

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

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

From Our Elder ~ Karen Thatcher

Step 1– God’s Purpose: Peace and Life

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?

Step 2– The Problem: Sin Separates Us

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...

Continued from pg. 1...

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.

Step 3– God’s Remedy: The Cross

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...

Step 4– Our Response: Receive Christ

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

“From the Office”

Thank you to all who contributed to our newsletter for this season. The Newsletters will resume in September. There will be Session Prayer meetings during July and August. The Business Meetings will resume in September. The Bell Choir will be playing in June and possibly in July at the Holcombe-Jimison Service. Please see the Missions page 5 regarding the ISI Garage Giveaway and the donations of bicycles.



Have a safe and blessed summer!!
Sue

Church News:



Communion Sunday is June 1st-at Mt. Air, 10:00 am. The upcoming Communion Sundays will be announced in the summer bulletins.

Our Summer Worship Services will be staying at the time of 10:00 am.

Sunday June 8th is Bring a Friend to Church Sunday. Also, it is Opening of the Grill. This will be our Care & Share. There is a sign-up sheet in the downstairs hallway, for the congregation to bring side dishes and desserts. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and drinks will be provided.

Our church is in the process of getting a group of our own church people together to go down south - Samaritan's Purse (Franklin Graham's group) to help re-build some of the areas that have been affected by Hurricane Helene. Please contact Don Pidcock if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile cause. His contact information: 609- 651-9194 or cooiepl@yahoo.com

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

If you are interested in attending "Noah" at Sight & Sound on Saturday November 8th, there are a couple of spots still available. Please inquire at the Church Office.

Our timeline down by the Adult Sunday School room is complete. This is the first step in the Discernment Process with our Presbytery (to find a new pastor.) Retreat number 2 will be coming up, with Pastor Jeanne Radak. If you have a question, please reach out to one of our Elders.

Messages from Hebrews and Psalm 139

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. So do not be attracted by strange new ideas...."

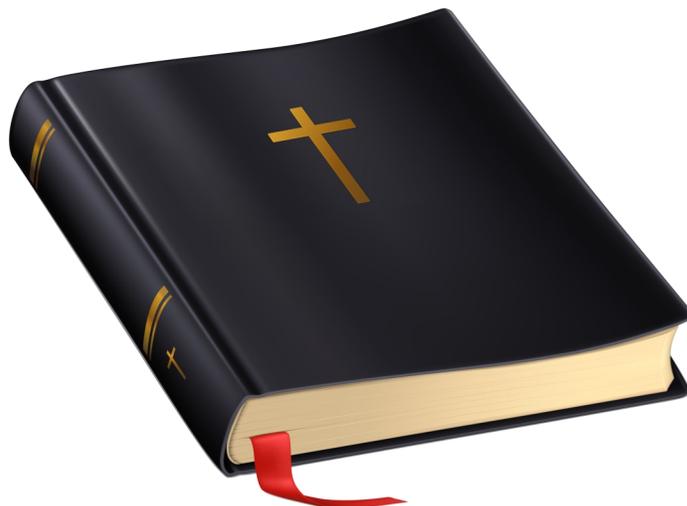
Beware of those who deliberately compromise God's word with their liberal, woke agenda. Yes, even in seminaries and presbyteries.

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires".

Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life,"

May God continue to bless us as we strive to bless Him with truth and a pure heart, and may we each seek His presence more and more.

Blessings on your Summer,
Joanne DiBlasi



Ministry and Outreach Cont...

Greetings from your Deacons...

