



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

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

From Our Elder ~ Don Pidcock

WHY THE BLOOD?

We all know that Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins but do we know why He needed to shed His blood for our atonement? Couldn't He just say or command sin to be gone and all peoples would be welcome to heaven? Couldn't there be another way to be forgiven for our sins then to have God become incarnate and then give His life for mankind? Of course God's ways are much higher than mans. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

This is why we have the Bible. To explain to us why certain things need to happen throughout time and throughout mankind's life on this earth.

As we study the Bible we find that many Old Testament readings allude to or point to a God that is holy, perfect and loving. He created man and women in His image to live in a perfect place. As man fell from the grace of God and became sinful, man could then not exist with a perfect God. In the Old Testament God instructed the people to sacrifice animals and birds as a means of saving themselves from judgement for their sin. This method of redemption was temporary, as the sacrifice was repeated yearly. The book of Hebrews tells us, "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). This is because the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). But a loving God gave us the perfect answer in the form of Jesus. A man who lived a sinless life to become the perfect, unblemished and timeless sacrifice. With Jesus's sacrifice we now are sinless in the eyes of God and we may now enter into His presence.

God sent Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice as Jesus "entered once for all into the holy places, not by the means of the blood of goats and calves but by the means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12). The blood of Jesus makes a way for sinful man to be reconciled to a holy, perfect, just, and righteous God.

Thank You Jesus.
Amen

“From the Office”

Thank you for sending in your reports for the Annual Report. We will be meeting after church on February 23rd for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Copies of the report should be out the week of 2/16. All members of our church are encouraged to attend.

The Bell Choir will be resuming practice Thursday evening, February 27th, 6:30 pm.

Blessings,

Sue



Church News:



Friday February 14 and Saturday the 15th Riverside Symphonia are in the Sanctuary. Their concert is on Saturday at 4:00 pm.

Communion Sunday is February 2nd at Mt. Airy Presbyterian. The Service will be starting at 10:00 am.

There are 2 Soup Sales on Saturdays for the month of February. 2/1 and 2/8 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. In the gym.

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

The Spanish Ministry will be meeting on Sundays at 3:00 pm

Roller Skating for Youth up to 6th Grade for February will be the 7, 21 & 28 at 6:00 pm in the gym. **There is No Roller Skating on Friday February 14th.**

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting: *Per the Book of Order Section G 105 of the PCUSA: Notice is given to the Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation to be held immediately following worship, 23 February 2025. By polity, the meeting is limited to the specific requirements of business, hearing from the nominations, election of church officers, and conducting of required business. Only those on the roles of members are able to vote at the annual meeting.*

The Belt of Truth

- **In Ephesians 6:10-18**

We are told to put on the whole armor of God.

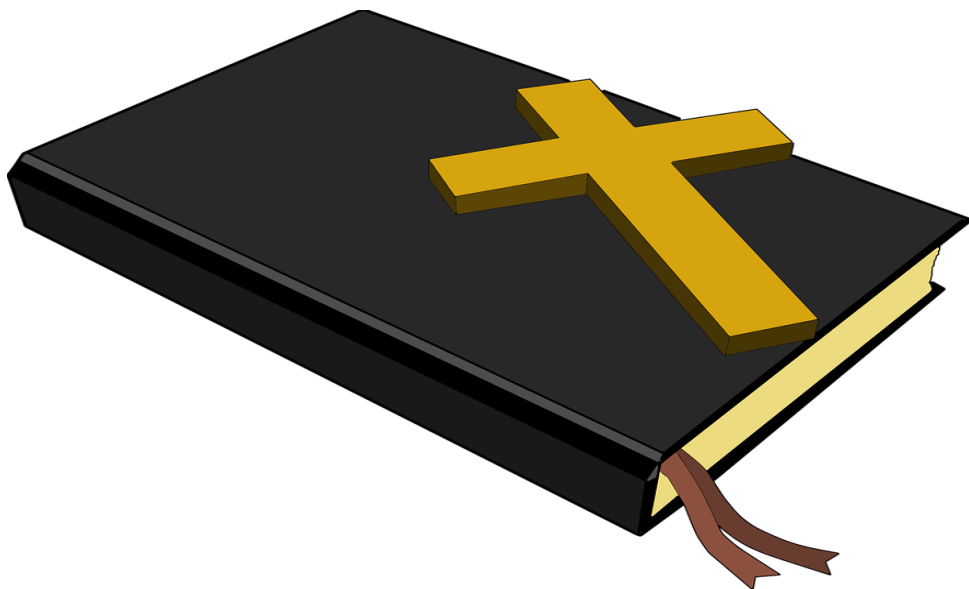
- The Belt of Truth is probably the most important piece of God's armor.
- Once you begin to compromise the truth of God's word, your spiritual integrity diminishes; whether as an individual or a denomination.
- Satan's goal has always been to destroy God's Truth.

- ***2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Tells us that "All scripture is inspired by God and is to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work."

*As followers of Christ, may we never remove our Belt of Truth and replace it with the Belt of Compromise.

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi



Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

Please see the Bulletin Board in the back of the Sanctuary!

