



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

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

From the Heart:

Isaiah 40:8 reminds us, “The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever”
The changing of seasons

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. As the leaves and foliage change, the world is alive with vibrant color. Fall is a season of harvest, and it's a perfect time to reflect on the abundance of blessings in our lives. The older I get the more I enjoy the change of seasons – it's a reminder of life. It is interesting that this is the word God chose to use to describe all of life – ‘To everything there is a season’ Ecclesiastes 3:1. More than 65 verses in scripture refer to seasons. Seasons are God's measurement of the stages of life. Just as the leaves undergo a transformation during this season, we too can seek personal renewal and growth in Jesus Christ.

Beginning in **Genesis 1:14** God Himself started setting the seasons. And He still does. There are seasons of joy and of sorrow. Seasons of labor and of rest. Seasons of calm and of storms. An all-wise God changes the seasons a He see's best. (**Daniel 2:21**).

Every season has a purpose. The seasons provide what the earth needs at a particular time and prepares the earth for the next season. It would not be wise for us to remain in one season, for the earth or for us, we need what God has for us in every season of our life. Some seasons seem to go so quickly; others seem to hang on forever. Stop enduring the season you are in and see God at work in it.

Every purpose has an end. The same passage in **Ecclesiastes** concludes ‘he hath made every thing beautiful in His time’ (**vs11**). His time. His purpose. His season.

As the world outside transforms, we too can undergo a transformation of the heart and spirit by embracing the fall season with Bible devotionals. Whether you are seeking gratitude, renewal or simply a moment of peace, the scriptures provide a timeless source of wisdom and comfort.

So, as you sip your favorite fall beverage and snuggle into your cozy nook, don't forget to bring along your Bible and fall-themed devotional. Let the words of scripture guide you through this enchanting season, and may your fall be filled with warmth, reflection, and leaning more into your relationship with Jesus.

Verses to ponder: Ecclesiastes 3rd chapter; Psalm 102: 25-26; Daniel 2:21; Genesis 8:22; Genesis 6:9

**May the Good Lord bless and keep you always,
Karen Thatcher/Elder FPCL**

“From the Office”

Hi All,

I just wanted to thank you for your prayers when my mom Marianne passed away in June. As many of you know, she lived with us, and was a part of our church family as well. It was comforting to know that you kept us in your prayers during this difficult time.

On a lighter note, the Bell Choir will be meeting again on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. Starting on September 25th. If anyone is interested in ringing, please let me know. You don't have to read music to play, just bring your enthusiasm!

Blessings to you!

Sue



Church News:



Communion Sunday is on September 7th here at First Pres. At **10:30 am**. Please make a note of the time change.

The Adult Sunday School will be starting on September 7th at 9:00 am. The Children's Sunday School will be re-suming on November 9th, in the Chapel (KICK Room.)

Thursday September 11th is Patriot Day, and the Church will be open for Prayer from 12 to 4 pm.

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

The 41st ISI Garage Giveaway was held on Saturday August 23rd in Princeton. The students that came to the giveaway were very excited when they were able to pick up their home goods at 10:00 am. Many people donated bicycles, which were a “hot item” for sure. Thank you to all who donated items for the giveaway as well as their time on Saturday.

We will be having a bake sale during Lambertville's house tour on October 19th. Last year's Bake Sale was a huge success! We like keeping our doors open as an outreach to our community and those coming through. If you can donate One or more baked goods that will be wonderful. Also, if you can come by on Sunday and help work the table that would also be appreciated. If you have knowledge of the church and want to walk folks up to the sanctuary again that would be great. I will be in the kitchen all day on Saturday for those who can't make it on Sunday and want to drop things off. Any questions don't hesitate to call me at (609) 865-7254.

Blessings, your sister in Christ Heidi.

The Power of A Blessing

- A blessing is a powerful and offers us comfort, protection, hope and vision.
- In **Genesis 12:1-3** God calls Abram to settle in a new land and God promises that all the families on earth will be blessed through him.
- In verse 3, God also says “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt.” And thousands of years later it is still being fulfilled.
- Do you realize we are speaking blessings back to God when we praise him?
Please read **Psalm 33**.
- Throughout the Bible God graciously blesses us so we can richly bless others. When you bless others, you direct God’s goodness upon them.

