

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

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

From Our Elder ~ Karen Thatcher

Autumn is a favorite time of year for many. It is marked by the vibrant colors of turning leaves, the abundance of apples, pumpkins, and flowers, and it prepares us for the long winter season to come. We find in God's word stunning imagery and metaphors about this time of year, which give us much to reflect on and learn from.

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" ([Genesis 8:22](#)).

Thank you Lord for the seasons we can count on, find routine in, and that will never cease while the earth remains. As we enter into autumn, when the cooler winds drift in and the days grow shorter, draw us closer to you. Let us feel your warm and loving presence. May we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency when the world around us seems to be constantly changing. Thank you for your lovingkindness that engulfs us and your light that drives the darkness away. We praise you for being a God who loves us and takes care of us. We are grateful you are with us in all circumstances and seasons.

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" ([Deuteronomy 24:19](#)).

We praise you Lord when the harvest is plenty. We thank you for the abundance and overflow of goodness and blessings you give us. How humbled we are at your favor in our lives. As we find ourselves in a season of richness, may you cause our hearts to remember others. As your word instructs us, guide us to be helpers to those in need, givers to those who have less, and generous with our time, talents, and resources. We want to be obedient and faithful to you by giving to others the overflow of what we have, so that you would bless the work of our hands. We ask to be cheerful givers and to be representatives of your [love](#) in this world.

Amen Father God Amen.

“From the Office”

A continued thank you to all of Session and the Congregation for their submissions for the Newsletter. We have a busy November coming up, there is a lot of happenings about the church. If anyone has a question, please feel free to call or email me at the Office. Please refer to the monthly calendar on our website.



The Bell Choir is resuming their rehearsals in November and we are planning to ring in church on November 26th.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!
Sue

Church News:



Communion will be on Sunday November 5th, and Pastor Peter Gregory will be here. It is also Veterans Sunday.

Care & Share will continue on Sundays after the Worship Service. Thank you Dawn and Anthony!

The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm, with the exception of Wednesday November 22nd (the Ladies' will not be meeting that day.)

Prayers for all who will be going on the Missions Trip to the Dominican Republic from November 4th and will be returning on November 11th.

The Children's Sunday School will be meeting starting on November 12th at 9:00 am in the Chapel (KICK Room.)

Phil McCloughan and church friends will be setting the Nativity Scene outside of the church on Saturday November 25th.

There is a “Friendsgiving” service at Kirkpatrick in Ringoes on Sunday November 26th starting at 1:30 pm. There will be a pot-luck following the service. Our congregation is being asked to bring a main course.

The church will be decorating for Christmas during the week of November 27th.

Please see the weekly bulletins for the Sermon and Accompanist schedules.

The First Sunday in Advent is December 3rd.

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

Greetings from your Deacons...

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..”

Philippians 4:6-7.

The Junior Deacons program is going well, but if any of you know of any junior that you think might be interested, please let us know, as we are trying to set up a routine schedule.

We will be involved with the annual joint Session/Deacon meeting on November 20th. Looking to the future and activities we will be involved in include: Operation Christmas Child in November, the Christmas Pageant and Christmas Candlelight Service in December.

Of course, we continue to support those in need, those who are ill or in the hospital, or those who have lost a loved one; and we continually pray for all of you, and hope you are at peace.

With our love and prayers,

**Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher,
Terry Peck and Heather Pursell.**



We Cordially Invite
you to...
Friendsgiving Potluck

2023



FOOD AND FRIENDS
FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

When: We cordially invite all to come and celebrate our first joint-Church friendsgiving potluck, on **November 26th at 1:30 pm.**

Where: Kirkpatrick Presbyterian Church
37 John Ringo Rd, Ringoes, NJ 08551

Who: We invite All of our neighbors within the River Church Communities, our families, friends, and those friends who are family.
We invite colleagues and companions, friends and fellows.
We invite those who are struggling, and those who have in abundance.
We can't wait break bread with all of you.

Why: We take joy in providing a meal for those that may need it, providing fellowship for all, and in strengthening the bonds of the Body of Christ that brings us together.

What Should I Bring? Yourself! However, if you have the food to spare, we ask for a donation of (2) cans to our food pantry.



