



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

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

**From the Heart:**

In January of 1953 a sci-fi book came out called "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. The premise was a society where all books were confiscated and burned. I was thinking: If our Bibles were taken away and burned, would we miss them?

You think about it, the Bible, we would not know there was God, we wouldn't know what he was like, what he required.

We would not have direction for our lives; we wouldn't know that we were sinners or that there was a Savior.

We would not know there was a source of peace, hope, strength. Many of us have a GPS in our cars, they tell us how to arrive at our destination safely. The Bible is more valuable than any GPS.

So if the Bible was taken from you, would you miss it? I know I would.

Blessings,  
Elder Russ Topping

## “From the Office”

Hi All,

The Bell Choir will be ringing on November 23rd, thank you to all the ringers! There are many activities this month, so please check out the November Calendar when you have a chance.

Happy Thanksgiving!! The Church Office will be closed on Friday November 28th.

Have a blessed month!

Sue




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## Church News:



Communion Sunday is on November 2nd here at First Pres. With Pastor Gregory.

**For those going on the bus trip to Sight & Sound on 11/8, please be at the CVS-Lambertville parking lot by 7:30 am. The bus will be leaving promptly at 8:00 am.**

The Children's Sunday School will be resuming on November 9th, in the Chapel (KICK Room.)

The Ladies' Bible Study is continuing on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm in the Church Library.

Thompson Memorial will be hosting the Community Luncheon on Wednesday November 12th and our gym, kitchen and chapel 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 with a chapel service starting around 11 am.

“Novemberfest” is being held at Stockton Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 15th from 6-9 pm. They will be having dinner and live music!

The CMA is collecting for their annual Toy Drive for the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility and Friendship Center (In Flemington.) Please bring your unwrapped toy by November 16th. There is a box at the bottom of the Sanctuary stairs. They ask that there be no toy weapons, skull & crossbone motifs, cameras, clothing, baseballs & bats, hockey sticks, sharp items, glass perfume or nail polish bottles.) Thank you.

Roller Skating for the youth up to 6th grade will be starting on Friday November 21st from 6-8 pm in our gym.

The church will be decorated for the Christmas holiday during the week of November 24th. The First Sunday in Advent is November 30th.

Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Yes, it's that time of year to prepare for our Christmas Outreaches.

I have some available shoeboxes for your participation in this beautiful outreach.

The completed boxes need to be delivered to the drop off location by me on Sunday November 23rd.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Joanne DiBlasi



## *Ministry and Outreach:*

**News from our Missions Team~** Please be sure to check out the bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary each month! If anyone would like to help join the Missions Team, please reach out to any member. May the Lord continue to bless us as we are faithful to His call!

**Your Missions Team: Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella**

### **Hello to All from the First Presbyterian Deacons...**

The Deacons along with many church members were very much involved in last weekend's bake sale and open church tours. A great job by all who came together for another successful event. Next month we will be getting together with our annual Elder / Deacon meeting. If you have anything that you think needs to be addressed please reach out to one of us. Again we are always here for support and prayers. Right now the Deacons would like to send out our prayers and love to Pat Durborow on the loss of her sweet Darla. Darla was loved by our entire congregation and will be missed greatly in the church.

**Your Deacons: Gail Armitage, Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, LaNelle Gallagher, Dana Garrenger and Stephen McCloughan**

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

*Hebrews 13:16*



**November Birthdays:**

**9 Katie Vaccarino**

**10 James P. Buchanan**

**12 Antonia Pursell**

**13 Karen Armano**

**14 Robert Pierman**

**18 Patrick Durborow**

**18 Madison Hartpence**

**20 Danielle Fisher**

**25 Heather McIntyre**

**27 Joan Yannarella**

**30 Karen Thatcher**

**30 Debra Wiley-Gies**



Just for Kids.....

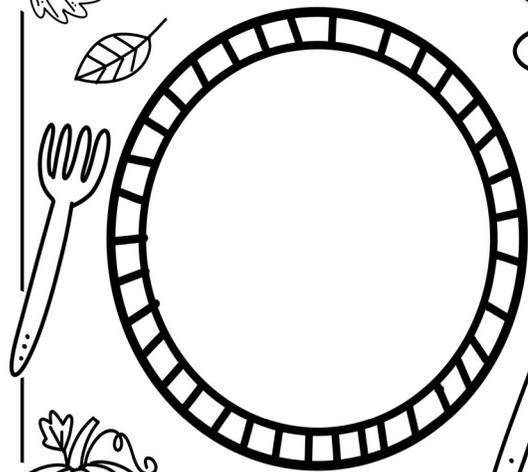
# THANKS GIVING



Decorate the Scarecrows.  
Ideas: faces, hair & clothes

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.**  
Psalm 136:1, NIV

What are you thankful for?



Draw your favorite Thanksgiving Dinner!

How many pumpkins can you find?



