

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

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

**From Our Elder ~ Don Pidcock**

On May 19, 2024, we will celebrate the end of the Easter season with Pentecost, which occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and HIS ascension into heaven. After Jesus's resurrection he lived 40 days showing himself to many people convincing them that He was alive.

Before Jesus ascended, he promised to send to his disciples an advocate, the Holy Spirit, to give them understanding and direction. Ten days after His ascension Pentecost came and was the fulfillment of that promise, making it one of the most important days of the year as it celebrates the beginning of the church and its mission to the world.

The Bible describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as a sound like a “strong, driving” wind filling the room, and tongues “as of fire” coming to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so they could understand each other. The Holy Spirit came on the 50th day (hence the name Pentecost (Greek meaning 50) which also coincided with the Jewish holiday called the Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Harvest. These Feast caused many Jewish people from different parts of the world to be assembled in Jerusalem. So as the disciples spoke to the assembled people they heard them speaking in many different native tongues. All were amazed.

We also today should be amazed as God is speaking to all nations in their native tongues.

He is continually reaching out to all those who are poor, needy, helpless and wanting. That is just one reason of many that God has ordained each one of us with The Holy Spirit so that we can reach out to any and all to share Gods love. We may not have received the Holy Spirit with flames of fire and sounds of wind but we did received it as Jesus promised it to us all. John 14-16

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOLY SPIRIT!**

## “From the Office”

Thank you to all who participated with our church for the Shad Fest! For the Fish Pond this year, the donations that were given are going towards our new church roof. The kids enjoyed fishing and getting prizes, and the parents appreciated us too. The hot dog sales went well. We had fun and the weather did cooperate, blessings for the good weather! The Handbell choir rang for Shad Fest this year, and we had an audience. Thank you for your support of the bell choir, it is very much appreciated!!



Please continue to send in your information for the Newsletters the information for the Summer Newsletter is due to the Church Office during the week of May 20th. This will be the last Newsletter until September.  
Thank you,  
Sue

## Church News:



National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 2nd and the Sanctuary will be open for prayer.

We will be having Care & Share on Sunday May 5th, and will be hosted by the Session.

Mother's Day is Sunday May 12th and flowers will be given out to all the ladies' in attendance.

Communion will be on Sunday May 26th and Pastor Peter Gregory will be here. It is Memorial Day Sunday and the SHR Marching Band Members here to play for us. More details in the upcoming bulletins.

It is also the last day for the Adult and Children's Sunday School.

On Monday May 27th at Washington Crossing National Cemetery, 11:00 am Pastor Gregory will be offering prayers for the Memorial Day Cemetery. All are welcome to stay and place flags on graves post service.

On Sunday June 2nd at 10:00 am, we will be gathering with our sister church Mt. Airy for a Joint Communion Service. Pastor Gregory will be conducting Communion.

## Ministry and Outreach:

### News From Your Missions Team~

Please see the Bulletin Board in the back of the Sanctuary.

Your Missions Team:

**Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Konni Sandford, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella**

### From Our Deacons~

Our Deacon's involvement during the past couple of months were the Easter Brunch which is always a church favorite, and most recently Shad Festival weekend. The Deacon's would like to thank all who came together to help with both. A special thank you to all who helped in the kitchen and Deacon table, for filling in for the Deacon's when needed. As a small group we always want you as our congregation to know how much we appreciate each and everyone who supports us.

#### ***Ecclesiastes 4:9-10***

*Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down one can help the other up...*

Blessings to all!

Your Deacons,

**Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher,  
Dana Garrenger, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.**



## Let All That I Am-Praise the Lord!

- **Please read Psalm 103**

As I've gotten older, I can understand and appreciate God's love for His children. By children I mean those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, there by giving us the privilege of calling the creator of the universe our Heavenly Father.

The more you study and read through the old and new testaments, you begin to comprehend the depth and intensity of trust and worship that our Heavenly Father desires from us.

Remember, Christianity was not meant to be a religion, but a relationship. We gather on Sundays and during the week to worship and praise our Lord as well as to encourage one another in this chaotic world we live in.