“Life is a Test, Life is a Trust and Life is a Temporary Assignment.”
-Pastor Rick Warren

1. Life on Earth is a Test: *1 Corinthians 10:12-13*

- In the bible, we see how God continually tests our character, faith, obedience, love, integrity and loyalty. *James 1:12-18*
- Our character is both developed and revealed by tests. God watches our response to people, problems, success, conflict, illness, disappointment and even the weather.
- Everything has importance, even the smallest incident has significance for our character development. *Colossians 3:12-15*

2. Life is a Trust: *Psalm 24:1* We are stewards of whatever God gives us.

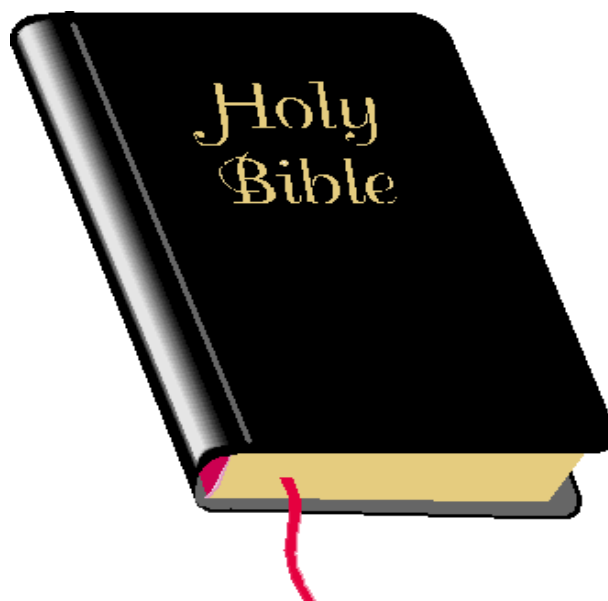
- Our time on Earth, our energy, opportunities, relationships and our resources, are all gifts from God and he has entrusted them to us for our care and management.
- The more God gives you, the more responsible He expects you to be. *Luke 16:10-12*

3. Life is a Temporary Assignment (Here on Earth):

- *Psalm 139:13-18* May we make the most out of every day that the Lord has given each one of us.

Blessings,

Joanne DiBlasi



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



Just for Kids...



Thanksgiving Day Fun

H	A	J	Y	U	E	U	X	J	T	F	P	U	O	W
G	J	S	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	T	F	P	F
C	Y	Y	H	V	Z	M	I	O	R	I	Y	E	L	A
O	G	A	A	H	A	N	K	L	K	V	J	A	M	M
R	F	H	N	I	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	N	I
N	I	F	K	H	H	R	T	D	Y	D	G	T	T	L
U	H	Y	S	D	C	A	Y	G	G	I	P	F	R	Y
C	A	F	G	O	B	B	L	E	F	N	S	Z	A	F
O	R	I	I	D	M	P	G	I	E	N	M	G	D	P
P	V	H	V	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	H	I	U
I	E	N	I	G	Y	R	T	M	R	R	F	U	T	T
A	S	B	N	P	S	T	H	N	G	D	J	K	I	W
S	T	L	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L	F	I	O	Q
K	P	H	C	G	E	R	R	S	H	R	B	H	N	A
F	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	J	U	R	T	S	F

Cornucopia
Dinner
Family
Feast
Friends

Gather
Gobble
Grateful
Harvest
November

Potatoes
Thankful
Thanksgiving
Tradition
Turkey



November Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

Nov. 5– **Communion**/Phil McCloughan

Nov. 12– Don Pidcock

Nov. 19– Karen Thatcher

Nov. 26– Joanne DiBlasi

Deacon Schedule

Nov. 5- **Communion**/*Jen Chernoski, (Stair Glide), Jr. Deacons

Nov. 12– Heather Pursell

Nov. 19– Terry Peck

Nov. 26– Gail Armitage

Greeting Schedule

Nov. 5– Connie Fisher

Nov. 12– Gail Armitage

Nov. 19– Carol Griffiths

Nov. 26– Joan Yannarella

**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
September 18, 2023 7:00 PM

<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
September 18, 2023 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Pat Durborow

Tonight’s devotion is based on **Matthew 6:27** “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” Joyce Meyer speaks about worry in her book- **Trusting God Day by Day**. Also, how fear and worry are closely related. God’s children shouldn’t be worried or fearful, both causes physical and psychological problems. An example of a question of worry or fear that comes up: *Who will take care of me when I get older?* What we worry about usually doesn’t happen. Jesus wants us to trust in him, and to “Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:7**. Make your trust in Him more powerful than your worries!