## **November Assisting, Greeting and Care & Share Schedule:**

### **Elder Schedule**

11/2- **Communion**/Russ Topping  
11/9 & 16- Phil McCloughan  
11/23-Karen Thatcher  
11/30- Russ Topping

### **Deacon Schedule**

11/2- **Communion**/Dana Garrenger and Gail Armitage  
11/9- Stephen McCloughan  
11/16- Jen Chernoski  
11/23- LaNelle Gallagher  
11/30- Heidi Danberry

### **Greeting Schedule**

11/2– Connie Fisher  
11/9– Betsy Brown  
11/16– Jen Chernoski  
11/23– Joan Yannarella  
11/30– Donna Zambella

### **Care & Share**

#### **The Deacons**

**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 15, 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 September 15, 2025 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

**6:30 PM-Devotion, Phil McCloughan**

**Spreading the Word of God. Sharing The Love of Jesus.**

***1 Peter 3:8-15***

**Suffering for Doing Good**

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

**This article offers a short legal analysis prepared by ACLJ (American Center for Law and Justice)**

The streets and sidewalks of the United States are an open forum for evangelism. The Constitution guarantees the right to preach the Gospel in public places. The Supreme Court's many cases involving preaching (or other speech activities) on the streets provide ready answers to those who challenge your right to give away religious tracks, pamphlets, and other printed materials and to speak with people on the street about your faith.

As Sue, Stephen and I were going to a Yankees game in NYC (yes, we drove into the city and parked in a parking garage kind of close to the stadium.) As we walked closer to the Stadium, there was this young Boy just handing out these little pamphlets. I was nice, took one said Thank you and walked away. After getting into the stands I got it out and read it. Then thought about how brave it must be to hand this information out to strangers.

With all the Heartbreaking News that is overwhelming the last few weeks it is really difficult to understand WHY or HOW can this happen, Especially when you are trying to share your faith.

Thursday, I took off from work and decided to help the CMA New Life Riders with their annual 9-11 outreach. Where they deliver bibles and other reading materials to all the Police Stations, Fire Houses and Rescue Squads in Hunterdon County after the 9-11 Ceremony at the Courthouse in Flemington. I was paired up with Ron Grossman who I didn't know. As we rode around with our list of destinations and when we had the opportunity to actually see anyone who was in these places we asked if there was anything we could pray for with them. Which made me think about the kid handling out this pamphlet to strangers at the Yankees game.

Here I'm with Strangers and openly praying together with them. At the end of the day I realize that I needed this just as much as those strangers I prayed with. BTW after having Lunch with Ron and talking more about ourselves and telling him I'm with First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville, he asked if I knew Rich and Becky Hopkins. Obviously, I said yes. He said he and Rich were good friends and they went to church together I guess before Rich and Becky came here to Lambertville. Feel the goodness that God has given us. You really are not strangers, but brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Around the Room

Session Members discussed, shared praises and concerns.

### Moderator Time- Rev. Tex Culton

Pastor Culton thanked the Session for having him. He expressed that he has been losing a lot of friends lately. This upcoming Thursday he will be carrying out a funeral for a friend of his.

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

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from June 9, 2025 and the Annual Congregational Meeting on 2/23/25. All were in favor, both sets of Minutes were approved. **Dates for Discernment Process:** I will get back to Jeanne to let her know that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Retreat was discussed and asked that all look at the availability in Oct./early Nov. so we can wrap things up in 2025. **Policies for Boundary 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, and Sue will also reach out to Sonja at the Presbytery to see if there is a template for these. More to follow. Bob Heath from the Gideons sent a postcard and they will be praying for our church on August 9<sup>th</sup>. A letter was received from Pastor Marcia Shoop from Grace Covenant Church in North Carolina. From the Fish Pond at this year's Shad Fest \$435 was raised to send to them to

help in relief efforts in the devastation from Hurricane Helene. The letter was posted on the bulletin board, in the downstairs hallway of the church. An email was received from Deputy Fire Marshal in Lambertville, and he will come to perform our annual inspection. This was referred to Don to follow up.

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

Communion is scheduled on 9/7 and 11/2 here at First Pres with Pastor Gregory, and 10/5 at Mt. Airy. Bell Choir will be starting on 9/25, and they will be ringing in church in October. There will be a Hymn Sing at Mt. Airy soon. The gates to the garden and cemetery will be closed from 10/30 thru 11/1 due to Halloween. The church trip to Sight & Sound is Sat. 11/8 to see "Noah" and to have lunch at Bird & Hand in Lancaster, PA. The First Sunday in Advent is November 30<sup>th</sup>. 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>. Thanksgiving is on 11/27 and the Church Office will be closed on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Elders for the Upcoming Newsletters-** Phil will be doing the front page for the October Newsletter and Russ will be for the month of November and Don for December.