Hello church family,

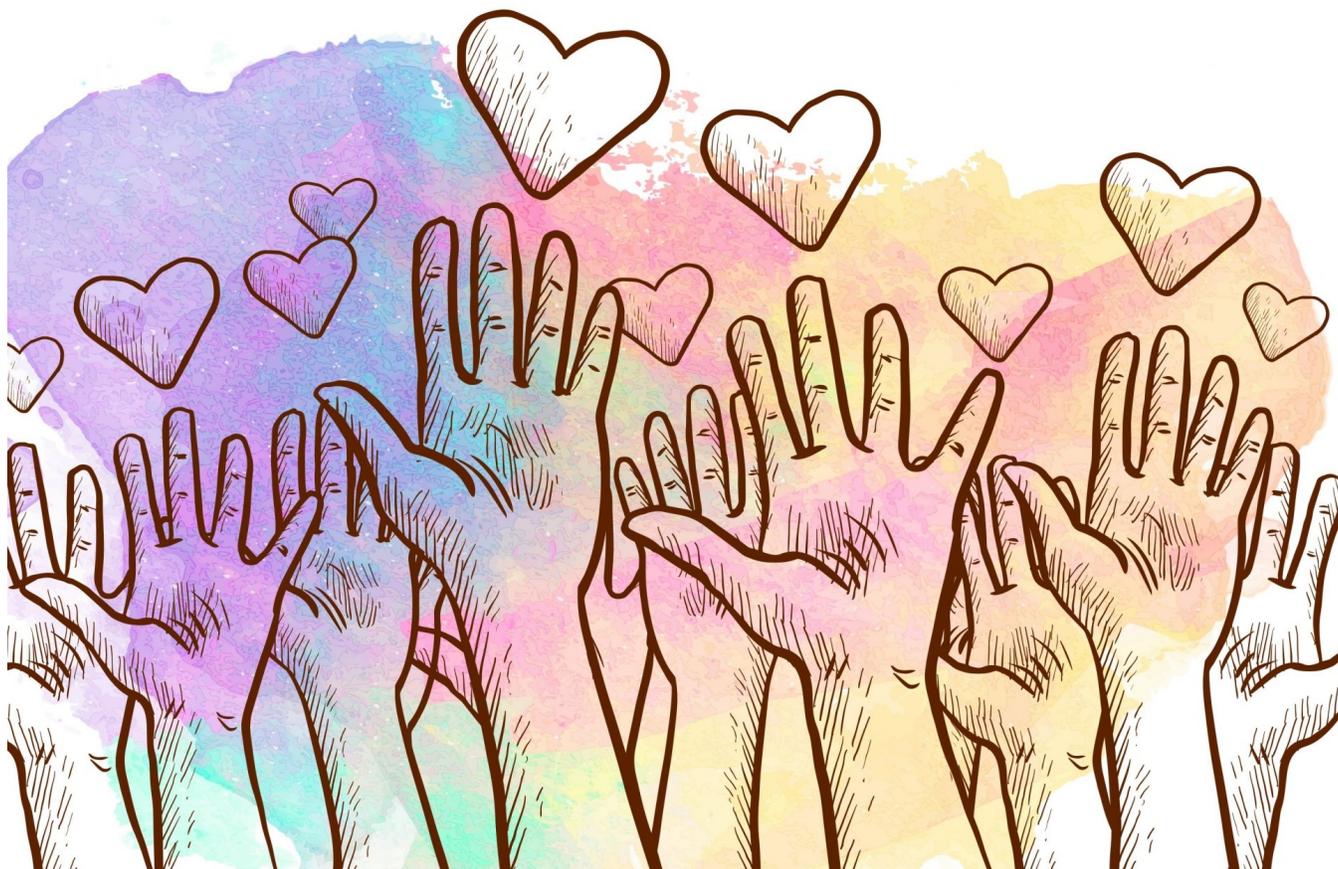
As we go into our Summer months things may seem more quiet around here at the church, but we want to make sure you know that your Deacons are still here and only a phone call away. Never be afraid to contact us for prayer or help. We hope all of our church family have a safe and blessed Summer.

“How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.”

Psalms 139:17-18 NIV

Have a Great Summer,

Gail, Jen, Heidi, LaNelle, Dana and Stephen



June Birthdays

5 Dillon Gallagher
7 Jeffrey Shurts
10 Heather Pursell
26 Lorrie McGough
27 Doug Pursell
27 Julia Garrenger

July Birthdays

9 Crystal Robertson
10 Peter Gilbert
11 Sharon Fisher
17 Courtney Hartpence
17 Giulia Reading
18 Ryan McIntyre
18 Steve Chernoski
20 Russ Topping
22 Jack Zambella
27 Pat Durborow
27 Donald Gallagher
28 Ruth Crews
30 Connie Fisher
30 Sue McCloughan

August Birthdays

2 Dan Dorrow
6 Danielle Griffiths
11 Jim Gallagher
11 Hannah McIntyre
15 Carin Gallagher
17 Terry Peck
18 Gail Armitage
18 Quinn Durborow
19 Bill Shurts
21 Torrey Pursell
22 Jen Chernoski
23 Debbie Crow
23 Phil McCloughan
31 John Frangakis

