



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

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

**From the Heart:**

**ADVENT 2025**

This year the Advent season begins on Sunday, November 30, and ends on Wednesday, December 24. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, the word meaning “coming,” “approach,” or “arrival.” “Advent” is also a translation of the Greek *παρουσία* (*parousia*), a word used in the church to signify Christ’s second coming.

Christian traditions around the world celebrate the season of Advent with many varied annual ceremonies such as reflective worship, prayer, scripture study, daily devotions and lighting an Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath was originally made to symbolize the hope that Jesus gives to His followers. The wreath counts down the time for the coming of the Son of God for four weeks before His birth. The round shape of the wreath shows Jesus’s never ending love for us. The green branches represent the hope of eternal life as they remain green through the winter. The candles represent Jesus as the light of the world. The color of the candles are typically three purple for preparation, penance, and royalty. One pink and a fifth white “Christ candle” placed in the center and lit on Christmas Day.

Advent is also a time that although we become very busy we need to reflect on the birth of Jesus and what it has done for each one of us. The four themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love should help to guide us and encourage us to realize the importance of Jesus in our lives especially at this time of year.

We prepare our homes and hearts to welcome the presence of Christ in us and also into others at this time as we prepare our lives for Christ’s second coming at the end of time.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Elder Don Pidcock

## “From the Office”

Hello All,

As most of you know, I am retiring from the Office and Clerk of Session at the end of this month. I just would like to say a big **Thank You** to all who have helped me over the years, (and you know who you are LOL!!) I will still be directing the Bell Choir-and to the bell ringers, I am grateful... Dana Garrenger will be taking over the Office duties and Pat Durborow will be taking the Clerk of Session, thank you ladies, for your commitment! The bells will be ringing in December, then a sabbatical until the end of February. Have a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Thank you again!!

Sue




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## Church News:



The First Sunday in Advent started on November 30th.

Lambertville Basketball League will be meeting in the gym on Monday-Thursday evenings, and on Saturdays. Starting on December 1st.

Communion Sunday is December 7th, 10:00 am at Mt. Airy. This will be Pastor Peter's last Communion with us. Good Luck in your Retirement, Peter!!

There is going to be a Women's Christmas Gathering on Wednesday December 10th at 6:00 pm, with Speaker Julie Henning. Please see the flyer in the downstairs hallway of the church. With any questions, please call the Church Office- 609-397-0650.

The Ladies' Bible Study is meeting for the month of December on the 3rd and 17th.

The Cub Scouts will continue meeting Monday nights in the gym from 5:30-7 pm.

Thompson Memorial will be hosting the Community Luncheon on Wednesday December 10th and our gym, and kitchen will be in use from 10:00 am until about 1:30 pm. Thompson Memorial Church will be hosting the luncheons. The lunch will be starting at noon.

Roller Skating for the youth up to 6th grade will be continuing in our gym during the month of December with the exception of 12/26. It will resume on Friday January 9th at 6:00 pm.

**The Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Service is December 24th at 4:00 pm.**

# *It's Time to Order Your Memorial Poinsettias*

Deadline for ordering the poinsettias will be Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the Poinsettias will be \$9.50 each. Please fill out this form and give it to Donna Zambella or Gail Armitage. Payment is due at the time of your order. Thank you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: First Pres. Church and put "flowers" in the memo section.

Number of poinsettias you are ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of check/cash: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please Note: The Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday December 28th.*



**December Birthdays**

- 2 Brent Pursell
- 4 Carol Griffiths
- 5 Megan McIntyre
- 14 Britteny Lynch
- 19 Jacob Pursell
- 23 Dan Fisher
- 23 Chuck Robertson
- 27 Heidi Danberry
- 27 Levi Stratuik
- 30 Caitlin Stratuik

**January Birthdays**

- 7 Andrew Zambella
- 11 Sarah McIntyre
- 12 JoAnn Serlenga
- 14 Dana Garrenger
- 25 Alan Durborow, Jr.
- 26 LaNelle Gallagher
- 30 Erin Durborow



Just for Kids.....

