



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

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

From Our Elder ~ Russ Topping

Praising The LORD

Psalm 107:8

“Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.”

We are, I believe, too unsparing in our praise and giving thanks to God for his love and deeds on our behalf.

We are quick to bring before him our needs and wants and slow to bring before him our praise and thanksgiving. This is more out of habit than anything else.

This is a lesson I learned about four years ago. I now start each prayer with praise and thanksgiving, for all he has done for me.

In order to do so, I had to stop and ask myself the question: “What has God done for me?” It is a question we should routinely ask ourselves.

“From the Office”

Please see the May calendar for the upcoming monthly events. The Bell Choir will be playing in church Memorial Day Sunday. Submissions for the Summer Newsletter are due to the Church Office by Monday May 22nd. This is the last Newsletter until September. Thank you to the congregation for your input in the Newsletters, it is greatly appreciated.

Sue



Church News:



National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 4th, and the Church will be open for prayer.

Communion Sunday is **May 7th**, and Pastor Gregory will be here. Care & Share is after church and the Ladies' Bible Study will be hosting. If you are interested in hosting a future Care & Share, please reach out to Karen Thatcher.

Mother's Day is Sunday May 14th.

The Men's Bible Study is Thursday May 25th at 8:00 am, Sneddon's-Lambertville.

Pastor Gregory will be speaking at 2 upcoming events at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. They are free and open to the public.:

Saturday May 20th, 11:00 am– Dedication of the George Washington in Prayer Statue on the grounds.

Monday May 29th-Memorial Day– 11:00 am is the Annual Memorial Day Observance.

The gym is in use by the LBL on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 pm until June.

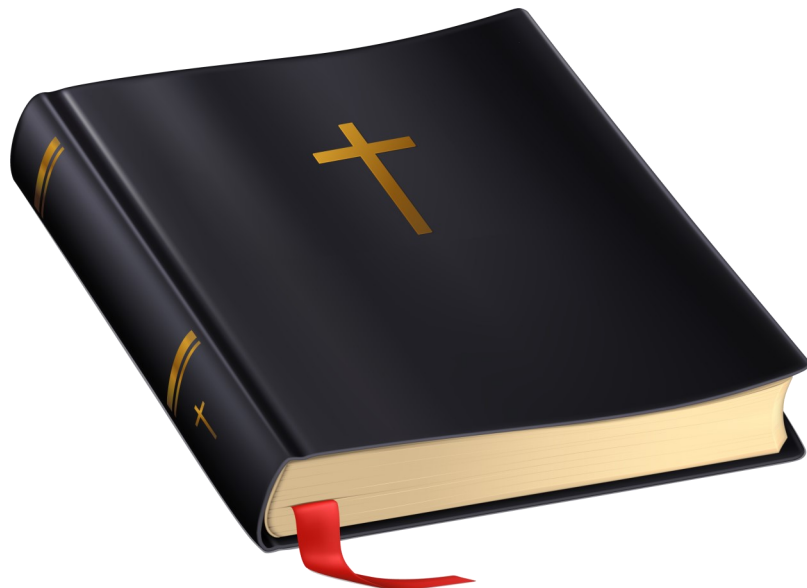
- **A sealed tomb became an open door for all to walk through. Have you?**

John 3:16-21

**Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Church Library at
2:00 pm throughout the summer.**

All are welcome!

Blessings,
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

On behalf of the Deacons, Peter's Pantry is in need of being restocked. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food donation on Communion Sundays to keep our shelves stocked. Thank you.

We will be having some of our Junior Deacons participating in the Worship Service. The Deacons are seeking any youth interested in being a Junior Deacon! If you have questions or know a young person who might be interested in being a Junior Deacon. Please email Jen Chernoski: jenniferchernoski@gmail.com

In His Love~ Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.



May Birthdays

3 Joanne DiBlasi

9 Addie Andino

9 Sean Durborow

13 Brooke Pursell

13 Kris Gregory

14 Jeffrey Pursell

16 Jace Vaccarino

18 Bertha Marriott

20 Joan Gilbert

22 Brayden Chernoski

23 Ginny Moraski

24 Emma Chernoski

25 Tom Griffiths

30 Tristen Pursell



Just for Kids...



Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L__RD, __r L__rd, h__w
 m__j__st__c __s y__r
 n__m__n__ll th__
 __rth!"

Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

May Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

May 7- **Communion**/Don Pidcock

May 14- Karen Thatcher

May 21- Joanne DiBlasi

May 28- Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

May 7- **Communion**/*LaNelle Gallagher (**Stair Glide**), Heidi Danberry

May 14- Terry Peck

May 21- Heather Pursell

May 28- Gail Armitage

Greeting Schedule

May 7- Carol Griffiths

May 14- Karen Armano

May 21- Sue McCloughan

May 28- Dana Garrenger

**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
Adult Sunday School Room
March 20, 2023 7:00 PM
and via Zoom

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Don Pidcock	Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow
Karen Thatcher	Heather McIntyre	Phil McCloughan

Rev. Brad Morgan, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre,
Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Rev. Brad Morgan

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Morgan, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the
March 20, 2023 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Heather McIntyre

