



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,

After an extended period of prayer and discernment, I've made the difficult decision to finish my service as your pastor on December 31, 2022. I'm very grateful to the Lord and to you for these two-and-a-half years we've spent together in blessed times of worship and fellowship. We even made it through those difficult pandemic years!

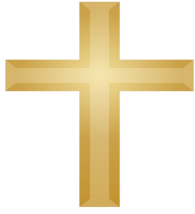
My reasons for leaving at this time are both personal and, more importantly, based on what I believe is best for our congregation.

On a personal level, I've been "slowing down" at a faster rate than I'd anticipated, and I feel called at this season of my life to use my energy and gifts to engage with people who are unlikely to step into a church building. I've been very blessed to be spending a lot of my time preparing for and leading us in our Sunday worship, and now I'm sensing that the Lord is calling me to re-focus on those outside of our church walls.

More importantly, regarding you and what's best for you as a congregation, the Lord has been impressing on me your need for more pastoral leadership – if you want to grow. For this, I believe you need an installed, full-time, younger pastor who's able to lead you in "re-planting" our congregation among the people who now live in Lambertville. As a contract, part-time pastor, I feel that I'm unable to lead you in this re-planting, which is a longer-term project.

I do feel the Lord's presence among us, and love between us, as we worship and pray and fellowship together on Sunday mornings. Yet our average attendance makes us more like a house church. I encourage you to keep the richness of small group fellowship as you actively reach out to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us in following Christ. His church exists for the purpose of mission – to make disciples of all people – and the Lord cares deeply for Lambertville and everyone who lives here!

You have enormous resources in terms of our central location, our beautiful and well-cared-for buildings, and a very large financial endowment. I encourage you to be good stewards of these abundant gifts from the Lord, investing them for his service as the Spirit guides you.



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Continued...

I'm committed to leading you as your pastor through the end of this year, coming alongside of you as you discern the specific ways in which the Lord is calling you to follow him at this time. Our good and loving Shepherd will lead all of us on right paths and in green pastures. Please join me and our Session in prayer to discern what the Lord has next for you: a full-time pastor – possibly with an additional half-time (or more) worship leader/co-pastor – or maybe merging to join forces with a nearby congregation. We can have every hope because the Lord Jesus is in charge of his church, so let's follow him wherever he's leading us.

Please feel free to express to me in the days ahead any thoughts or feelings you are having about my leaving and about the future of our congregation as you continue to listen to the Lord's voice.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor Dan

“From the Office”

Hi All,

Please continue to send in your submissions for the Newsletters, it is very much appreciated. Handbell Rehearsal will be starting again on Thursday evenings, and our first rehearsal is November 3rd at 7:00 pm. We are always looking for ringers, so if you are interested, please see me. Dan is away the week of November 21st, and Don Pidcock will be giving the Sermon on Sunday 11/27, which is the first Sunday of Advent. **Happy Thanksgiving on 11/24! The Church Office will be closed on Friday 11/25.**

Sincerely,
Sue



Church News:



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday Morning 11/6 at 2:00 am. Please set your clocks back 1 Hour!

We will be having Care & Share after church on Sunday November 6th. If you are interested in hosting a future Care & Share, please reach out to Karen Thatcher.

Please see the upcoming bulletins and calendars for our Accompanists.

The Ladies' Bible Study will be on Wednesdays in November at 3:00 pm. With the exceptions of 11/2 and 11/23.

Veterans' Day is Friday November 11th.

The Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic will be from Saturday 11/5-11/13. Thank you to all who donated to the trip.

The Lambertville Elks will be in the Gym on Saturday November 12th in the am for their annual “Hoop Shoot.”

Skating and Friday Night Hang will be starting on Friday November 18th. Skating for the Youth (up to 6th grade) is at 6:00 pm and Hang for grades 7-12 will be at 8:00 pm. Both are in the Gym.

The First Sunday of Advent is November 27th.

The LBL will be in the Gym starting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11/28. They will be in the Gym until mid-March.

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 Church Deacons!

What a beautiful season we are privileged to wonder at and enjoy. We hope that. You Are all enjoying it and that you are all well, both in. Body and spirit.

We as your deacons are busy planning for our traditional activities, including the Following:

Putting up the nativity (thanks to Phil and friends)

The childrens christmas program

Backpacks for the homeless

Gift cards for our college students

The junior deacons program

Sending cards and flowers to those in need (an ongoing activity)

Continued prayers. For the needs of our congregation and answered prayers.

We leave you with this thought:

People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan will happen."

Love and prayers from the Deacons~

Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, LaNelle Gallagher, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan, and Heather Pursell



Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child

Would you believe it is that time of year already? We will be collecting our filled boxes so I can deliver them to the drop off on November 21st.

Thank you for your devotion to this outreach.

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi



Information regarding the Giving Envelopes~

As the end of year draws near, we are updating our list for the Giving Envelopes so we can have the boxes out and ready for pickup by mid-December. If you would like to receive envelopes for the offering and haven't in the past, please let either Debbie Crow or Heather McIntyre know so we can add you to the list. On the other hand, if you would prefer not to receive them, let us know that as well.

