

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

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

From Our Elder ~ Joanne DiBlasi

Isaiah 55:6

“Seek the Lord while you can find him.
Call on him now while he is near.”

- The older I get, the faster the seasons change, but God remains steadfast.

I hope you had a blessed summer, and made the time to spend in God’s word and presence. As Russ shared in his last month’s sermon— worship is a moment by moment daily privilege that our Lord desires from and with us.

- As we enter a new season, may we allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts, share his truth and deepen the meaning of worship in our lives and church.

Isaiah 55:8-13

Blessings!

“From the Office”

Welcome back for our new season! Thank you to all the Elders who have contributed for our front page, and to the congregation who submitted their information to our Church Newsletter, it is greatly appreciated. We have a few things coming up in September, so if you would like to, please refer to the upcoming bulletins and calendar on our website! The kids will be returning to school, so please drive carefully...

Sue



Church News:



Communion Sunday will be on September 3rd, and Pastor Peter Gregory will be here.

We thank Dawn Martini who has been providing the Care & Share over the summer.

The last Sunday for the 9:30 am service is September 3rd. The Adult Sunday School will be at 9:00 am and the Worship Service is at 10:30 starting on Sunday September 10th.

On Saturday September 9th, there is a Women's Light Brunch from 11:00 am-1:00pm in the Church Library. The Guest Speaker is Helen Tielmann!

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Church Library at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays. All are welcome!

The bus trip to Sight & Sound is Saturday September 23rd. Please arrive at the CVS parking lot in Lambertville at 7:30 am. There is a buffet lunch at Bird and Hand after the show.

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

Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

Greetings, Friends! We hope you have all had a good and blessed summer! The Missions Team has been busy and is excited for the new church year to begin. The ISI (International Students, Princeton, NJ) Annual Garage Give-Away was held Sat., August 26 and was a huge success! We were able to take 19 bicycles, along with other household goods, over to the give-away. Members of our Team, as well as Phil & Stephen McCloughan, Joanne DiBlasi and Anthony Martini were present to lend a hand. The Missions Team is very grateful to Niece Lumber for lending their box truck to us once again this year. We appreciate the support we received from our church family with donations of items, as well as giving financially toward the cost of preparing the bicycles. We also sincerely thank those who showed up to help load the trucks with all of the donations we were able to deliver from our church. The outreach to International Students at this yearly event is invaluable and our church is blessed to be a part of spreading God's love for them in this way!

In August, we were pleased to welcome John and Aruna Desai to worship with us. John delivered the message and served us communion as part of our worship. They continue to lead ISI's global ministry with International Students and have been serving the Lord in Princeton for 47 years. Praise God!

One of our own, Sarah Tielmann, has joined the Cru mission team in Baltimore, Maryland again this year. She will be serving the Lord by ministering to college students on campus. Please continue to keep Sarah in your prayers for her safety and for opportunities to share her love for Jesus with the students there.

We continue to support Grace Morillo who serves with United World Missions in Colombia, South America. We recently had a visit from our local missionary, Terry Slemmer, who is involved in numerous outreaches for the Lord in Hunterdon County. Please remember to keep these faithful servants of the Lord in prayer as we begin this new church year!

The Missions offerings will continue to be collected the third Sunday of each month. We will be inviting our missionaries to speak on various Sundays throughout the year. Please be sure to check out the Missions board in the back of the sanctuary for news from our missionaries as they serve the Lord this coming year! If you feel led to join the Missions Team, we would love to have you!

Your Missions Team:

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

Ministry and Outreach Cont...

Greetings from your Deacons...

Ecclesiastes 3 says there is a time for everything (each in it's own time.)

Prayer does not need any special time or season- just when there is a need or nudge by God.

The Deacons prayers are multifaced:

- Prayers for the loss of family or friends.
- Prayers for healing (physical and emotional.)
- Prayers for difficult situations, and discernment for them.
- Prayers for wisdom.
- Prayers for God's direction of our congregation.

Praise for joyful situations and a loving God who will never forsake us.