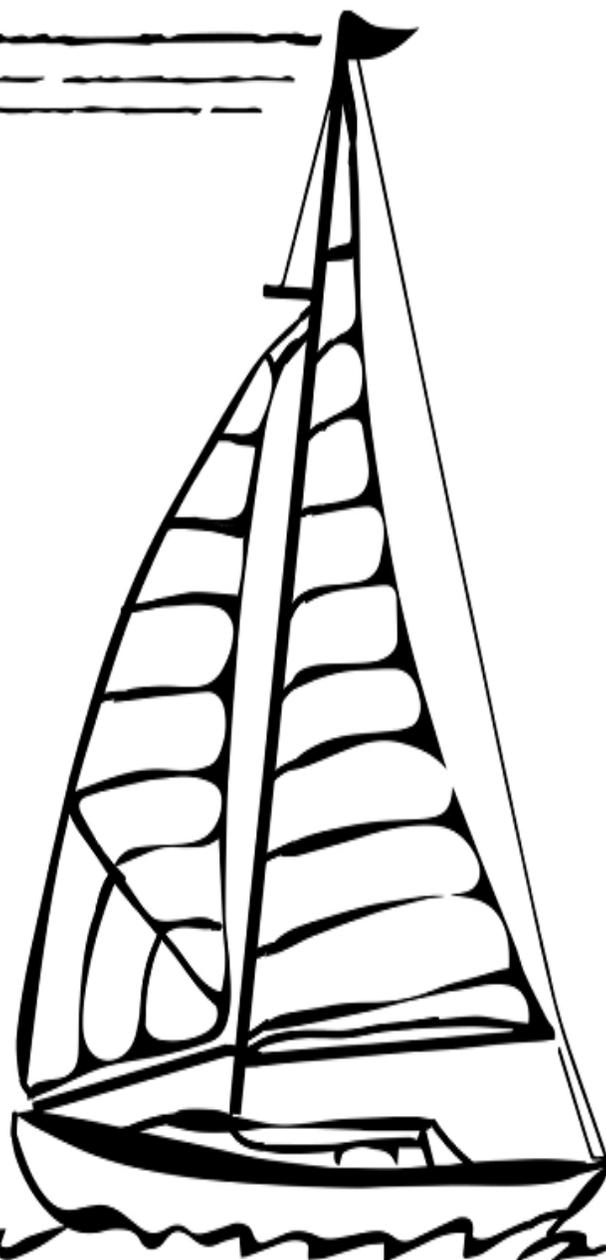


Just for Kids...



PRAY
WITHOUT
CEASING.

1 Thessalonians 5:17



June Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

6/1- Communion @ Mt. Airy

6/8- Pat Durborow
6/15- Phil McCloughan
6/22- Don Pidcock
6/29- Karen Thatcher

Deacon Schedule

6/1- Communion @ Mt. Airy

6/8- Heidi Danberry
6/15- Jen Chernoski
6/22- Stephen McCloughan
6/29- Gail Armitage

Greeting Schedule

6/1- Communion @ Mt. Airy

6/8- Joan Yannarella
6/15- Betsy Brown
6/22- Donna Zambella
6/29- Carol Griffiths

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

Schedules are subject to change

Please see the upcoming bulletins for the July and August Assisting Schedules.

Thank you!

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House
April 21, 2025 6:30 pm

Class of 2026

Pat Durborow
 Phil McCloughan

Class of 2027

Don Pidcock
 Karen Thatcher

Class of 2028

Russ Topping

Rev. William Culton, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Present: Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher
 Russ Topping and Rev. William Culton

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Culton, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the
 April 21, 2025 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

6:30 PM-Devotion, Karen Thatcher*Spring Cleaning*

A Devotion for Monday of Holy week, *The Cleansing*.

I remember back when Pat Buchanan and I would tell each other the ‘spring cleaning’ we were getting completed, from washing floors, walls, rugs, furniture and so on. We encouraged and supported each other in this annual ritual, although our homes were not perfect, they were always ready to receive guests and family, we shared our homes and ourselves, what a blessing.

On Palm Sunday I read from the book of Matthew, chapter 21, versus 8-11. It was reading verse # 12 that sent my mind on Pat and our annual endeavors – the cleansing of the Temple, the first cleansing. “And Jesus . . . drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.’