Thanks,
Debbie and Heather

November Birthdays

8 Noah Lucas

9 Katie Vaccarino

10 James P. Buchanan

12 Antonia Pursell

13 Karen Armano

13 Tom Crews

14 Bob Pierman

18 Patrick Durborow

18 Madison Hartpence

20 Danielle Fisher

25 Heather McIntyre

26 Natalie Hoffman

27 Joan Yannarella

30 Karen Thatcher

30 Debra Wiley-Geis

30 Ella Dudick



Just for Kids...

10/27/22, 2:00 PM

DLTK's Custom Bookmarks



Instructions:

- Cut the bookmark out (one big rectangle) and fold in half (left to right) along the center line.
- Glue so it stays folded together.
- OPTIONAL: cover with [clear contact paper](#) so it lasts longer (you could also put a piece of cardboard in the center before gluing for a sturdier bookmark)
- OPTIONAL: Poke a hole in the top of the bookmark and tie a string/wool through as a tassel.

November Assisting Schedule:

Elder Schedule

Nov. 6– **Communion**/ Joanne DiBlasi

Nov. 13– Karen Thatcher

Nov. 20– Russ Topping

Nov. 27– Joanne DiBlasi

Deacon Schedule

Nov. 6– Communion/ *Gail Armitage (**Stair Glide**), LaNelle Gallagher

Nov. 13– Phil McCloughan

Nov. 20– Heather Pursell

Nov. 27– Danielle Griffiths

Greeting Schedule

Nov. 6– Connie Fisher

Nov. 13– Dana Garrenger

Nov. 20– Joanne DiBlasi

Nov. 27– Stephen 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

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House and via Zoom
October 3, 2022-Rescheduled Business Meeting
from September 19, 2022 7:00 PM

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Don Pidcock	Karen Thatcher	Joanne DiBlasi
Russ Topping		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

Welcome: Reverend Dorrow, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the October 3rd Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Heather McIntyre

I follow a devotional on Facebook called Midnight Mom Devotional. Some days it seems very appropriate. After Hurricane Ian came through Florida, the image of the Lord holding back the wind seemed especially vivid...

Tonight we pray for the momma who is tired. Lord, she feels the weight of everything and she is exhausted by it. She is ready for a break. Lord, she is strong, but tonight I hear you whispering to her heart, "I am the One who can hold back the wind." Lord, as the world goes crazy around her, help this momma see You as her strong shield on all sides. Your presence is her safe place when everything else feels uncertain... and You are holding her even now. Give her peace as she relaxes into Your arms. We ask in Jesus's name, Amen

Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 3:3 But You, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head. What does he shield us from? Satan. Anything that gets in the way of your walk with him. Your sorrows and troubles. Your worries. Your despair. Your own shortcomings. The dark depressive days. The possibilities are endless. We have an open line to ask at any point in time and there is no limit on our requests. We may not always receive the answer we are praying for but he always hears us and he promises to be our strength and our shield.

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

Moderator Time - Rev. Dan Dorrow

In the Presbytery Newsletter there was information regarding technology consults for the churches. It was encouraged by the Presbytery to use this service to possibly spruce up any of the churches websites, etc. Dan will email the information to Don, so that we can call them to make an appointment in the near future, which he will do.

Long Term Vision- Critical mass is low, what do we need to do? Our doors are open, but that isn't enough. Don, what do we need now? Karen, we should try and get more young people in. Dan and Karen suggested to have our Greeters outside, and maybe bulletins on a pedestal on Sundays, and have a sign to say "Join Us." Karen will reach out to see if having greeters outside, is a possibility.

Keep praying for our church growth, which Dan spoke about. Russ asked to continue to pray for our upcoming Friday Night Hang and Roller Skating, which will be starting in November.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from June 20, 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- Previous emails between Sue and Steve Emery, regarding the church organ and that it needs to be tuned, and it isn't working properly. Heather will look for the information to see when the organ was last tuned. Don and Joanne expressed the need to keep the organ at its best. Steve was contacted to come and tune the organ, and he'll be asked to evaluate it when he comes to do the tune-up. We received our Retail Food License, and it is good until 5/31/23, and is posted in the Church Kitchen. An updated Funeral/Memorial Service Request will be updated by Sue and sent to Heather. We have received a request for the Lambertville/West Amwell Girl Scouts to use our Adult Sunday School Room, this group used our facility last year, and was a go for this fall. Karen and Russ will switch their assisting duties for the month of October.

Called Session Business Meetings and Stated Communion Dates for 2023- Were sent to Session by email for their review, and was marked "Addendum A." A **motion** was called to approve the dates for 2023. All were in favor. Addendum A will be attached to September's minutes and printed in the Book of Minutes.