We continually for each one of you, we hope you are enjoying the summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

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



September Birthdays

2 Grace Reading

8 Kara Jo Pachnieski

15 Chris Garrenger

15 Bob Holland

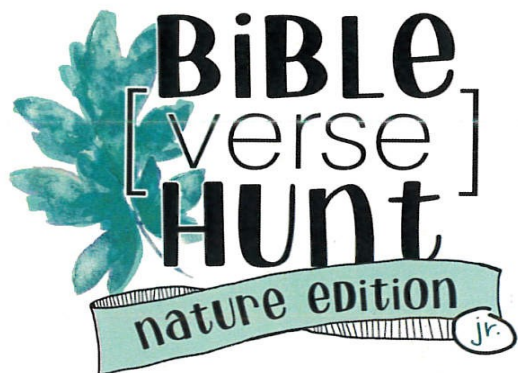
17 Allison Zambella

21 Chris Vaccarino

22 Tucker Griffiths



Just for Kids...



God made everything in our world, and the Bible is filled with descriptions of God's good creation.

Read the Bible verses below. Draw a picture of the item in bold. Then go outside and try to find each item that's listed!

The Lord is my **ROCK**, my fortress and my deliverer. *Psalm 18:2*

The **GRASS** withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

He will cover you with his **FEATHER** and under his wings you will find refuge. *Psalm 91:4*

But the **SEED** falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. *Matthew 13:23*

[Elijah] went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering **STICKS**. *1 Kings 17:10*

When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive **LEAF**! *Genesis 8:11*

September Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

Sept. 3– **Communion**/Karen Thatcher
Sept. 10– Don Pidcock
Sept. 17– Joanne DiBlasi
Sept. 24– Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

Sept. 3– **Communion**/*Heidi Danberry (**Stair Glide**), Heather Pursell
Sept. 10– Jen Chernoski
Sept. 17– Terry Peck
Sept. 24– LaNelle Gallagher

Greeting Schedule

Sept. 3– Connie Fisher
Sept. 10– Joan Yannarella
Sept. 17– Carol Griffiths
Sept. 24– Gail Armitage

**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
May 15, 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 May 15, 2023 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

Devotion – Karen Thatcher

When we are in times of despair, trouble, pain, fear . . . when we are anxious, distraught, and worried . . . God's Word seems to bubble up from within, verses and psalms that we have had memorized as children help to sooth our pain, strengthen and give us courage, provide hope – Psalm 23 does this for me as it reminds us of some of God's most precious hope-giving promises.

Psalm 23 is a beautiful reminder of God's love for us. Even in the presence of darkness, we will have a reason to rejoice! We don't have to only rejoice when evil has left, but we can laugh in the presence of all who is against us because He is still with us! The Psalm is so well known and so incredibly rich with peace and blessing, yet often we can become so 'familiar' with the verses and chapters of God's word that they almost lose the important message that God is wanting to instill within our hearts.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want – *Promise of Security*

Philippians 4:19 – But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters – *Promise of Happiness and Peace*

Psalm 13:5 - But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation
 Matthew 11:28 – Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake – *Promise for Strength and Guidance*

Nehemiah 8:10 - . . . for the joy of the Lord is your strength
 Psalm 119: 105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me – *Promise of Assurance and His Presence*

Revelation 21:4 – And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

Hebrews 13: 5,6 – I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows – *Promises of Gladness and a Victorious Life*

1 Corinthians 15: 57 – But thanks to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

Philippians 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

Surely goodness and love with follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever – *Promise of Eternal Life*

John 11: 25, 26 – I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 14: 2,3 – In my Fathers house are many mansions . . . And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.

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

The handout was referred to tonight. “Quick Mission Study Questions”, and Brad asked what our next call process would be, and reflections to think about. The handout was discussed in more detail, but it will be revisited next month as well. We are still up in the air of whom our next pastor might be. Our church learned a lot from looking for our last pastor. Brad talked about the Trenton Thunder game on July 29th, and that our church will be attending with Mt. Airy, Mt. Airy has gotten 30 tickets, and we will do a sign-up sheet for our congregation. Sue will give a final count to Brad by July 9th. Mt. Airy will also be having a concert on May 21st, which will feature Jackie Schiffer, and he spoke about the joint service picnic at Holcombe-Jimison on Sunday July 2nd.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from April 17, 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.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- I did a follow up email to Steve Emery regarding the organ on May 9th. He did get back to me to let me know that he would be sending 2 of his associates in the near future to look at and assess the organ. I will follow up with Session once this process happens. The May Pulpit Supply List was printed from the Presbytery’s website, and handed out to Session.