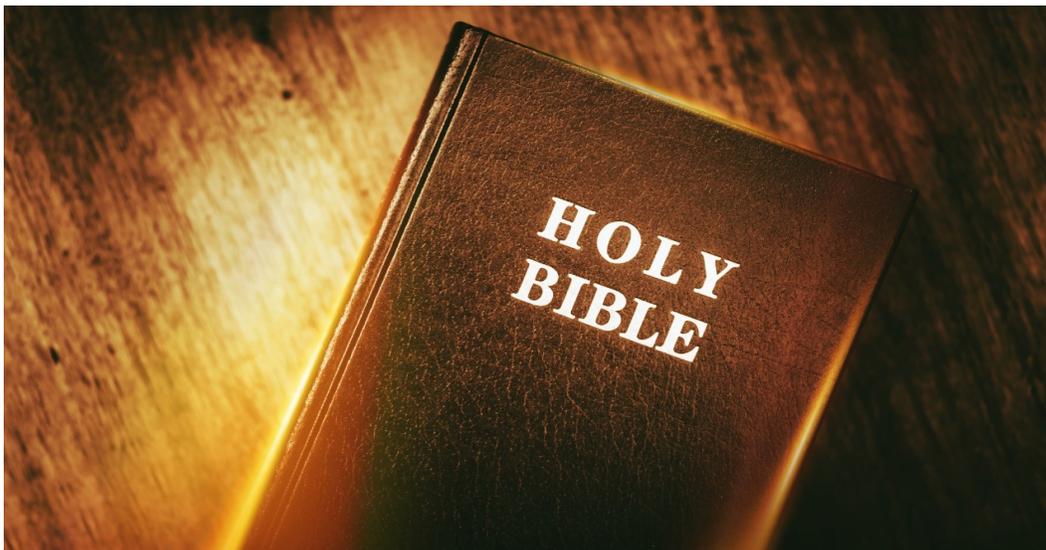
The Purposes of God’s Blessings:

- To demonstrate God’s love
- To encourage faith and trust
- To be a blessing to others

We need to pray blessings over our families, our nation and our communities so God will have mercy on us and not turn his face from us.

- Blessings as we start the new church season,

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! 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....

As the end of summer approaches, it's never ending for the Deacons helping out with their regular duties. A reminder to everyone we are just a phone call, text, email or even just stopping one of us in church if you have a request- especially prayers. We will soon be back at our regular meeting schedule for more detailed decision making with what to do with our generous donations provided by our church members. Thanks are going out to Karen Thatcher and McCloughan family who has put two walkers at the top of the stairs for those who need it. Also in the world we find ourselves living in now we as a church have to think about securing ourselves in case of an intruder.

Hopefully 🙏 this day will never come, but if so there is a can of bug spray on each windowsill. Thanks Karen and Elders.

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.”
Psalm 107:6 NIV

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



September Birthdays:

2 Grace Reading

8 Kara Jo Pachnieski

13 Aruna Desai

15 Chris Garrenger

15 Bob Holland

17 Allison Zambella

21 Chris Vaccarino

22 Tucker Griffiths



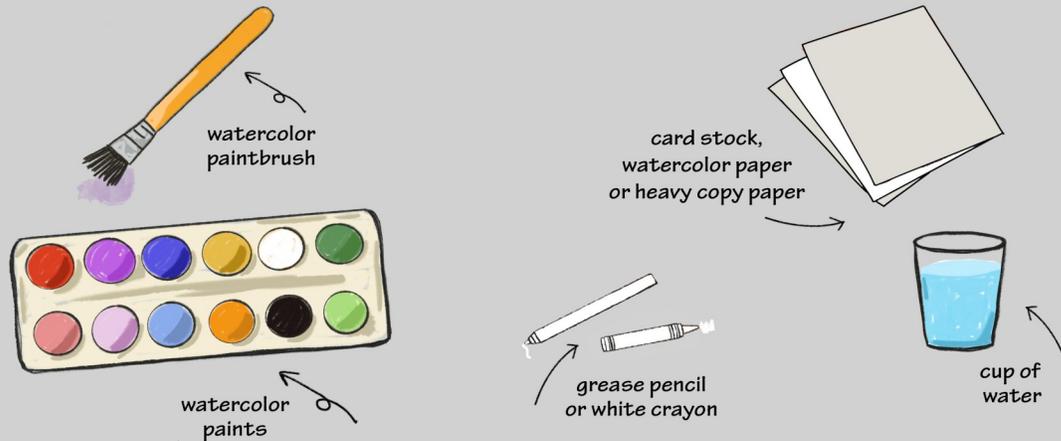
Just for Kids.....