1. The Elder Assisting and Care lists have been updated.

Our church's **Operations Manual, Children and Youth Protection Policy** as well as our **Sexual Misconduct Policy** were discussed by Session and updated. These documents are on file at the Church Office.

Calendar Highlights from October-December 2022:

World Communion Sunday is 10/2. Communion Sundays for Nov. and Dec. are 11/6 and 12/4. Karen and Sue will reach out to our Accompanists to see who is available to play for November and December. For Christmas Eve, we are looking to have the service around 4:00 pm. More to come on that time at the next Session Business Meeting. We are looking to have all the Elders and Deacons here on Christmas Eve. Karen would like to sing "O Holy Night" with Stephen McCloughan as Accompanist. Sight & Sound is coming up on 10/15. The October Session Business Meeting is being moved to Monday October 24th, 7:00 pm, at Westminster House. Skating and Friday Night Hang will be starting on November 18th. Our joint meeting with the Deacons will be on Monday 11/21 T 6:30 pm. LBL will be using the Gym, M-Th and Saturdays starting on Monday Nov. 28 and will continue until March 2023. Dan asked that the Elders take a Sunday to be a reader and light our Advent wreath starting on 11/27. Joanne 11/27, Don 12/4, Russ 12/11 and Karen 12/18.

The Bell Choir will be resuming on Thursday November 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We'll be discussing our Children's Christmas Pageant at the next Session Meeting. Roller Skating will be having a birthday cake for Jesus on 12/16. We are having worship on Christmas Day December 25th, with Prelude at 10:20, and Worship at 10:30 am.

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

Lambertville Historical House Tour- Will be on Sunday 10/23 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Joanne spoke about this, and Craig Reading and Russ will be our tour guides. We will have handouts, and pictures of the church will be displayed.

Children's Time- Dan is continuing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, as well as other church members during the worship service.

Insurance Review- The Abuse and Molestation policy are all in order. Heather and Karen talked about our Accident Policy, which was renewed, and is on file in the Church Office.

Sight & Sound- The show, lunch and bus is paid for. Sue will send out an email regarding what time to be at the bus at the CVS-Lambertville parking lot.

Accompanist/Pianist- We are continuing to look for a Part-Time Accompanist/Music Director. An interested person was going to come to play for us in November, but they withdrew their application at this time. Karen asked us to keep the faith and that God has a plan for our future accompanist. Sue will ask that the job description on the Presbytery website and the Central NJ AGO site to be renewed. Dan asked all to pray for someone to be called to this position.

Building and Grounds – Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

The last time a new **roof** was put on the Sanctuary was 1996. The roof is most likely leaking at this time. It is in the B&G budget to put on a new roof. It will take a large budget to replace the roof, but Session feels that it has to be done shortly. Heather will get estimates for the new roof as well as the gutters-since they are built in, and get back to session. Sue suggested asking Phil M. to see if he knows any roofers, and will let session know. Don said the Steeple isn't leaking, and that he worked on that in 1976. Joanne talked about the boy's bathrooms in the Gym, and that they need work, We will need a new CO2 Detector in the church basement, it was beeping recently.

Heather spoke with Pat D. about Martinez Landscaping, and the maintenance they provide. Session agreed that the maintenance of the church grounds should continue with Martinez.

The fountain that was on the side of Westminster House was moved to the back by Dan's office, and a new electrical outlet was put there. Other maintenance was done by the electrician and plumber to both buildings as well.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Heather went over the Year-to-Date Summary from 1/1- 9/19/22 and we are over \$2343.30 in our plate offering. The Lowell Hunter Estate, is still being sorted out at this time, more information coming soon.

Boy Scouts-Heather has been working on this regarding the lawsuit, and there has been no movement on that. There has been some movement on the bankruptcy case. More information as it becomes available.

NJ Cemetery Association-No to joining at this time.

Tilly will come to do our yearly inspection on our fire extinguishers, and a possible replacement of some.

Our bank, Wells-Fargo has some ongoing issues with our account., Heather has been speaking with them about this. She is trying to resolve these issues, and will continue to give Session updates.

Regarding the **Youth and Protection Policy**, the Presbytery requires that all Sunday School teachers will need to have a background check. Heather asked that Sue obtain the names and send the list to her so she can complete them.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Don discussed the adult Sunday School, and said it was going well. He, Russ and Jim Gallagher are running the Adult Sunday School at this time. Heather Pursell is working on the list of the Children's Sunday School teachers, and would get the list to the Church Office. Joanne talked about when the middle/high school children come to Sunday School, the Junior Deacons would be discussed then with Session.

Missions – Russ Topping

Russ spoke about the Missions Team will be meeting in November, and update would be given to Session after the meeting. The emails that the Church Office receives regarding missions, examples are from: The de la Vega's, Terry Slemmer, Grace Morillo, are forwarded to the Missions Team.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on Sunday September 4 and October 2, 2022.

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 continue on Zoom. 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 October Meeting is: Don Pidcock, followed by Karen Thatcher and Russ Topping.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session