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

Thinking about things, a vision exercise- **“If the church had access to unlimited funds, what would you do to spread the word here in Lambertville?”** The Elders went around the room and gave suggestions. Some of the suggestions were: Having an elevator. Our own parking lot. For people to open their eyes, they need to see the Lord. A youth program, to be like our church had many years ago. Capital improvements for the church (fix the roof, organ, updating our Livestreaming), To do something different, and to do something new. Brad asked the Session to think about these ideas and so that we can revisit them at the next Business Meeting.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from June 19, 2023. All were in favor. Also, a **motion** was called to approve the Annual Congregational Minutes from February 26, 2023. All were in favor. Both sets of minutes will be sent to Sue/Church Office to be printed in the Book of Minutes. The June 19th minutes are to be included in the Church Newsletter.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- Steve Emery has sent a follow-up letter regarding the organ on August 15th. I let him know at that time, we are in the process of fixing the church roof, and that doing all the repairs to the organ would be 2 years out, but we would still like him to come to tune the organ on a regular basis. There was a problem noted with an organ chime by Stephen McCloughan, and Steve was notified and came to fix the issue in August. Sue will keep in touch with Steve Emery to come and tune the organ by the end of this year. We also discussed tuning of the piano in the Sanctuary and the Chapel. Sue will get in touch with Dave Perkins to have both pianos tuned. The September Pulpit Supply List was printed from the Presbytery's website, and handed out to Session. The Pulpit Supply list will be handed out at the monthly meetings on a regular basis.

Our church family received a thank you card from the Garrenger family, and was read to Session.

We've received our Fire Inspection Certificates from the City of Lambertville, and we have passed our inspections for our church and gym areas. The certificates will be displayed, and the copies of them will be in the church office. Joanne will reach out to the Lambertville Police Department to inquire about an Active Shooter Course to be given here.

Riverside Symphonia- We've received an email from Cullen McAuliffe on August 7, 2023 asking to use our Sanctuary for their upcoming concerts. The dates that were given: October 14, December 10, 2023, February 10 and April 13 2024, with the date before being their rehearsals. The Session ok'd the dates, and Sue will get in touch with Cullen to let him know that their request was approved. Concerts have been held in our church in the past. Vickie Lupisella is also a point of contact for Riverside Symphonia.

Called Session Business Meetings/Stated Communion Dates for 2024- A **motion** was called to accept the Called Session Business Meeting and Stated Communion Dates for 2024. All were in favor. A copy will be put in the Book of Minutes and listed as "Addendum A."

Calendar Highlights from September-November 2023

Communion is scheduled for 9/3, 10/1 and 11/5 with Peter Gregory.

Care & Share will be continuing, and Session would like to thank Dawn & Anthony Martini for their contributions to Care & Share. See the upcoming bulletins for who is scheduled to give the Sermons and our Accompanists. The Adult Sunday School will be starting at 9:00 am, and the Worship Service will be starting at 10:30 on Sunday September 10th. The Session Prayer meetings will be on September 11, October 2, and November 6 at 7:00 pm. The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays. The Gym will be in use by our congregation on September 9th and 16th. The trip to see Moses at Sight & Sound is on Saturday September 23rd. The gates to the cemetery and garden will be locked from 10/30 through 11/1.

Skating (6:00 pm) and Friday Night Hang (8:00 pm) are scheduled to start on Friday Nov. 17th.

The Mission trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled from Nov. 4th-11th. A list is available for the needs to the DR trip. The list is available on the downstairs bulletin board. Sue will get in touch with the Deacons to see if they are able to attend a Joint Meeting with Session on Monday November 20th, at 7:00 pm.

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

Insurance Review/Morgan Stanley- Karen spoke about this, to let Session know that Stephanie Duryea will come to give us our insurance review most likely in October 2023. Karen will confirm this and get back to Session. Heather spoke with Tim Stevens about our investments with Morgan Stanley. He will most likely come to speak with Session soon as well. Karen is meeting with Adam from Decker Associates; they are handling our claim through Franklin Mutual regarding the lightning strike that occurred at the church in late June 2023.

Children's Time- Joanne spoke and let us know this is going well. The person who gives the sermon usually does the children's time.

Sight & Sound- The trip is all set for 9/23/23.