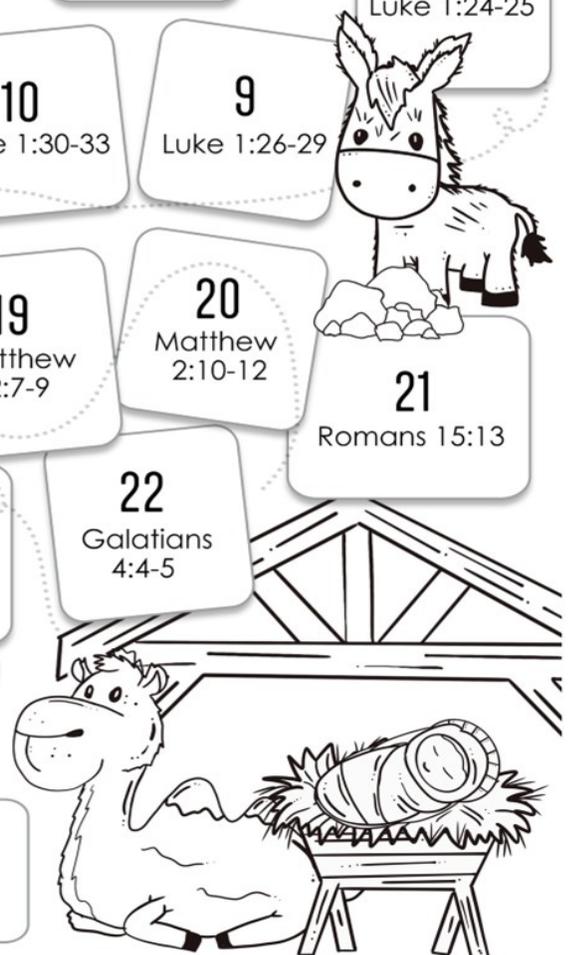


# A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN



Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1 Isaiah 7:14	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22
14 Luke 2:15-20	13 Luke 2:8-14	12 Luke 2:6-7	11 Luke 2:1-5	10 Luke 1:30-33	9 Luke 1:26-29	8 Luke 1:24-25
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13
			23 Philippians 2:8-11	22 Galatians 4:4-5		
			24 James 1:16-18			
			25 John 3:16			



**December Assisting, Greeting and  
Care & Share Schedule:**

**Elder Schedule**

12/7- @ Mt. Airy  
12/14- Pat Durborow  
12/21- Phil McCloughan  
12/28- Don Pidcock

**Deacon Schedule**

12/7- @ Mt. Airy  
12/14- Gail Armitage  
12/21- LaNelle Gallagher  
12/28- Dana Garrenger

**Greeting Schedule**

12/7- @ Mt. Airy  
12/14- Christmas Pageant  
12/21- Joan Yannarella  
12/28- Betsy Brown

**Care & Share**

**Bell Choir**

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

**The Assisting Schedule for the month of January will be in the upcoming Announcements.**

**Schedules are subject to change**

**Thank you!**

Session Minutes  
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville  
Westminster House  
October 20, 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 'Tex' 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 October 20, 2025 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

**6:30 PM-Devotion-** Don Pidcock

Phil and I are taking classes for the kingdom of God and is a wonderful place to discover. Today, I want to share a memorable poem by the great navigator, seaman, and explorer Sir Francis Drake. Let these words roll around your mind for a while and you are likely to find them energizing and inspiring, and even intoxicating.

**Sir Francis Drake, vice admiral was an English sea captain, privateer, navigator, slaver, and politician of the Elizabethan era around 1577:**

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true, because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely, because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess. We have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

Sir Frances Drake was an English explored, privateer, and vice-admiral famous for his 1577-1580 circumnavigation of the globe, his raids on Spanish ships and ports, and his role in defeating the Spanish Armada in 1588. Starting as a poor farmer's son, Drake became a notorious figure in the transatlantic slave trade and became a national hero to England for his attacks on Spanish treasure ships, through to the Spanish he was a feared pirate known as "El Draque." Drake died from dysentery during a failed raid on the Spanish Main.

Sir Francis Drake was a Christian, a staunch Protestant who grew up in a Protestant family that had to flee religious persecution under Queen Mary I of England. His father, Edmund Drake, was a Protestant Minister, and Francis became a devout seaman who even led prayer services on his voyages. Watch over us Lord, Amen.

### **Around the Room**

Session Members discussed, shared praises and concerns.

### **Moderator Time-** Rev. Tex Culton

He had a funeral service yesterday, in which he buried a college friend. He also did the eulogy. It's a hard time to be a minister when you deliver a eulogy on someone you know.

### **Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box-** Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from September 15, 2025, and **Addendum A** for the Called Session Business Meeting and Stated Communion Dates for 2026.

All were in favor. Nancy Wolman called from the Senior Citizen residence on 9/23, and asked if members from the congregation can go to them and visit once a month. Don, Phil and Joanne would be interested in this ministry. Sue will also reach out to them to see if they would like the bell choir to play in the spring. The COC met on 9/29-and they renamed themselves "Explore Lambertville." Stephen and I attended the meeting. They meet monthly to discuss what the highlights of what's going on in Lambertville. More meetings will be coming up, which will likely be attended by Stephen, Sue and Karen. We would ask that the Chamber put on their website, our worship times, Christmas Eve Service and our Roller Skating. Sue will contact them shortly. Riverside Symphonia will be here for their concert on 12/6/25. They asked that the piano be tuned before the performance. It can be but they will have to pay for the tuning. Sue will reach out to them and let them know.

**Dates for Discernment Process:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Retreat was discussed and is scheduled for November. Members of the congregation will be notified, as well as Mt. Airy.

**Policies for Boundry Training, Anti-Harrassment and Anti-Racism.** These need to be in place by the end of this year. Pastor Culton will check on these for Session with his Adm. Asst. at his church.

### **Calendar Highlights from September-November 2025**

Communion is scheduled on 11/2 here at First Pres with Pastor Gregory, and 12/7 at Mt. Airy. January 4, 2026, Communion Sunday will be here at First Pres. NovemberFest at Stockton on 11/15 from 6-9 pm, with dinner and live music The Bell Choir will be ringing on 11/23 & 12/21. The Baptism of Ruby Carol Lynch is 11/9 along with Veterans Day Sunday with Pastor Gregory. The Joint Session Meeting w/ the Deacons is 11/17.

The First Sunday in Advent is November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Elks Hoop Shoot is held in the gym on 12/6 from 9-11 am. Phil with help will be putting the Nativity outside on 11/29, and the church will be decorated for Christmas the week of November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Ladies' Christmas Gathering is on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, and the guest speaker is Julie Henning. The Christmas Eve Candlelight and Family Service is 12/24 at 4:00 pm here at First Pres. Sue will reach out to Heather P. for the Soup Sale dates starting in January on Saturdays during the LBL.

**Community Luncheons use of Church by Thompson Memorial-**

Pastor Stephanie got back to Sue and gave details of the community luncheons. At this time they are planning for the meals to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the months to see how they go into the new year. The upcoming Lunches are 11/12 and 12/10. No chapel service at this time, just the luncheon at noon.

**Pastor Search Committee-** Our church and Mt. Airy are currently working with the Presbytery of the Highlands to find a pastor. There are 2 candidates to come to preach to us on a Sunday, and Joanne DiBlasi will reach out to them to see when he will be able to come to our church.

Retreat # 2 with Jeanne Radak is upcoming in November. Updates will be given to Session as they arise.

**Office/Clerk of Session/Bell Choir-** Sue will be officially retiring from the Office and Clerk of Session on December 30, 2025. She will remain as Bell Choir Director. A job discription of the Office has been given to Session. An update will be coming shortly.

**Joint Session/Deacon Meeting-** This is scheduled for Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm in the Adult Sunday School Room.

**Worship & Music (Church Life)** — Karen Thatcher/Phil McCloughan

**Insurance Review** – All the policies have been reviewed by Karen, and she discussed the changes. They are on file in the Church Office.

**Young Adult Time-** Phil discussed, and the adults who are assisting or preaching should have a message for the young people just in case there are children in the congregation.

**Accompanist/Music Director-** Karen will continue with the Music Director position. She will work with our Office Person to keep the Accompanist schedule up to date in the months to come. We are still going to be rotating the accompanists. The NovemberFest at Stockton has been talked about, and members of our church will be participating with the music.

**Spanish Ministry-** The Spanish Ministry meets in the church on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm. They were here in the Chapel this past Sunday.