- **Hebrews 10:23-25**

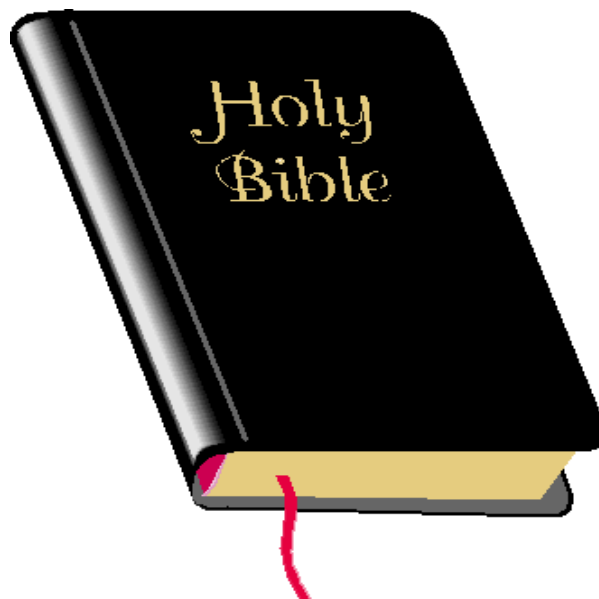
Reminds us that because of the hope that Christ has given us, we are to "motivate and encourage one another." Even more so, we are to "not neglect our meeting together as some people do."

We don't gather to be entertained, but to share the wisdom and gifts God has specifically given to each of us and in turn that brings about the praise and worship that should be pouring forth from our lips and hearts.

If your faith has become more of a religion instead of a relationship, ask the Holy Spirit to renew how you approach and respond to your Heavenly Father.

Blessings,

Joanne DiBlasi



May Birthdays

3 Joanne DiBlasi

9 Addie Andino

9 Sean Alan Durborow

13 Brooke Pursell

13 Kris Gregory

14 Jeffrey Pursell

16 Jace Vaccarino

20 Joan Gilbert

22 Brayden Chernoski

23 Ginny Moraski

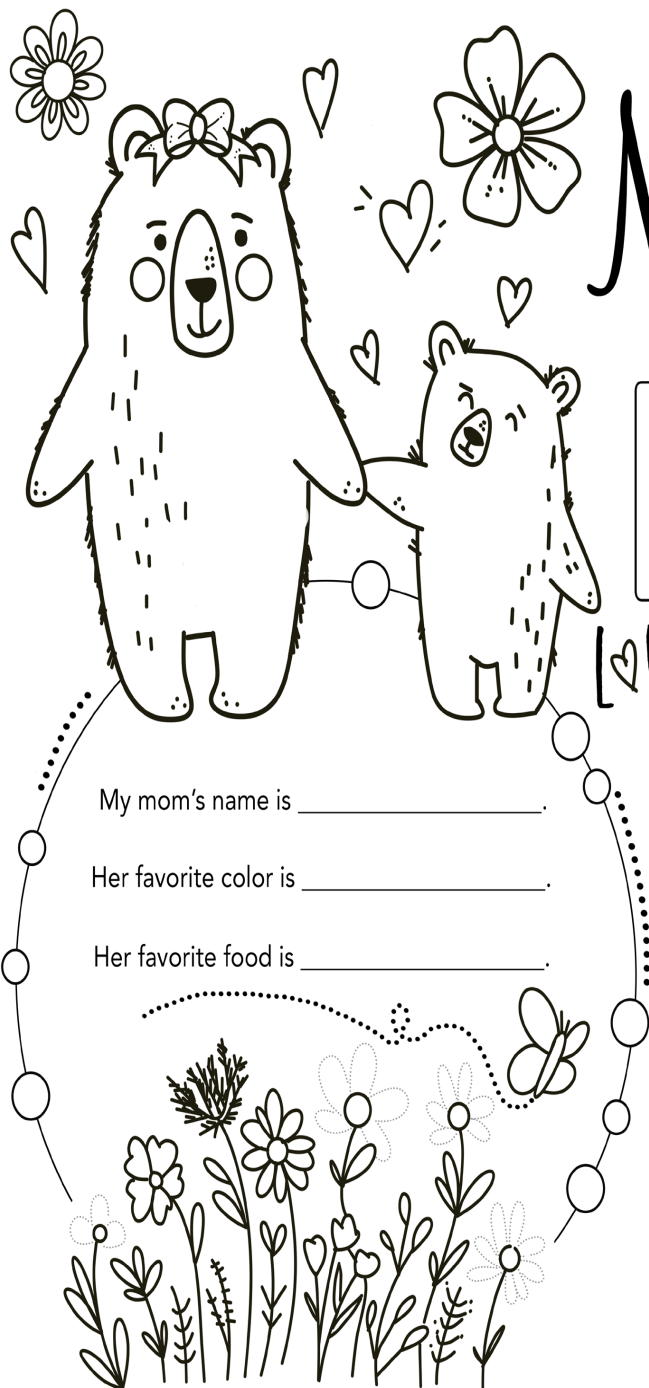
24 Emma Chernoski

25 Tom Griffiths

30 Tristen Pursell



Just for Kids... Happy Mother's Day!



MY  
Mommy  
IS THE  
BEST  
LOVE...

My mom is  
the best  
because:

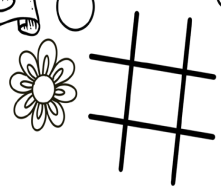
---

---

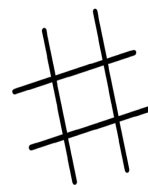
---

---

---



TIC TAC TOE



Color and cut out  
the bookmark!



Finish the garden for your mom!

## **May Assisting Schedules:**

### **Elder Schedule**

May 5- Don Pidcock  
May 12- Karen Thatcher  
May 19- Joanne DiBlasi  
May 26- **Communion**/Pat Durborow

### **Deacon Schedule**

May 5- Dana Garrenger  
May 12- Terry Peck  
May 19- Heather Pursell  
May 26- **Communion**/ \*Heidi Danberry (Stair Glide), Jen Chernoski

### **Greeting Schedule**

May 5- Joan Yannarella  
May 12- Donna Zambella  
May 19- Carol Griffiths  
May 26- Sue McCloughan

**If you unable to serve your scheduled dates,  
please find a replacement and contact the church office.**

**Schedules are subject to change**

**Thank you!**



Session Minutes  
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville  
Westminster House and Zoom  
March 18, 2024 7:00 PM

**Class of 2025**

Joanne DiBlasi

Heather McIntyre

**Class of 2026**

Pat Durborow

Phil McCloughan

**Class of 2027**

Don Pidcock

Karen Thatcher

Rev. Linda Gaden, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

**Present:** Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre,  
Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Rev. Linda Gaden

**Excused:** None

**Guests:** Rev. Jeanne Radek, Presbytery Leader and Rev. Mike Atzert, Liaison/COM of the Highlands Presbytery

**Welcome:** Reverend Gaden, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the  
March 18, 2024 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

**7:00 PM-Devotion, Karen Thatcher**

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and eternal life—abundant and eternal.

The Bible says:

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

***Romans 5:1***

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

***John 3:16***

"I [Jesus] came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

***John 10:10*****Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?**

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and freedom of choice. We choose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.



The Bible says:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

***Romans 3:23***

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

***Romans 6:23***

Our choice results in separation from God. People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God...

The Bible says:

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

***Proverbs 14:12***

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

***Isaiah 59:2***

**No bridge reaches God... except one.**

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

The Bible says:

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

***1 Timothy 2:5***

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."

***1 Peter 3:18***

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

***Romans 5:8***

**God has provided the only way... Each person must make a choice...**

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me."

***Revelation 3:20***

"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

***John 1:12***

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,

you will be saved."

***Romans 10:9***

**Around the Room** - The Elders, Linda and myself went around the room and shared our concerns. Linda will take the prayers home and pray for those concerns, then closed this section in prayer.