It was an unheard-of scandal! This young rabbi who yesterday had the whole city in a patriotic uproar, today stormed into the very temple precinct itself and created chaos. Doves flapping, men shouting, women scrambling after the rolling coins. This fellow from Galilee, once again stirring up trouble.

But stirring-up is always what happens when Jesus enters the scene. Holy Monday has its parallel in our individual journey of faith. He comes, and priorities are overturned, assumptions swept aside. The first thing He did on entering Jerusalem is the first thing He does on entering a life, He goes straight to the temple*, to the place where we worship, and cleans out whatever is not part of God’s design. (* 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20, our bodies are the temple for the Holy Spirit).

The process is called by many names; sanctification, amendment of life, getting right with God, but the meaning is the same. The recognition that with Jesus in charge, many things we used to do, say, want, are no longer okay. It’s such a common pattern that we have come to expect it.

And then there's the danger in the Holy Monday experience. We think we know what things He wants to get rid of. Each era, each group has its own expectations.

But the hallmark of that Holy Monday in Jerusalem was surprise. Jesus knew what stood between people in those days and God. 'Astonished' is how Mark describes people's reactions to that original cleansing, and astonished is how we feel when God's housecleaning, not the one we envisioned, gets underway within us. Prejudice. Old hurts. A sense of inferiority. Whatever blocks our relationship with Him, out it must go!

Our first step. We confess our sins, those evils that lurk within, to God with a sincere heart. He hears and He promises four things in return:

- He will be FAITHFUL to you.
- He will be JUST with you.
- He will FORGIVE your sins.
- He will CLEANSE your unrighteousness.

That all sums up to a complete cleansing. 'Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.' (Isaiah 1:18). "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12).

Around the Room

Session Members discussed, shared praises and concerns, and blessings to all.

Moderator Time - Pastor William "Tex" Culton

Tonight, Pastor Culton became our appointed Moderator from the Presbytery. We welcomed him to our group.

He gave us a bit of information about himself. He was in Frenchtown for about 40 years, until he retired 15 years ago. He is the Interim Pastor at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church in Califon, NJ.

Pastor Culton has been in the ministry since 1969, and he knew both Dr. Henry and Bill Thompson here from First Pres. of Lambertville. He tells us about his family, and how he has had a wonderful life, with no complaints.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A motion was called to approve the minutes from March 10, 2025. All were in favor.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- A letter was received from Pastor Stephanie Templin-Ashford from Thompson Memorial regarding the use of our Kitchen and Gym for the weekly luncheon that was previously done at Centenary Methodist in Lambertville. Pastor Stephanie will be coming to our Session Meeting in May. A postcard was sent from the Gideons and they will be praying for our church on April 26th. We have sent a yearly donation to Our Daily Bread, and they sent an acknowledgement letter for our donation. I was asked by CCLI regarding our copyright license to report to them from 10/1/24-3/31/25, which was completed. We have received our Cert. of Inspection from the state of NJ for our boilers. The Certificates will be placed by each boiler.

Discernment Process- Retreat #1 was completed in February. The congregation has been working on the Timeline, which is in the downstairs hallway by the Adult Sunday School Room. Sue presented the reports that were received from Steve Shussett regarding the demographic 3-mile radius study of Lambertville. Session asked Sue to reach out to Jeanne Radak to see if she will explain the report, as it is quite lengthy.

Pastor Search Committee- Our Session met with Mt. Airy on March 18th. The joint job description was drafted and sent to the Sessions of both churches, and Sue here at First Pres. Sue sent the job description to Pastor Jeanne at the Presbytery. We are now waiting for a response from Pastor Radak.

Our church submitted the pastor job description to Princeton Seminary on February 13th. No information has come back as of yet.

Calendar Highlights from May-July 2025

Communion is scheduled for 5/4 here at First Pres., June 1st, at Mt. Airy. A joint communion service will be on July 6th, at Holcombe-Jimison (The July 6th service is pending at this time.)

The information will be continuing in the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. Bell Choir will be playing in church on 5/18 and 6/15. The bell choir will be playing at the Shad Fest on 4/26. The Session Prayer Meetings will take place on 5/5, 6/2 and 7/7, at 6:00 pm. The Spanish Ministry will be continuing to meet at our church on Sundays at 3:00 pm. The National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 1st, and our church will be open for prayer. Mother's Day is May 11th, and flowers will be given out to all the women of the congregation. The Boy Scouts will be having an Eagle Scout Ceremony in the church gym on Sunday June 8th from 2-7 pm.