### **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. They need to use the kitchen, and gym for October. For November, they also plan to use the chapel to offer a bible study before the meal. They plan to use the building from 10:00 am-1:30 pm, with the luncheon starting at noon. The Session will be kept informed of any changes to the luncheon.

**Pastor Search Committee-** Our church is working with the Presbytery of the Highlands to find a pastor. We did have a candidate from Maine, but it is up to our Session to see that we get the right person to fill the position. We are also working with Mt. Airy to see if a shared pastor is the way to go. Phil will reach out to Jack Williamson (Elder from Mt. Airy) and explain our position, and asking Jack to reach out to Jeanne Radak from the Presbytery to discuss this candidate. We also have another candidate from this area. Joanne DiBlasi will reach out to him to see when he will be able to come to our church to preach. This new candidate will be preaching at Mt. Airy on November 9<sup>th</sup>. More to follow.

**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. Session asked if she would put a job description of the Office in the Bulletin. Yes, that will be done soon and the description will be sent to Session for their approval. If there are any questions about the Office Position, please contact a Session Member. Thank you.

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

**Insurance Review** – The Worker’s Comp. and House of Worship policies were received. Karen will take these policies to review. More to follow.

**Young Adult Time** — Brayden and Emma have been coming to church, and they would like to help Stephen with an upcoming Young Adult Service. Stephen would also like to reach out to more of the youth of our congregation to help. The Adults who are assisting or preaching should have a message for the young people just in case.

**Accompanist/Music Director** - As we continue to praise the Lord with our Music Ministry, we are in discussion with an interested person. We are giving the interested person more time to decide. If not, then Karen will take the position, and Session is thankful if this is the case. Session is appreciative that Hilary, George, Lucia and Stephen have been our Accompanists. Starting in November, once the children’s Sunday School returns, Stephen will be helping with the music.

**Spanish Ministry**- The Spanish Ministry meets in the church on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm. They will be celebrating a “Sweet 15” Birthday party soon. This is equal to our “Sweet 16.”

**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 service was held on July 5<sup>th</sup> at Holcombe-Jimison. It was very well attended. The meetings to start next April/May to discuss the service for next July.

**Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery**- Phil McCloughan

Phil attended the Zoom meeting on 9/9/25. He was able to attend at 5 pm. Churches in the Presbytery are having interested persons sign up to take classes (as mentioned above) to become certified to preach and do communion, not only in their own churches, but to be put on the Pulpit Supply. Policies are changing in our Presbytery, one example is how to get the Per-Capita to make it more church friendly. The investments for the Presbytery seem to be in good shape.

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

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

**Organ**- The organ was tuned by an associate of Steve Emery on 8/6/25. Stephen M. reported that it does sound better, and he asked we keep the organ tuned on a regular basis. He will let us know when the organ needs tuning.

**Skating-** Don will reach out to Steve Chernoski to see what kind of help he will need, and to see when skating will be starting. Pat said that she will shop for the supplies for this upcoming year.

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

**Gym Bathrooms/Garden Wall-** The gym bathrooms need refreshing, paint and possibly new fixtures. Pat and Don will address. The repair of the garden wall will be fixed sometime during the fall. Martinez has been contracted to repair the wall.

**Church Heaters-** In October of this year, all 4 heaters/furnaces should be serviced. The one in the Church Basement is locked out. Pat will call to have all 4 heaters/furnaces serviced.

**Church Gym-** Pat and Nate M. were in the gym during the last storm and the roof was leaking. Nate was able to do some minor repairs, since the gutters were clogged. Martinez Landscaping was supposed to come and clean the gutters, but this wasn't done.

**Monthly Fire Inspection-** Don will continue with on a monthly basis.

**Budget and Finance** - Heather McIntyre

**Year-to-Date Banking Summary-**No update at this time.

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

**Boy Scouts-** There is no longer a Pack 49 they have folded. Per Don.

**Per Capita-** Not discussed tonight

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

It was noted that the Adult Sunday School has started and Children's Sunday School is starting on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel. One teacher is needed for the Children's Sunday School. Junior Deacons help during the Worship Service when they are in church.

**Missions** - Russ Topping

The Missions Team meets every so often, usually when the church budget comes out. Don spoke about the small mission trip to the Dominican Republic in July. We have been going to the DR since 2018, but we will not be going in 2026. Maybe to North Carolina to volunteer with Samaritan's Purse. Crystal's church helps once a month, they are going back on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. to help in North Carolina. Phil spoke about the ISI-Princeton the Garage Giveaway that was on 8/23. Even though John Desai was absent, he was deeply missed. Many churches gave items to the giveaway. It was a successful day. Phil also spoke about Terry Slemmer's mission the Christian Motorcycle Association, they went to different towns first responders to give out information about the CMA, on 9/11.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** Was held on Sunday July 6 at the Joint Worship Service at Holcombe-Jimison Farm, August 3 at Mt. Airy and September 7, with Pastor Gregory here at First Pres.

**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.

**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:** October is Don Pidcock

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan