

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,

We live in uncertain and challenging times, don't we? As a congregation, we've been missing our usual opportunities for fellowship, and as your new pastor I've been slow-tracked in getting to know you as we face each other mask-to-mask.

So let's not forget who's in charge: Jesus Christ our Lord. This fall, we'll be hearing the testimony of the Apostle Paul as we read together his letter to the church in Philippi. Paul is writing to his fellow believers from prison, facing a very uncertain future. Do you feel imprisoned or somehow trapped in your circumstances? We can be encouraged by his witness to the Philippians – and to each of us – that the Lord is able to work through every situation, using you and me to accomplish his good purposes, especially in times of adversity.

So whether you're a young person struggling with a completely different education experience this fall or an older person much more isolated than usual because of health concerns, take heart in knowing that God's grace is more than sufficient for you in all of your needs. And look to the risen Jesus who is with us always and who sends his Spirit to guide us and comfort us in all things.

On a practical note, even as I'm beginning to get to know many of you on Sundays as we greet each other from behind our masks, I want to invite all of you to schedule either a Zoom or FaceTime meeting with me so that we can spend more time together face-to-face. Jesus's words, "when two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20) holds true for FaceTime! If you have any prayer concerns or just want to talk about something, please reach out to me.

With great hope and confidence in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Pastor Dan

908-656-1848

“From the Office”

Happy Fall!! Bell Choir rehearsals have begun for this season. If anyone is interested in ringing, please let me know, and I am always looking for people who are interested in ringing! I am in the office from Tues.-Friday. My hours are usually from 9:30- 1:30 pm. If I am not in, please send me an email or you can leave me a message. Thank you again for all of your submissions to the newsletters!

Sincerely,
Sue



Church News:

Sunday School for all ages , the Greeting Schedule and Care & Share have been postponed at this time.

Our trip to Sight and Sound will be taking place on Saturday November 14, 2020. to see Queen Esther. There are still some tickets available. If you are interested in attending and haven't signed up, and would like to attend, please contact Karen Thatcher-609- 397-8430 or the Church Office 609-397-0650.

Ladies Bible Study~ Is not meeting in person at this time. Joanne DiBlasi will be sending out an email version of Bible Study to all. This will be happening shortly.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes and Brochures have been ordered, and will arrive soon!

The gates to the church will be locked from Thursday October 30th until Sunday November 1st.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday October 31st. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour at 2:00 am!!

Ministry and Outreach:

The Missions Team is grateful to our church family for the good response we've had to the request from Terry Slemmer to help the Friendship Center out with providing diapers and other much-needed items. Special thanks to our Deacons for their generous contribution toward this worthy project.

Please keep Terry and her mom Delores, in your prayers!

We have begun our Missions collections every 3rd Sunday of the month and are excited to see how God will use these monies for His glory. Please check out the Missions bulletin board in the rear of the sanctuary for updates from the missionaries we support. If you'd like to join the Missions Team or have any questions, please see one of our members. May the Lord continue to bless us as we are faithful to His call.

News from your Missions Team~ The Missions Team: Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Konni Sandford, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella

Greetings from your Deacons!~ It has been a long complicated summer and hope and pray that you are all well and safe

Thanks to "Covid," we have not been able to have our regular church services, but relying on a "Zoom venue." However, now we are back to having a regular church service with our new Pastor, Rev. Dan. We have missed seeing some of you, but hope you will rejoin us soon.

One of the changes we have had to make was communion. We have had to use individual packages of the elements. We still have communion on the first Sunday of the month.

We have been supporting a mission of Terry Slemmer's called "Friendship Center" for young mothers and their babies. We have given our support by collecting diapers and baby items, with love.

Another activity we will be involved in will be with the Rescue Mission of Trenton, with our church having a Clothing Drive until October 18th. All clothing contributions are welcomed and a flyer will be included in this month's newsletter.