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

Insurance Review- No changes to the Insurance at this time.

Young Adult Time- We have the time for the young adults, when they are in church.

Accompanist/Music Director- We will continue looking to fill the position. We are looking to fill the accompanist schedule for the months of May and June.

Spanish Ministry- The Spanish Ministry has obtained Liability Insurance, and First Pres. is listed as the additional insured.

Joint Communion Services- We were informed by Jack at Mt. Airy, that Pastor Gregory is not available for the August 3rd communion service. They are in the process of finding a replacement for Pastor Gregory in August, and Jack will keep us updated.

July Joint Service at Holcombe-Jimison- Karen will reach out to Pastor Dave at Stockton Presbyterian to discuss the joint service. Russ, Phil and Pastor Gregory are willing to be involved.

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

The **new technology** for the Livestream- Phil talked about how Stephen will be looking into getting at least 2 new microphones, so that they can pick up the sound that is coming from the organ, and the ensembles that are singing in the pulpit area. Phil will look into getting someone to come here to install the microphones.

Church Organ- The refurbishment of the organ will need to be done in the future, but it has been postponed for this year. Steve Emery will be asked to come and tune the organ on a regular basis.

Skating- Don and Phil said that skating has been happening here for 65 years, and Steve Chernoski will be supervising the skating in the upcoming year and beyond.

Martinez Landscaping- Martinez will be coming back soon to fix the stone wall. They are in receipt of the deposit.

Hallway in Church- Hallway will be painted later this spring.

Church Heaters/Monthly Fire Inspections- The gas furnaces are hit or miss. Garden State has been called. A **motion** was called for Don to install and approve \$100.00 for a WIFI thermostat to replace the one in the back room of Westminster House, and all were in favor. He will replace the thermostat. Hopefully we will see if there is heat or not with the new thermostat. Phil talked about getting the Kohler Generators as an emergency back up, since we are one of the City's emergency shelters. More to follow. Don has been doing the monthly checks on the smoke detectors and Exit Signs.

Kitchen Refrigerators and Wall- Pat talked about our new refrigerator, and was obtained from Hendricks in Stockton. There wasn't a need for a 2nd one, since it was still working. Phil, Addie and Don moved the stove and sink back to the wall that had been repaired due to the pipes freezing.

Pastor Search Committee- Princeton Seminary has the Job Description for the Pastor, as of yet, no information has been received by our church.

Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery- Phil will be attending the upcoming Zoom meeting with the Presbytery on May 13th.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

The Year-to-Date Summary – I will forward the reports to Session if it comes to the church office.

Lowell Hunter Estate- No updates at this time.

Boy Scouts- No updates at this time.

2025 Per Capita- Not discussed tonight.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons –Don Pidcock

Jim Gallagher is doing well with the Adult Sunday School. Sunday School will be done for the year in June, Sue to contact Dana G. to get a date. The youth (Jr. Deacons) help with the Sunday worship service when they attend.

Missions – Russ Topping

ISI-Princeton, Russ explained what they do. Some examples are: They do classes and share the gospel, the Christmas dinner in December, and the Garage Giveaway in August. For the Giveaway, our church will be accepting household items, and bicycles. Monetary donations, are needed especially for bicycles. Russ asked that we put in the Newsletter that we are in need of used bikes. John Desai was the former leader of ISI, and he passed away in January 2025. Maybe missions should have a special fund so that they can continue to support Aruna Desai financially. There isn't going to be a Dominican Republic trip this year, so maybe every 3 months we can give to the other missionaries that we are supporting.

Don talked about Franklin Graham and possibly getting a mission trip together for an area down south that was affected by Hurricane Helene. Sue will put information in an upcoming newsletter to contact Don for those who may be interested.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on April 6, 2025 at Mt. Airy, with Pastor Gregory.

Sight & Sound- The sign-up is filling up, and LaNelle is in the process of receiving payment from those who will be attending.

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.

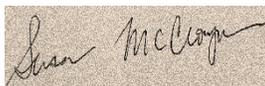
Prayer Meetings- Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 6 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation- May is Russ Topping and June is Pat Durborow.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session