Calendar Highlights from June- August 2023

Communion is scheduled for 6/4 and August 6th. 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. Our summer starts on June 11th, and is the first Sunday of the 9:30 am Service. The 10:30 am service will resume in September. Father's Day Sunday is June 18th, with the Opening of the Grill and a picnic will be after the service. The last Session Business for the summer, is June 19th. The last Men's Breakfast for the Summer is June 22nd at 8:00 am, place TBD. The Session Prayer meeting for July is on the 10th at 7:00 pm. The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays through the summer months at 2:00 pm. On Sunday July 2nd, is the Joint Service at 10:00 am with the River Churches, and bring your own picnic with something to share, after the service. The 9:30 am Worship Service continues through the month of August.

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

Insurance Review- Karen spoke about this, to let Session know that Dennis Duryea will come to give us our insurance review in the fall.

Children's Time- This is going well, and those who are giving the Sermon have also volunteered to give the children's time.

Sight & Sound- The list is full and there is a waiting list if someone cancels. Heather has paid everything up to date. Karen reached out to the bus company, and we would like to have a bus from Stout's. The fundraising of the soup sales during the winter and hot dog sales from Shad Fest, have helped us pay for the show and bus.

Accompanist/Pianist- Karen let Session know that we have received a few resumes for the position. Karen and the other committee members will look at the resumes and contact those who have applied. God has blessed us with those who have been playing, and Karen will reach out to Andrew and Lucia to see if they are available for the open upcoming dates. The job description is on the "Call Finders" page on our Presbytery's website.

Don is available to assist if needed during the summer, if there are any last minute changes.

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

The **new technology** to Livestream on YouTube is ongoing. No word from the Presbytery on the information that was submitted regarding the grant for the new equipment.

Martinez Landscaping- Pat spoke about this, and the Westminster yard is clean.

Church Roof- Was discussed, we will get bids on fixing it, more information to follow.

Bathroom in Westminster House- Was discussed by Pat, maybe to have a 3 piece bathroom put behind the office/storage room. Then maybe when people come from out of town to do performances here, they can stay at Westminster House. Joanne mentions that Westminster House is in need of a lot of repairs, and that we need to look at the structure too.

Basement of Westminster House- Phil talked about the red brick, there is mold by the furnace. Maybe to put beams in, except if the wall isn't real red brick, and he'll get a name of a company to come out and look at the basement wall to see what can be done.

Church Front Door- Phil suggested to take the front doors off to lift the sill to clean it and replace the doors to see if they will open/close better.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out and was discussed, from 1/1-5/15/23, and we are over in our Plate \$272.40.

Lowell Hunter Estate- There has been no update at this time, but Heather will keep Session informed of any progress.

Usage of the Gym for LPS during the 2023-2024 School year- Originally a fee of \$550.00 was decided by Session, but Jim Troutman spoke with the school, and let Phil know that their amount was \$480.00 per month. Jim had said that if there was a problem with the amount, that he would take the difference from basketball. Session decided that the \$480.00 per month would be sufficient. Sue will reach out to Jim to see who the point of contact is at LPS to get our Facility Use form filled out, and insurance certificate listing our church as the additional insured.

Westminster House- Heather talked about her discussion with Justin from Elizabethtown Gas, and the heating system. We are waiting to hear back from Justin.

Unclaimed Funds- Heather has been working on this, and will keep Session updated.

Boy Scouts- Don- There are no updates at this time. We received some correspondence, Don looked this over, and no action was needed. Rich Hopkins is still being kept in the loop regarding what is going on with the Boy Scout lawsuit.

Shad Fest 2023- The Deacons raised \$615.00 to use for their many outreaches. The Fish Pond raised \$350.00 to send to Rolling Fork United Methodist in Rolling Fork, MS, to help with their disaster relief from the tornadoes which struck the area in March 2023. Phil suggested maybe to use the other side (the open space in the front of the church) for a game of some kind for the older children that come during Shad Fest.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Don let the Session know that June 4th will be the last Sunday for the Children's Sunday School. We are looking for more teachers to teach for the next Sunday School year starting in the fall.

Junior Deacons- Joanne said that the Jr. Deacons are doing well.

Missions – Joanne DiBlasi

The Mission Team- There are no meetings that are coming up at this time.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was on Sunday May 7, 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 Business Meetings- Our last Session Business Meeting for the summer is Monday

June 19, 2023. The Business Meetings will resume in the fall, on Monday September 18, 2023-7:00 pm.

Session Devotion Rotation- For the June Meeting is Joanne DiBlasi. The devotion for September is Pat Durborow and October is Phil McCloughan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,