A blessed event occurred on Labor Day. Jessica, one of our Deacons, delivered a baby boy. Our love and best wishes for the Cummings Family.

We are still here for you, whatever your needs may be. Your faithful servants in the Lord!

Your Deacons: Gail Armitage, Debbie Crow, Jessica Cummings, Danielle Griffiths, Phil McCloughan, Terry Peck and Heather Pursell



Just Sayin'...

By Donald Pidcock

So how many times has someone recently asked you, "Do you think we are in the End Times?" I personally have been asked many times by several different people. It is a heartfelt question that reflects the circumstances we are living in over the past several months and states the concerns of the person asking the question.

During this year, many people have lost loved ones due to the covid pandemic, many people have needed to quarantine in their house, many people have lost jobs, many children are not attending schools as usual, and the economies of many countries are on the brink of collapsing. Hurricanes, tornados, rising waters, earthquakes, large forest fires, and of course blackouts are a few of the reasons that people are left wondering what's next. So you can easily understand why someone would ask whether we are living in the End Times.

In the Bible, there are several mentions of the End Times and Jesus's second coming. Let's study a few so we can have a good foundational answer in order to better understand Jesus predictions and give people some deeper insight.

Yes, we are in the End Times! When Jesus went into heavens 40 days after His resurrection, He told us that He would return to earth sometime. So not only were the apostles at that time waiting for His return, but we are still waiting some 2,000 years later. But Jesus also said that certain things must happen before he would return. Jesus said that the Gospel message must be heard throughout the world (Mark 13:10). In today's world that is very possible due to radio, tv, internet, and other communication avenues. Jesus also said that there will be wars and rumors of wars, and predicted that travel would increase, earthquakes will be more frequent, and that there would be famines, pestilence, and tribulations for believers.

In the last two hundred years, the number of people traveling has increased due to cars, trains, and planes. Previous to this the long-haul traveler need to ride a horse or donkey. Television is relatively modern as it was invented in 1930s, and electronics, a word that is again relatively new, has opened space travel. Just in the last century, there were more than 30 major wars and hundreds of smaller clashes.

The next chronological event that must happen is that a new Jewish Temple must be erected in Jerusalem, whereby animal sacrifice will be reinstated as many Jews believe that this is the only way to atone for sins and Jerusalem is the only place in the entire world that this is allowed to occur. Possibly a peace accord with the Muslim countries will allow this to happen.

It appears that many pieces are in place for the Lord to return, but the underlying concern should be, "Are YOU ready for His return?" In John 14:1, Jesus tells us, "Let not your heart be troubled." Jesus has overcome the the world and although everything around us seems to be unraveling, Jesus is standing with us as and we should not be alarmed at things happening that we do not understand.

So when you answer the question, be sure to dig deeper to understand the person who is asking the question. Put them at ease by helping them to understand that reliance on Jesus is the only correct answer thats makes sense in times like these. We then can recite one of the last verses in the Bible, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come."

Please Read Ezekiel 34: 11-24 and Ezekiel 36: 25-27

- Scripture tells us that it is God's Holy Spirit that draws us to him, so we can't pat ourselves on the back and say "I found God," when in reality he is the one who opened our hearts, mind and eyes to realize our need for him.