Children's Worship
Bulletins™

How we know God loves us



What you need:



What to do:

- 1) draw an outline of a cross with a pencil
- 2) color in the cross with a white crayon, press hard
- 3) paint a rainbow or sunrise over the whole piece of paper
- 4) watch the cross stay white like magic
- 5) let it dry

September Assisting, Greeting and Care & Share Schedule:

Elder Schedule

9/7- **Communion**/Don Pidcock
9/14- Karen Thatcher
9/21- Russ Topping
9/28- Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

9/7- **Communion**/Heidi Danberry (Stair Glide), Jen Chernoski
9/14- Jen Chernoski
9/21- Stephen McCloughan
9/28- Gail Armitage

Greeting Schedule

9/7- Connie Fisher
9/14- Carol Griffiths
9/21- Donna Zambella
9/28- Joan Yannarella

Care & Share

The Session

**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 19, 2025 7:00 pm

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Pat Durborow	Don Pidcock	Russ Topping
Phil McCloughan	Karen Thatcher	

Rev. William “Tex” Culton, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

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

Excused: Don Pidcock

Guest: Pastor Stephanie Templin-Ashford/Thompson Memorial Church

Pastor Stephanie came to speak to Session regarding the restarting of the Community Lunch Program that was held at Centenary Methodist Church in Lambertville until they closed in August of 2024. A letter was sent from the pastor regarding this. The American Legion in Lambertville was mentioned for a possible location for the luncheon, but they are most likely will require a fee, but if it’s held in our Gym and our Kitchen is used, we won’t be requiring a fee to use the space. All that will be needed for the luncheon is the space, and that Thompson Memorial will supply the people, and food to have the luncheon here at the church. The luncheons will most likely take place on either Tuesday or Wednesday. They would need to use our refrigerator space for the food, and our tables and chairs. Thompson would also handle the set and clean up. Meals can be made without the stove, since we do not have a hood on our gas stove and would be required. Also, it was mentioned that the gym is not air conditioned, and the gym floor would need to be handled with care. Session will discuss more and possibly vote at the next business meeting. Then Pastor Stephanie will be notified.

Welcome: Reverend Culton, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the May 19, 2025 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

7:00 PM-Devotion, Russ Topping

Russ based his devotion on *Ephesians 2*. When you follow the ways of the world, you can get into trouble. He told us how he came to church as a young person, then quit coming in the 1960s. He didn’t know Jesus, and there were no words to describe his lifestyle before Christ. He didn’t give God a reason to save him, but in his 40s, there was a point he took up the cross. “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in Mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-It is by grace you have been saved.” **Ephesians 2:4-5**. At that point, Russ took the path to Heaven. When he has morning quiet time, it is good to tell Jesus thank you. Russ wants to know Jesus better and he is getting there, and that salvation is ours.

Around the Room

Session Members discussed, shared praises and concerns.

Moderator Time - Pastor Tex Culton

Session discussed the information that was given when Pastor Stephanie was here earlier. Thompson Memorial is part of the Philadelphia Presbytery. Our Presbytery was New Brunswick, but they merged and now our Presbytery is the Highlands and bigger than it was.

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

Review of Minutes: A **motion** was called to approve the minutes from April 21, 2025 All were in favor.

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- A request from Prior-Nami was sent to Sue regarding our copier contract. We are now waiting on the contract, so that it can be provided to session. Dorothy Patterson called to say that she had a portrait of her grandfather Victor, and she would like to donate the portrait to our church. I will get back in touch with her so the portrait can be hung in the Chapel. Vickie from Riverside Symphonia contacted the office to give us the dates for upcoming concerts. A **motion** was called to approve the following dates: **10/3 & 4, 12/5 & 6 2025. 2/13 & 14, 4/10 & 11 2026.** All were in favor. I will get in touch with Vickie and let her know the dates were approved.

Dates for Discernment Process w/ Mt. Airy and Jeanne Radak- I got in touch with Jeanne and she would like to Zoom with the session to discuss the demographic study. I will follow up with her to see when we would be able to Zoom together. Our pastor job description was approved by the Presbytery and was posted on the PCUSA call Finder site, per Jeanne. She also sent it out to other Presbytery leaders to see if anyone would respond to the post. Jeanne will also be looking for people who may be interested in the position. Our church submitted the pastor job description to Princeton Seminary on February 13th. No response so far.