Women's Brunch- This was held on Sept. 9th in the Church Library. The guest speaker was Helen Tielmann. Joanne let Session know that the gathering went well and was well attended.

Accompanist/Pianist- Karen let all know that our resume is still out there, looking for the right candidate. The resumes are posted on various sites. Heather asked that an updated Accompanist list be sent to her, so all can be paid. Brad suggested that we reach out to Pat Masterson to see if she can provide us with some additional names.

Building and Grounds – Pat Durborow/Phil McCloughan/Don Pidcock

The **new technology** to Livestream on YouTube is ongoing. Our church has received the grant from the Presbytery for getting the updated equipment. Don Pidcock will reach out to Stephen M.

to get the process started on the new equipment for the Livestream. This most likely to happen in November.

Martinez Landscaping- Pat let Session know that Martinez is cleaning the church yard/garden as needed.

Church Roof- This was discussed and estimates were gotten from different companies by Phil. This is ongoing and will be talked about at next month's meeting. The church roof is leaking at each corner of the gym or maybe it could be the foundation. Phil said that he would check this, and get back to all. Don suggested that maybe we could get funding from the George Prall Trust Fund, or a capital funding grant. It was asked that Gary Williams can write the grant paperwork for us if needed. Brad mentions that maybe we should contact the Presbytery for loan assistance for the new roof. Don suggested that if we have scaffolding around the church for the roof, we should scrape and paint around the upper windows.

Skating and Friday Night Hang – Skating was discussed earlier. Steve Chernoski is the point of contact for skating, and Pat suggested that Steve be contacted to get the word out for Friday Night Hang as well.

Church Organ- Was discussed earlier.

Hallway in Church- Not discussed tonight, but issues about the **Front Doors** to the Church are sticking and Phil suggested to take the sill up and the doors off to fix them. Pat noticed that the hinges were off, so that area will need attention. This will be happening soon.

Cemetery and Back Doors- Joanne noticed that the cement walkway to the handicapped entrance is chipping, and Heather will talk to Nate to see if he can come and look to fix this issue. Joanne checked the back doors and they were left unlocked. We should check them on Sunday before leaving, to make sure that they are locked. We will also remind the Boy Scouts to check all doors before leaving on Monday nights.

Boy Scouts- Don mentioned that the Boy Scouts were having their weekly meeting in the gym tonight.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out and was discussed, from 1/1-9/18/23, and we are under in our Plate by \$2398.76

Lowell Hunter Estate- A letter was sent to Attorney Bill Buchanan regarding the estate. Heather will keep Session informed of any progress.

Usage of the Gym for LPS during the 2023-2024 School year- Jim Troutman and Principal Wanda Quinones are the point of contacts for LPS.

Westminster House Heating System-Heather will follow up with Justin at Elizabethtown Gas regarding the heating system.

Wells Fargo Bank- Heather and Debbie are actively looking to move our money to a new bank. More information to follow. The funds that were taken out by Wells Fargo, are being returned to us.

Unclaimed Funds-Heather has been working on this, and money will be coming back to our church.

Boy Scouts- No updates regarding the lawsuit at this time, but we have received a bill for our portion for \$238.00. Session agreed that this should be paid.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Don talked about that most likely the Children's Sunday school will be starting in November. We need teachers for 2nd-4th grade. Heather Pursell will be teaching the younger children, and Jim Gallagher will be teaching the Adult Sunday School. Karen and Pat will get the children started in the Chapel before they go to their classes. Information should be put in the upcoming bulletins on when Children's Sunday School, Skating and Friday Night Hang will be starting, and to ask for help. Sue will ask that if there are any questions, to call the Church Office.

Junior Deacons- Joanne will discuss next month.

Missions – Joanne DiBlasi

The ISI/Garage Giveaway was done on Saturday August 26th in Princeton. Bob & Carrie Louer will be coming to our church to do a Moment for Missions sometime this month.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was on Sunday September 3, 2023 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.

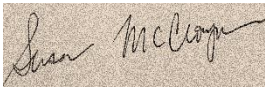
Three Crosses-Were delivered to the church today by Don Pidcock, and will be put around our grounds. The crosses were donated by an old church that was in Lambertville.

Session Devotion Rotation- The devotion for the October meeting is Phil McCloughan, November is Heather McIntyre and December is Don Pidcock.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Susan McCloughan".

Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session