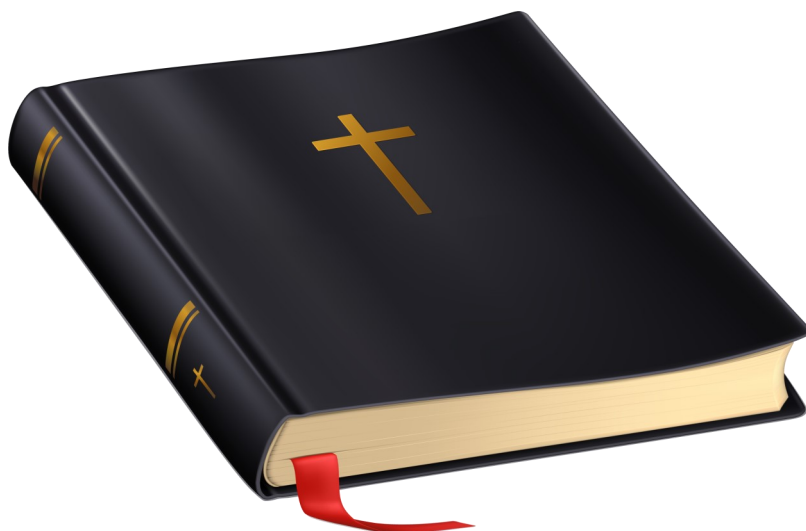
I love the image in verses 13-24 where God is tenderly caring for his people, Israel. As a people group, they have been torn from their land, forced into slavery, confronted with hatred, unspeakable evil and the threat of annihilation. Yet God promises to bring them through the atrocities and restore them as a people. He will revenge the years of cruelty that was perpetrated against them.

Their journey is both a spiritual and physical one, and I believe we all can relate to that on many points. Looking over your years, can you bring to mind the times you allowed yourself to be 'scattered?' Times when we put the Lord on the back burner, as we say; Times when your relationship with him was not the most important aspect of your everyday life. Whether we are young or old, the scriptures tell us how important it is to recognize that our personal relationship, our dependance on the creator of the universe and every fiber of who we are is and should be the most valuable possession we own.

These verses show us that God's desire is to rescue us from whatever past we've come through. To nurture us, protect us, and to guide us, as we walk into the future, wherever that leads

Be Encouraged, God is always faithful.

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi



My Testimony...From Elder Russ Topping...

Based on Psalm 40: 1-3

You lifted me from the pit, out of the darkness and the drear, and set my feet on solid ground.

Delivered me from all my guilt, shame and fear, and made joy and peace abound.

You put a new song in my mouth, a new hope in my heart.

Came down into my darkness, found and rescued me.

Brought me into your holy house never to depart.

You straightened out my life of which I'd made an unholy mess.

Stripped me of the filthy rags of my sin.

Clothed me in the robes of your perfect righteousness

Let my spirit laugh again.

Opened my eyes to all that I could do and be.

Brought peace to a spirit waging in war.

Hurled all of my iniquities into the depths of the deepest sea.

To be remembered no more.



October Birthdays

10 Brian Fisher

17 Giana Griffiths

20 Pat Warford

22 Jessica Cummings

22 Kelly Moraski

23 Chase Stratuik

24 Matthew Wiley

24 Nate McIntyre

25 Craig Reading

27 Bryce James Dudick

27 Bo Hartpence

27 Diana Pursell

30 Giana Vaccarino



Just for Kids.....***Magic Stars and Song*****Materials:**

- white paper (cardstock, construction paper or heavy bond computer paper work best)
- white wax crayon (crayola, etc)
- tempera paint
- paint brush

Instructions:

- Draw stars on the white paper with white crayon.
I know this sounds odd but it will make sense as we go
- For very young children, an adult can do this prior to craft time -- it will make the project seem very magical to them
- Mix tempera paint with water to make a wash (about 3/4 tempera to 1/4 water -- Add a wee bit more water if the paint is still quite thick).

Paint over the white paper with your tempera paint wash and watch the stars magically appear, as in the night sky!

Here is a song to go with the painting. To the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

**Twinkle twinkle precious star, Jesus loves you as you are.
He loves your smile he loves your voice
he thinks you are pretty choice.
Twinkle twinkle precious star, Jesus loves you as you are.**

**Twinkle twinkle precious star, Jesus loves you as you are.
He loves your smile, He loves your face,
He wants to save you by His Grace.
Twinkle twinkle precious star, Jesus loves you as you are.**

October Assisting Schedule:

Elder Schedule

October 4-**Communion**/ Don Pidcock

October 11- Russ Topping

October 18- Joanne DiBlasi

October 25- Mark Dudick

Deacon Schedule

October 4-**Communion**/*Phil McCloughan (Stair Glide), Heather Pursell

October 11- Terry Peck

October 18- Debbie Crow

October 25- Danielle Griffiths

Greeting and Care & Share are suspended at this time.