Calendar Highlights from June-August 2025

Communion is scheduled for June 1st, at Mt. Airy. A joint communion service will be on July 6th, at Holcombe-Jimision (The July 6th service is pending at this time.) There is a meeting on 6/4 at Stockton Pres. to discuss the July service at Holcombe-Jimision. August Communion Sunday of 8/3, Mt. Airy is trying to find someone to fill in for Pastor Gregory. The information will be continuing in the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. On Sunday June 8th, is Bring a Friend to Church and Opening of the Grill. The Bell Choir will be playing in church on 6/15. The Session Prayer Meetings will take place on 6/2 and 8/4, at 6:00 pm. The Spanish Ministry will be continuing to meet at our church on Sundays at 3:00 pm. The Boy Scouts will be having an Eagle Scout Ceremony in the church gym on Sunday June 8th from 2-7 pm. The Ladies' Bible Study will continue meeting on Wednesdays over the summer.

Father's Day Giveaway- Will be done again this year on 6/15. I will order the items from Positive Promotions.

Worship and Music/Church Life – 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 have filled the Accompanist Schedule for May and June.

Spanish Ministry- Are meeting in the church on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 pm.

Joint Communion Services- We were informed by Jack at Mt. Airy, that Pastor Gregory is not available for the August 3rd communion service. Karen will get in touch with Jack to see if they have found a pastor for Communion Sunday on 8/3.

July Joint Service at Holcombe-Jimison- There is a meeting at Stockton Pres. on Juen 4th to discuss the service at Holcombe-Jimison. Titusville and Kirkpatrick will not be participating this year. Peter G., Russ and Phil would like to partake in the service. Pat Masterson will most likely handle the music, and the Bell Choir would be available to ring.

Building and Grounds – Pat Durborow/Phil McCloughan

The **new technology** for the Livestream- This is still an open matter. 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. They may be portable or stationary in the front of the sanctuary.

Church Organ- Phil and Don will be looking at the heater that is in where the organ pipes are to see if the heater is working. Steve Emery will be called to come and tune the organ.

Skating-Will begin again in November 2025, usually the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Martinez Landscaping- They will be coming back to fix the stone wall. Pat will call Martinez to come and clean out the gutters that are on the back of the Nursery room, because there has been an issue with pine needles clogging the gutter.

Hallway in Church/Bathrooms- The painting is on hold for now. The bathrooms in the church are good, but the bathrooms in the gym need attention.

Church Heaters/Monthly Fire Inspections- The church heaters, there is nothing for now, but in August or September Garden State will be called to service them. The Monthly Fire Inspections were not discussed tonight.

Church Kitchen- This is done for now. Possibly a newer gas stove in the future with a hood to so that the church may be able to rent out the kitchen for outside use.

Pastor Search Committee- Was discussed in the Discernment portion of the meeting.

Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery- On May 13th, Phil Zoomed into the meeting at 7 pm. During the meeting the Elders were voting on policy, which they had decided to do at the next Stated Meeting in September. There was some information that wasn't clear, so Pastor Tex said that he would find out and explain it to session at a future meeting. Phil also said that there were 2 issues that were being voted on, and he would reach out to Jeanne Radak also.

Other Matters Discussed- St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Lambertville is closing. Pat talked about the Historical Tour that is in Lambertville on October 19th from 11 am-4 pm. The Historical Society would like our church on the Tour this year (our doors are usually open for this.) More information to come.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

The Year-to-Date Summary – from 1/1-5/19/25, and that our plate giving is over \$130.70.

Boy Scouts- No updates at this time.

2025 Per Capita- Not discussed tonight.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons –Discussed by session

The Adult and Children’s Sunday School is ending on June 1st. Jr. Deacons were discussed earlier.

Missions – Russ Topping

Things are moving along. No updates since the last meeting.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on May 4, 2025 with Pastor Gregory.

Sight & Sound- Noah is on Nov. 8, 2025. There are a few openings on the sign-up which are in the process of being filled.

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.

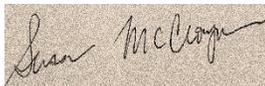
Prayer Meetings- Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending,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

Session Devotion Rotation- June is Pat Durborow, and September is Phil McCloughan.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session