**Moderator Time** - Pastor Jeanne Radek and Pastor Mike Atzert

Jeanne started with steps on how to look for a new pastor, since Dan Dorrow has been gone for over a year. She mentioned a process called “Turn the Page” this is a series of retreats that the Presbytery would help our session with. There are usually 3 steps. Step 1. – Discernment or what’s the next chapter? In what direction is God leading us to find a pastor. Step 2. – What has the Session learned from step 1, and where is God calling us? Step 3.- What is God calling us to do, as our session would be setting up and asking the congregation, what kind of leader do we need? This step would also include writing up a vocation statement, or who would have the call to become be our pastor. Jeanne also talked about possibly sharing a pastor with Mt. Airy or Titusville, and there were many steps that were discussed. She at this point asked session to give their ideas on what we are looking for in a pastor. Some ideas were: If we did get a full-time pastor, the insurance would go up considerably. Other churches are sharing pastors. Mike asked what our church has already in place to reach the community-skating was mentioned. Jeanne mentioned that without pastoral leadership, that we are “stalled.” We should look at where is God leading us now? Some churches in our Presbytery have small groups but are thriving. Heather asked how we get the retreats started. Jeanne asked that we do the retreats in person, and we’ll need a Trained Facilitator that our church would need to pay. We can call Mike to obtain a Facilitator. The ***Turn the Page*** information is on the Presbytery Website, and session will look into this soon. Pastor Linda said that we should “think out of the box”, and to put together a wish list, and what would work for our church. Also, where do we see our church in 2-5 years from now? If there are any questions in our search, we should reach out to Pastor Jeanne and Pastor Mike. Jeanne and Mike have 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 February 19, 2024. All were in favor.

**Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence-** We have received a letter from the New Life Riders (Terry Slemmer) thanking us for the toy drive we held in October 2023 to benefit the children of inmates at the Edna Mahon Correctional Facility. Sue gave the letter to Joanne to bring to Missions. An email was received from FM Global to inspect the church boilers for our insurance company, Franklin Mutual. This will be done later in the month. The March Pulpit Supply List was given out. Sue received the updated COI from the Lambertville Chamber of Commerce for the upcoming Shad Fest.

**Calendar Highlights from April-June 2024**

Communion is scheduled for 4/14, 5/26. 6/2 will be a joint Communion Sunday with Mt. Airy at Mt. Airy. All dates are with Peter Gregory. See the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. The Ladies’ Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays. LPS is continuing with the use of our gym. Riverside Symphonia will be using our Sanctuary 4/12 and 13. We will be having Worship Service here at 9:00 am on 4/21-Shad Fest weekend. The Bell Choir will be performing outside either Saturday or Sunday at Shad Fest. The COC will be in the Gym 4/19-4/21 for their Poster Auction. On Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the National Day of Prayer. Sue will order a poster and bookmarks for the day, and our Sanctuary will be open for prayer.

Pat will get carnations for the women on Mother's Day. Sue contacted Gabe Stephens from SHR and some of the Marching Band will come and play special music for our 5/26 service. Our last service for 10:30 am until September is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be starting the summer schedule on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>, and the worship service will be at 9:30 am. The last Session Business Meeting until September is Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>. There are no Session Business Meeting during July and August. More on the summer prayer meetings to follow. Pastor Linda mentioned that if we are looking for musicians, that we should join the Liturgical Musicians page on Facebook. They get a lot of posting on this page, and we should post how much our stipend is. We may be able to find more substitute accompanists this way. Karen and Sue will be working on this.

**Book of Registry-** Was updated with the Installation/Ordination of Church Elders and Deacons on 3/5/24. Don Pidcock-Installed Elder and Karen Thatcher Installed Elder. Jen Chernoski and LaNelle Gallagher Installed Deacon. Dana Garrenger Ordained Deacon. All terms will end in February 2027.

**Front Page for Upcoming Newsletters-**Elders were asked to take a month to do a front page for the newsletters. The list was completed up to December 2024.

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

**Insurance Review-** Karen will reach out to Jean Ring our new insurance rep. from the Duryea Agency. We are still finding issues in the church regarding the lightning strike in June 2023, and will continue working with Duryea and Decker and Associates to have the issues resolved.