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you Matthew 5:44

As Christians, some parts are easy. There are some parts that we don't like to talk about, the parts that we know but we find excuses to avoid in our own lives. It may not be enemies in the sense of the Hatfield's and the McCoy's. We aren't going off to battle in Ancient Greece. No one is shooting at us or threatening us with nuclear weapons. Our enemies are family members to whom we haven't spoke, friends who we disagreed with and parted ways, colleagues that frustrate us, neighbors who play their music too loud or never mow their grass. Our enemies hide in plain sight. We make excuses. After all, it isn't our fault, we were wronged, we were treated unfairly, we didn't start it... I have carried grudges for long enough to rival some of the best. I've stayed mad, I've made excuses, I've let it keep me awake at night, I've celebrated in the pain of those who wronged me. I've made up with family but still held onto the hurt...

Every time you love an enemy, you realize again that while you were God's enemy, Jesus loved you and died for you Romans 5:10

Can you imagine if Jesus hadn't loved us. if God wasn't determined to love us through ALL of our mistakes. Can you imagine life without mercy and grace ?

In the end of 2022, I took the last step in letting go of some of my deepest betrayal I have ever felt. I was determined from day one to forgive fully, to make my Mother proud, to be an example for my kids. I can say with assurance that God put people directly in my path to make sure that I would give grace and mercy...

But life doesn't limit your betrayals or challenges... there is no rest period in between...

Almost a year ago, my family abruptly lost our friendship with our close friends. The disagreement was petty. They over reacted. I didn't understand how things escalated so quickly. It was immediate. We were cut out of their lives. I expected a tough conversation. There were no conversations... we just ceased to be friends. They talked badly about us to mutual friends. My heart broke. I allowed myself to be angry, to let that anger fuel my choices. I tried to pray for them. My attempts were half-hearted and sporadic. I knew I wasn't really praying sincerely. I tried my old personal trick, I prayed to want to forgive them.

Last week a mutual friend shared that this family was going through some unimaginable pain. I let in sink in, I over thought about it... and then I gave it to God. I wrote a text, with the expectation that it might be met with anger. I sent the text and put my phone away. I tried to put it out of my mind... But the texts started coming, thank you for reaching out, we appreciate your prayers, I am so sorry for the way things ended, I wish we could have stayed and had the hard conversations, I really appreciate the grace that you have given me despite everything, we would like to drive across the country and meet up with you again. I was stunned. We texted back and forth for a while. Then the gut punch was delivered. She had cried out to God for a sign... and then she walked outside, snow fell on her head while she was picking up a package, the package was a book sent to her as an answered prayer, and then her phone beeped. My text came through. I can make a short list of times when God has clearly timed things so clearly.

Not every enemy is going to be ready to reconcile. Not everyone is capable of reconciliation... but praying for your enemies brings about a change in your attitude! The change in your attitude dictates how YOU respond to the situation.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you Colossians 3:13

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

Brad focused on the handout that was given in January by the Presbytery- "**Template for Interim/Transitional Pastor Covenant and Position Description**", and asked, what was liked/not liked about an influential pastor in our lives? The question was asked about, which one quality that could be thought about of who may have influenced you the most? That should be the quality that our church should be looking for in a pastor. We went around the room and gave examples of what was liked and not liked about the pastor's who have influenced our past. It was encouraged to Session to re-visit this handout and to take our time in looking for a new pastor, and it will be prayed on. Session also talked about how we have been blessed so far in who have been preaching for us, and also helping with our music.

Brad welcomed the new Elders, Pat and Phil. He would like to like a time to talk to them after the meeting.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from February 20, 2023. 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.

Job Assignments for Session are: Worship & Music- Joanne & Karen, **Building & Grounds-** Pat, Phil and Don, **Budget & Finance-** Heather, **Sunday School/Junior Deacons-** Joanne & Don and **Missions-** Joanne.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- An email was received from Steve Emery regarding the organ. He tuned the organ in December 2022, and would get back to us regarding more repairs if needed, so the email let us know that he will send us a report with additional repairs. Sue will follow-up and keep Session informed. The church received a couple of cards thanking Pat for her help during the Dorrow wedding in January. An email was received from Sue Schlesinger the Fire Official for Lambertville regarding a Fire Inspection, and the items were discussed. Sue from 1st Pres., will follow-up with the Fire Inspector on when she can come for the inspection. Don would be available during this time.

Calendar Highlights from April-June 2023

Communion is scheduled for 4/30, 5/7, and 6/4 with Pastor Gregory. Care & Share will continue on Communion Sundays with different groups hosting. See the upcoming bulletins for who is scheduled to give the Sermons and Accompanists. Donna Zambella and Gail Armitage are heading up getting the flowers for Easter in the Sanctuary. They will be arriving on Saturday April 8th. Fred Kenny will be performing "Pete" for our church on Shad Fest Weekend, April 21, 22 and 23rd. The Chamber of Commerce is in the Gym during Shad Fest as well for their annual Poster Auction. Also, our church will be selling hot dogs, having the Deacon table and the Fish Pond, on Saturday and Sunday 4/22 & 4/23. Pat will be getting the flowers for Mother's Day 5/14 for all the ladies. The Women's Retreat is at Sandy Cove in Maryland on May 19-21. Pastor Gregory will be here for our church service on Sunday May 28th. The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays through the month of June at 2:00 pm.