**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
Via Zoom Online Meeting

July 20, 2020 Session Business Meeting 6:30 PM

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow	Rich Hopkins
Mark Dudick	Carol Griffiths	
	Heather McIntyre	
	Don Pidcock	
	Russ Topping	

Rev. Dan Dorrow, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick, Pat Durborow, Carol Griffiths,
 Rich Hopkins, Heather McIntyre, and Rev. Dan Dorrow

Excused: Don Pidcock and Russ Topping

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

Devotion- Rich Hopkins

The devotion is based on Acts 15- The Council at Jerusalem. The Book of Acts is filled with miracle after miracle of the workings of the Holy Spirit. It is action packed from the beginning to the end. Except for chapter 15. Why is this chapter even in the bible? It's like a YouTube video of one of our session meetings.

Acts 15 teaches us that "compromise" in the church is not always a four-letter word. Believers can sincerely differ on how to deal with various spiritual issues. As a session, we have some important questions to answer very soon. When and how can we start Sunday school? When and how do we celebrate communion during this time? Care & Share? When and how do we change our worship if the pandemic gets better? What if the pandemic gets worse? All tough questions, with no clear cut right or wrong answer. But just as the Holy Spirit led the early church through its turbulent beginnings, so too will the Holy Spirit guide our session to be the Godly-wise "servant leaders" we are called to be. And, above all, we must seek to maintain unity in whatever decisions we make. Ephesians 4:3 says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box- Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from the June 22, 2020 Session Business Meeting.

A **motion** was called to accept the Minutes as written. All were in favor. The approved Minutes will be sent to Sue/ Church Office to be printed in the Book of Minutes and to be included in the Church Newsletter.

Extended Communion Training- Rich Hopkins discussed, and will send a link regarding the training to Pastor Dan. The communion training is important especially when it will help our shut-ins.

Calendar Highlights from July-September 2020:

There was no July Communion at First Presbyterian due to the joint service at Holcombe-Jimison.. The Deacons have ordered (they are on backorder at this time) disposable communion cups. As soon as they come in, we will firm up the dates for communion. We are looking to have communion possibly sometime in August. September's communion date will be determined later (via email with the Pastor and Session.) Praise Band has restarted their rehearsals on June 28th at 7:00 pm. Pastor Dan was asked by Sue if he could do the front page of the upcoming newsletters. He was agreeable, and this will start with the September Newsletter. I thanked Session for their contributions for the past covers to the newsletters. The handbell choir will be resuming their practices in the Sanctuary in September. Our new Church year starts on Sunday Sept. 13th, at 10:30 am. As per session, Sunday School and Care & Share are on hold. The last Sunday for the 9:30 am service is September 6th.

Worship and Music-Joanne DiBlasi

We are moving forward, and welcoming Pastor Dan and Joanne Dorrow. We would like to have the younger folks get more involved with our music program. Becky Hopkins will be contacted by Joanne D., and Mark Dudick will ask Ella if she would like to participate also. Session discussed in getting a thank you gift for Rev. Leasure, for his time with us in being the Moderator for Session. Praise Band is back to Tuesday evenings, and to see how the practices will go. It was noted for our church to keep in touch with David Redman from the New Brunswick Presbytery/COM.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Heather McIntyre