**The Joint Communion Service (between Mt Airy and Lambertville)-** Will continue with Pastor Gregory into the end of this year. Don and Phil have been taking classes with our Presbytery to be able to carry out communion to our as well as area churches and continue to preach. They will be able to give communion and preach on the Pulpit Supply list.

**July Joint Worship Service/River Area Churches-** The meetings to start next April/May to discuss the service for next July.

**Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery-** Phil is looking to attend the Zoom meeting on 11/11/25.

**Building and Grounds** - Pat Durborow/Don Pidcock

**New Technology for the Church Service-** More microphones are being looked at.

**Organ-** Stephen M. will keep Session informed when the organ needs to be tuned.

**Skating-** Steve Chernoski will be overseeing the Roller Skating this year. The skating starts on Friday 11/21 and will continue until March 2026. There is no skating when SHR is not in session. The time is from 6-8 pm, for Youth up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Martinez Landscaping-** Will come for fall clean up. Pat will call.

**Gym Bathrooms/Garden Wall-** The gym bathrooms need refreshing, paint and possibly new faucets and vanity. Addie and Joanne will be asked to come to refresh the bathrooms. Jim Troutman offered to have the LBL to pay for new auto faucets for the gym bathrooms. The repair of the garden wall will be fixed sometime during the fall. Martinez has been contracted to repair the wall.

**Church Heaters/SDG-** Pat called Garden State Heating, and they will be coming out sometime soon to service the heaters. One of the heaters is not working at this time. Pat also called SDG and they came out and fixed the alarm.

**Monthly Fire Inspection/Fire Escape-** Don will continue with the fire alarms on a monthly basis. The Fire Escape at Westminster House has to be inspected before the church can pass their yearly fire inspection with the city. Don called the Fire Escape Engineers & Services to inspect the fire escape. The church was quoted a price of \$700.00 to do the inspection. A **motion** was called to allow Don to call and we are to pay the \$700.00. The **motion** was approved. Don will follow up with the fire engineers to come and inspect the fire escape. He also went over the report of the City Fire Inspector of all the issues that were fixed. Don suggested that we clean out the basements so we can make sure everything is up to code.

**Cub Scouts-** Don will follow up with them to see if they are meeting in the gym on Monday nights.

**Budget and Finance** - Heather McIntyre

**Year-to-Date Banking Summary-** Was sent in, from 1/1-10/20/25, and that our plate giving is over \$1269.02

**Lowell Hunter Estate-** No update at this time.

**Boy Scouts-** No updates at this time

**Per Capita-** Not discussed tonight

**2026 Budget-** Debbie C. mentioned to Karen about the 2026 Budget for the church, and the Session should be discussing it soon. Rev. Culton suggested that we send out a Stewardship Letter once a year in November. He suggested that we pray about our stewardship and how we can make it work here. Sue was asked to look for a past stewardship letter and bring it to the next meeting.

**Sundav School/Junior Deacons-** Don Pidcock

The Children's Sunday School is starting on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel. One teacher is still needed. Karen, Pat and Stephen will be helping with the music at the start of their service. The Junior Deacons help during the Worship Service when they are in church.

**Missions** - Russ Topping

Pat mentioned that there was a collection for missions yesterday. Russ concurred, and that there is a monthly collection for missions.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** Was held on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Airy w/ Pastor Gregory.

**Sight & Sound-** Noah is on 11/8 in Lancaster, PA, and most of the seats are filled. A luncheon is following the show at Bird & Hand.

**Lambertville House Tour/Church Bake Sale-** The bake sale was held on 10/19/25, and \$729.00 was raised for our Women's Fellowship. A **motion** was called for a \$300.00 love offering for Julie Henning to come and speak at the Ladies' Christmas Gathering on 12/10. The **motion** was approved. Pat will reach out to Julie.

**Preaching God's Word in the World and Presiding at the Table: A Class for Ruling Elders:**

Don and Phil have been taking Communion and Sermon Zoom classes through the Presbytery. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, they will be giving their sermons at the Flemington Presbyterian Church. Once this is done, our Presbytery will be ordaining them to be able to be able to give communion and to be put on the Pulpit Supply List.

**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. Meetings are in person, unless specified, those unable to make the meeting, call in is 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:** November Joint Meeting-Pastor Culton

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan