulletin board, and a \$50 deposit will be asked to hold your spot. This will be coming soon.

Audio Recordings-Joanne will be trying to record the sermon during the worship service, and she asked Sue to try and retrieve them, and to post it on the Website. This is in addition to the livestream.

Power Point Slides-Pastor Brad asked if we could do slides as "coming attractions" as we are doing the livestream.

Sue will speak to Stephen M., and he will reach out to Brad regarding this. Also, to have a permanent camera to record the livestream mounted in the back of the Sanctuary.

Accompanist/Pianist- Karen asked that we put the Job Description on the Presbytery's Call Finder website, and Sue will contact Sonja (Presbytery's Admin. Asst.) to have this done. The job description will be renewed on the AGO site. We should also reach out to the Princeton Seminary to see if they have any music students available.

Bulletins- Don asked if we can change the order in the bulletin. It's ok with Session to do so. Sue will send out a copy of a 2018 bulletin to the Session members, so a different order of worship can be decided upon.

Building and Grounds - Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

The **new technology** for recording our church service was discussed, and a grant request from our church will be sent to the Presbytery soon, so that we can get the required equipment that is needed.

Sue spoke about the **organ**, which was tuned by Steve Emery in December. I will reach out to Steve for a write-up to see if anything needs to be fixed. I will keep Session and Pat D. informed.

Church Roof- Was discussed in detail and there was a written estimate from Buchanan Construction. The roof was last replaced in the 1990s. Heather suggested that we can get other estimates, if necessary. The church roof isn't leaking at the moment, but it could soon. Updates to come at future business meetings.

Skating and Friday Night Hang- Is happening and going well. Don will ask the Deacons to buy

tracts and bibles so they can be given out. Russ spoke about FNH, and there have been a steady flow of teens. One of the messages was about "The Ten Commandments" to make the teens more aware of God.

Westminster House Office/Church - Sue spoke to Joanne about updates needed for the Church Office. A ceiling fan and better lighting, and a few touchups here and there to the walls. In the Church, repairs to the bathroom under the stairs and also the wall areas in the entrance. In the spring/summer, repairs to the church front doors.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Heather went over the Year-to-Date Summary from 1/16/23, and we are over \$80.14 in our plate offering. The Year-to-Date Giving Summary was discussed, and also the Year End Reports were discussed, which include- the 2022 (all) Budgets, and 2023 Proposed Budget. These reports will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in February.

Boy Scouts- The national lawsuit with the BSA is ongoing, with no updates at this time. Karen suggested that we'll need someone from our Session to sign forms, and be a liaison to the Boy Scouts. Don will reach out and get details of what we are to do from Rich Hopkins, who was our last liaison to the Boy Scouts.

Manual of Administrative Operations- This was presented by Heather to Session in October, and adopted at the October 3, 2022 business meeting, but with a final review to come. This evening, the final review for all sections were completed. The Administrative Operations Manual is on file at the Church Office with the attachments of: Funeral/Memorial Service Request, Wedding Booklet, Minor Property Usage Agreement, Facilities Use Agreement, Child/Youth Policy, and Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Background Checks-Heather will work on these and they will be on file at the Church Office.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Is going well at this time.

Junior Deacons- Joanne has a list of the Jr. Deacons. There is a handout for the Jr. Deacons on file, and Brad suggested that we send a letter with the handout. Sue was asked to see if Phil M. can ask the Deacons to draft a letter to go out to the list of the children that Joanne has with the handout. Then in turn to give to Sue with the list of the parents, so the letter w/ handout can go out. Brad then said that at least 2 or 3 kids may respond to the mailing. He also suggested to Don that he could show a slideshow to the children of the mission trip from the Dominican Republic.

<u>Missions</u> – Russ Topping

Russ spoke about the Missions Team, and the funds were dispersed to our different Missionaries. The budget for Missions was approved, and will be sent by Heather M., to Addie A., and Konni S. On the Missions Team.

Nominating Committee- Is done, and will be talked about at the Annual Meeting in February.

<u>Notations</u>

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday January 3, 2023

Men's Bible Study- Was discussed by Don Pidcock, and will take place once a month, 8 am at Sneddon's in Lambertville.

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.

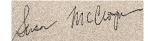
Elders-Are to continue Pastoral Care as needed.

Prayer Meetings- Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. 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 February meeting is Joanne DiBlasi, March is Heather McIntyre, and April is Don Pidcock.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan Clerk of Session