Pat discussed getting a Ring type of system of security for the Westminster House front door, so Sue can buzz them in, instead of the door being unlocked during the day. Pat will look into this further and possibly to have Don Pidcock to install. Nate McIntyre looked and fixed a piece that was loose over the stoop at Westminster House. The Chimney will have to come down eventually. The façade of the church roof, it was patched before. Nate will look to fix the roof and not just to patch it. Heather will get prices, it isn't a small project and she will check with Strober Roofing to get a price from them. She will also look into other options for fixing the roof as well as the drain. Heather discussed our contract with Reiner. She will send them a letter regarding the invoices that are in our possession. We are going to look at a couple of different companies to get a new contract with a new heating company. Pat will call around to get a price for a new contract/company. Craig Reading is looking to do a video about the history of our church. Pat will also look into getting the bricks repaired that need it on the cemetery side of the church. Paint is peeling around the windows at the top of the church, they should be scraped and repainted. A local contractor will be picked and Pat will call. Pat also called a contractor to paint the kitchen and possibly the ceiling, or the tiles may need to be replaced. Josh Serlenga continues to mow the church grass and Martinez Landscaping will continue to clean the church gardens.

Budget and Finance-Rich Hopkins/Heather McIntyre

Our Year to Date Summary is that we are down \$10,076 as of July 2020. This was reviewed by Heather to the Session. Our investments continue to be stable with Morgan Stanley. The online giving tool Subsplash is going to be added to our website. The information will be given to our web designer to be added shortly.

Sight & Sound- The trip to Sight & Sound in November 2020 was discussed. Sight & Sound plans on reopening on July 30, 2020. As of now, the trip is still being planned for November. In case we do have to cancel, we have up to 2 weeks before the show to do so, or we can leave the paid tickets for a future show. The bus for the trip has been paid for as well. Addie Andino will contact the bus company to see what their cancellation policy is in case we have to cancel. Karen Thatcher is our contact person and she will keep Session informed of any cancellations.

Bylaws for the First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville- Session approved the Bylaws at the last business meeting, but the Congregation has to approve them as well, which will be done at the next Annual Meeting in February 2021.

Youth Group Ministry/Sunday School- Mark Dudick/Carol Griffiths

Sunday School- Session is waiting to see what the schools are doing in the area regarding opening up in September, then it will be decided when Sunday School will resume. Session plans on discussing this at the September meeting. Rich will talk to Cooie about the high school students, and how Sunday School will look for them this upcoming year.

New Hope Community Church-We will not have a joint service with NHCC this year due to the coronavirus. Pastor Wilson is our contact there.

Youth Group-Mark Dudick spoke regarding the Youth Group. The youth group has been meeting over the summer with social distancing. Mark will give Sue in the office information for the September Newsletter regarding the youth group.

Junior Deacons- Carol Griffiths spoke regarding the Junior Deacons. Danielle Griffiths will be sending a list of the Junior Deacons to Pastor Dan to make him aware of who they are and what they would be responsible for. The Junior Deacons are on hold for now.

Moderator Time-Rev. Dan Dorrow

Pastor Dan spoke and that we should trust God for what we don't know. He asked for feedback from Session, for any issues that may come up. Pastor Dan was able to spend time with the Missions Team. Pastor stressed that communion is important. A proposal for communion would be to move the table and to make it more central, and to modify our communion service. He spoke about the coronavirus, saying that we should love our neighbors and community by taking precautions. To be proactive-wear masks, leave the inside of the church after the service. To possibly meet outdoors. The Assisting Elder for Sunday should take the lead in making sure safety precautions are being followed.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed and shared praises and concerns.

Notations

The Coronavirus- Is still active in our area of New Jersey.

Holy Communion- Due to the coronavirus, Communion was not held, we hope to have Communion either at the end of July or August.

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.

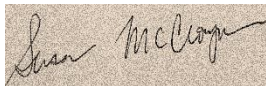
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the September 2020 meeting, is: Russ Topping, followed by Joanne DiBlasi, Mark Dudick and Pat Durborow.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan McCloughan", written on a light-colored, textured background.

Susan McCloughan

Clerk of Session