The Last Sunday for the 9:00 am Sunday School and 10:30 am Worship is June 4th. On Sunday June 11th, we will be holding our summer service at 9:30 am. The 9:30 am service will be held until September 3rd.

Plans are being made for the joint service on **Sunday July 2nd**. Brad will reach out to Peter Gregory and the other area churches regarding the service. Karen suggested to have sandwiches, Brad about having a grill for hamburgers and hot dogs. Phil to put a sign out at Holcombe-Jimison to advertise the picnic. Maybe for the church members to bring some dish to share. Mary Lou is the POC for Holcombe-Jimison, Brad will reach out to her as well.

Book of Registry- The Installation of Church Officers was held on Sunday Marth 5th:

Phil McCloughan-Ordained-Elder, Class of 2026, Pat Durborow-Installed Elder Class of 2026, and Don Pidcock- Installed-Elder Class of 2024. Heidi Danberry and Terry Peck-Installed -Deacons Class of 2026. John Frangakis is a +50 year member.

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

Insurance Review- Karen will reach out to Dennis Duryea in the fall for our Annual Insurance Review.

Children's Time- Most of the people who have been giving the Sermons, have been giving the Children's Time. Things are running smoothly.

Sight & Sound- A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway, and is about half full. Bus and deposit for the show have been done by Heather. Karen is the POC.

Accompanist/Pianist- We have Accompanists until the beginning of June. We have received one resume, and Sue will reach out to the candidate and invite them to our service, and then to speak to them after the service.

Building and Grounds – Don Pidcock

The **new technology** to Livestream on YouTube is ongoing. Don sent the application for the grant to the Presbytery in January. The Presbytery met last Tuesday to discuss the applications that have come in. Our church has not heard back as yet. Don will follow-up with the Presbytery regarding the grant application, we may need to re-file. Brad could loan us a camera if needed. More information to come soon.

Usage of the Gym for LPS- Don was asked by Jim Troutman (he would be the contact person) if the LPS students could use our gym for their classes on Mondays and Fridays, starting in September 2023 to June 2024. They will mostly be using our facility during inclement weather. LPS will be under construction for the upcoming school year. Phil will reach out to Jim to see what type of monetary figure would be acceptable to use our facility. Once Phil gets a response

from Jim, Heather will work with Sue in the office to get a letter together of what will be required for the gym to be used. More information is needed before the Session could vote on this. Also, Don was asked by Jim if the Monday Night Volley Ball League that normally uses LPS, could use the gym as well. Don will check to see if they play all year, and get back to Sue in the office.

Martinez Landscaping- Pat spoke about this. We'll be holding off on them coming until after Shad Fest. Most likely to have them come 2 times a year.

Westminster House- Pat, Don, Phil and Heather have been trying to come up with solutions regarding the heat not working correctly. A new furnace and heating system were discussed. There has been a gas smell on and off for some time, and Elizabethtown Gas has been called as well as Garden State Energy to see if they can fix the problem. Heather is going to contact the gas company to see if there are any rebates on getting a new heating system. Also, Don to see if a "split system" would be able to heat the Office. He will also install the "Nest" thermostat, for more heat efficiency. There may also be a rebate for the thermostat.

Phil is going to speak to Chief Mike Barlow at the Lambertville Fire Department to get a non-emergency contact number, so if gas is smelled, it can be reported. He'll also ask Mike if the fire department knows of anyone else in town having gas smell issues, and Phil will get back to Session.

Don asked that when the office is occupied, that the front door be locked, for safety reasons. To possibly install a "panic button" so that if there is an emergency, the police/fire can be notified. Don will call Holicong Security to see if this can be done through them.

Small Church Bathroom- Session thanked Joanne DiBlasi and Addie Andino for their work on the bathroom, how much nicer and more functional it is. The Church Hallway was also discussed, and will be repaired soon. In the spring, the front doors of the Church will be painted.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out, from 1/1-3/20/23, and we are over in our Plate \$111.36. Heather spoke about our investments with Morgan Stanley. The rebates for the heating system at Westminster House was discussed earlier.

Lowell Hunter Estate-No updates at this time.

Boy Scouts- No updates at this time. Our Elder Liaison to the Boy Scouts is Don Pidcock.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Don said that Heather Pursell fills him in when needed, but we still need teachers.

Junior Deacons- Phil talked with Jen Chernoski regarding the Jr. Deacons, and the process is moving along. There have only been a couple of children coming to church on a regular basis, and the Deacons are looking to add more children for the Jr. Deacon program. Joanne is planning on keeping in contact for updates with Jen on the program.

Missions – Joanne DiBlasi

The Mission Team- Funds have been distributed to our Missionaries- John & Aruna Desai (ISI), Grace Morillo (United World Mission), and Terry Slemmer (local ministries.)

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday March 5, 2023

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 April Meeting is Don Pidcock, May is Karen Thatcher and June is Joanne DiBlasi.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session