**Young Adult Time-** Phil is scheduled for 3/24 and Don for 3/31. Joanne will ask for 4/7. The Young Adults will be coming up the aisle and bringing the palms during the singing of "The Palms" on Palm Sunday.

**Soup Sale and other Fund Raisers-** The soup sale is done at this time. The sales have made over \$3000. We will be selling the remainder of the soup after church for half price. What doesn't sell could possibly be given to Fisherman's Mark.

**Accompanist/Music Director-** Our resume for the Accompanist/Music Director is still active on "Call Finders" the Presbytery Website. Pastor Linda discussed with session earlier about the possibility of finding substitute accompanists on Facebook.

**Spanish Ministry-** Joanne has been in touch with Francesca regarding to have the Spanish Community to rent our Chapel on Wednesday nights. This would first be on a trial basis, and Joanne would be here for them. Phil also said he would be available to be here in the beginning if necessary. Linda said that this was exciting. A **motion** was brought to have the Spanish Ministry temporarily use our Chapel to see how it goes on Wednesday nights. They can also use the Adult Sunday School Room. The **motion** was approved, and all were in favor. Joanne will get back to Francesca to let her know she can use these rooms in the church.

**Nominating Committee 2024-** Is over at this time.

**Building and Grounds** – Pat Durborow/Phil McCloughan/Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

The **new technology** for the Livestream is up and running. Phil suggested that we buy 2 or 4 more microphones for the front of the church, so that the organ and handbell choir can be heard better. The quality is much better with the new cameras.

**Martinez Landscaping-** Not discussed at this time.

**Church Roof-** This is ongoing, and Heather and Phil will narrow it down to one contractor. Painting will be done to the church at a different time. Phil talked about the cemetery and how the scaffolding will be placed over the stones to protect them. Scaffolding will most likely be put on both sides of the church.

**Skating and Friday Night Hang** – Not discussed at this time.

**Church Organ-** Will be addressed after the work on the church roof is completed.

**Hallway in Church/Bathrooms-** Not discussed tonight.

**Heating in the Church/Westminster House-** The 2<sup>nd</sup> furnace in the church, the parts have been replaced. Garden State has been servicing all of our furnaces, but they need to come back to do diagnostic checks on the furnace at Westminster House and the furnace behind the nursery to make sure that furnace isn't affecting the SDG alarm.

**Steeple Bell-** An Art Historian came by the church and spoke to Joanne regarding if there is any graffiti in the church steeple bell. His name was Greg Huber. He gave Joanne his contact information, and she turned that over to Don. Maybe possibly to put a ladder up in the steeple to look at the bell to see if there is graffiti. Joanne will reach out to Greg and let him know she passed the information on to Don so he can get in touch with him.

**Budget and Finance** – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out and was discussed, from 1/1-3/18/24, and we are under in our Plate by \$1368.82 and Heather reviewed this with Session. The Workman's Comp. Audit has been done.

**Lowell Hunter Estate-** No updates at this time.

**Boy Scouts-** No updates at this time regarding the litigation. The Boy Scouts did clean up the skating closet.

**Usage of the Gym for LPS during the 2023-2024 School Year-** We have been paid up to date for the use of the gym.

**AED Equipment-** Heather discussed the AED, and it is still beeping at times, so we do have new pads to try for the AED to see if the beeping will stop.

**Heating System Energy Assessment-** On pause for now, but Heather will keep session updated with any new developments.

**Grants-** On hold at this time.

**Sunday School/Junior Deacons** – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

**Sunday School-** Is still continuing. Don will let Sue know when Sunday School will be ending for the summer.

**Junior Deacons-** They are participating in the church services.

**Missions** – Joanne DiBlasi

Mission checks will be going out this month to those missions that our church supports.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** Was on Sunday March 3, 2024 and performed by Pastor Peter Gregory.

**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.

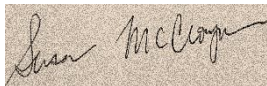
**Prayer Meetings-** Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

**Session Devotion Rotation-** The devotion for the April meeting is Joanne DiBlasi and May is Pat Durborow.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan  
Clerk of Session