Your Missions Team:

Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella

Deacon's Corner.....

Happy New Year Church Family and let's all hope and pray that it is just that. As the Deacons say goodbye to the old year we look forward to being there whenever needed in 2025. Prayers are always the number one priority whenever needed. Remember that the ladies are just a phone call away. We are also helping out Heather P and her team with the current soup sale. There is always room for one more to help out. We would like to thank our Jr Deacons for stepping in to help us on Sundays when we find our selves short handed. Also we thank anyone in the congregation who also jumps in on days Deacons on duty can't be there for health reasons. God bless you All.

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

Isaiah 41:13 NIV



February Birthdays

1 Josh Serlenga

3 Julia Armano

4 John Zambella

9 Marianne Clark

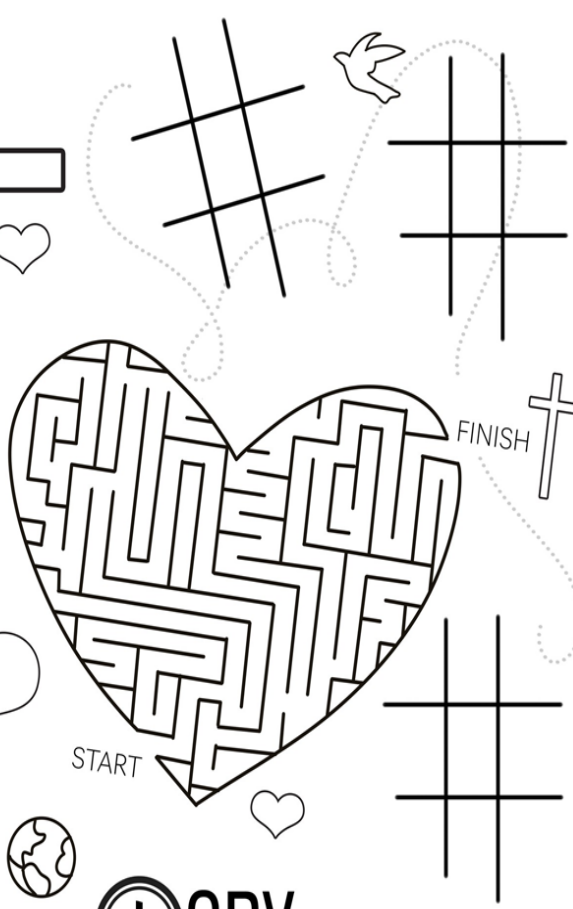
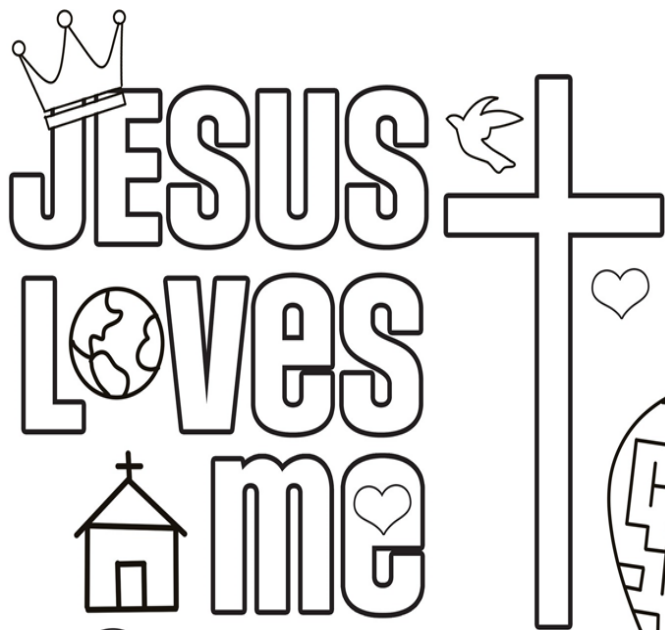
9 Peter Gregory

23 Joanne Dorrow

26 Joel Thatcher



Just for Kids.....



H	Z	F	N	C	O	Q	N	A	Y	REJOICE
E	P	R	O	Z	J	Q	E	B	I	HEART
A	R	J	E	L	G	R	D	K	H	LOVE
R	T	E	C	J	L	V	L	I	Y	FOLLOWS
T	Y	S	G	O	O	N	N	H		ANGEL
A	B	U	J	E	L	I	W	D	O	HOPE
H	N	S	O	E	N	O	C	S	P	GENTLE
J	Q	G	Y	Q	T	T	V	E	E	JESUS
W	U	R	E	F	F	S	L	E	S	KIND
T	W	X	H	L	L	N	A	E	A	JOY



Find & color the below images on the page



How many hearts can you find on the page?

- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 9

AS THE FATHER HAS
LOVED ME,
 SO HAVE I LOVED YOU.
 NOW REMAIN IN
MY LOVE.

John 15:9, NIV

COLOR THE BOOKMARK & THEN CUT IT OUT.

February Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

2/2- Communion @ Mt. Airy

2/9- Joanne DiBlasi

2/16- Pat Durborow

2/23- Phil McCloughan

Deacon Schedule

2/2- Communion @ Mt. Airy

2/9- Heather Pursell

2/16- Heidi Danberry

2/23- Dana Garrenger

Greeting Schedule

2/2- Communion @ Mt. Airy

2/9- Sue McCloughan

2/16- Donna Zambella

2/23- Joan Yannarella

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

Schedules are subject to change

Thank you!



Fat Tuesday

Pancake Dinner Party with Live Music

March 4, 2025

5:30-7:30pm

Fat Tuesday comes but once per year. You are invited to join the party for FREE. Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner Party with Live Music is a Mardi Gras celebration, but Stockton Presbyterian's style—complete with beads, piles of pancakes/ bacon/ sausage and great music performances.

Come by yourself, Come with friends, Come with family, or Come to enjoy food, music and comradery.

Dinner starts at 5:30PM. Music starts at 5:45PM

Stockton Presbyterian—22 South Main Street (NJ29)

Parking on the street, across the street in parking lot or at the firehouse.



Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Adult Sunday School Room
Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons
November 18, 2024 6:30 PM

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Joanne DiBlasi	Pat Durborow	Don Pidcock
Heather McIntyre	Phil McCloughan	Karen Thatcher

Rev. Linda Gaden, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

Elders Present: Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre, Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Pastor Linda Gaden

Deacons Present: Jen Chernoski, Heidi Danberry, and Heather Pursell

Excused: Deacons LaNelle Gallagher, Dana Garrenger and Terry Peck

Welcome: Pastor Gaden, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the November Joint Session/Deacon Meeting and opened in prayer.

6:30 pm Devotion- Pastor Linda Gaden/Start of Joint Meeting

Pastor Gaden based her devotion on *1 Thessalonians 5:12-24*. This bible passage speaks of giving thanks, and for those who are working for the better of the church to acknowledge them for their endeavors. Also, for the Deacons and Elders to comfort the discouraged and to encourage the good in each other. To give thanks for every situation and to be thankful in all circumstances. We should also have patience when things go wrong or are against us. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians when he was in Corinth to encourage them to keep the faith even though it would be hard to, and that God's hand will hold us even in trying times.

When we are at a dark point in our lives, try an exercise: Sit still, and take a deep breath and notice the gift of nothing. What do you see? What do you smell? Who is with you? Look at the things or gifts that you have and give thanks to God. Pastor said a prayer of how we should show our gratitude, even if it is hard to. If possible, we should try and widen our Thanksgiving table.

At this time, Pastor Linda welcomed the Board of Deacons.

Deacon Update: Jen talked about what the Deacons have been up to, and she read from the Deacon 1/1/24-Present Summary-Treasurer's Report. The highlights were: Flowers, Care Packages, Cards, Local Families in Need, Church Supplies, Memorial Donations, Soup Sale Supplies, and College Student Gifts. For both Shad Fest and the Bake Sale, the monies for those went to Samaritan's Purse for disaster relief. Sue was asked to send out an email to the congregation so that they can bring a nonperishable donation for Peter's Pantry. Jen spoke that it is a blessing that the Deacon's have the means to fund the various outreaches in our church.

Discussion of Mission Funding: Not discussed at this time.

Calendar Highlights from December 2024 -February 2025:

We are in the Advent season. We will have 4 readings/lighting of the Advent Candles starting on December 1st, and a reader to light the Christ Candle for Christmas Eve. Members will be asked to read on those Advent Sundays. The ISI Banquet is being held on Saturday December 7th. Riverside Symphonia is in our Sanctuary on Friday and Saturday December 6 and 7, with their holiday concert on the 7th. The Lambertville Elks will be in the gym on Saturday Dec. 7th for their annual Hoop Shoot in the afternoon. On Monday December 9th there will be a Women's Christmas Gathering at 6:30 pm in the Church Library and there will be the Guest Speaker. The Children's Christmas Pageant is on 12/15 during the worship service. On Sunday 12/24-Christmas Eve, the 4:00 pm Candlelight Service will be led by Elder Phil McCloughan. Skating will be taking a break on December 20th and 27th, and will resume on 1/3/25. The Sermon and Accompanist schedule will be continued to be posted in the bulletins. Pastor Gregory will be here for Communion on 1/5/25. We are sharing Pastor Gregory for Communion Sundays with Mt. Airy Presbyterian. We will be at their church on 12/8/24 & 2/2/25. The Soup Sale fundraisers are scheduled to start in January during the basketball games here at our gym. Karen asked if George Warner could be contacted to sign up for our Accompanist List in January.

The Annual Report and Congregational Meeting- The reports are due to the Church Office by the middle of January. The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 23, 2025 after the worship service. The Presbytery will have to appoint us a Moderator for the meeting.

Nominating Committee for 2025- This year's Nominating Committee:

Erin Durborow, Connie Fisher and Desre Pidcock. Joanne DiBlasi is the Elder Representative and Heather Pursell is the Deacon Representative. Pastor Linda recommended for 2 Elders to be elected so that as we are looking for a new pastor, that work can be more divided.

Other Joint Matters for Discussion: None at this time.

7:20 PM-Dismissal of the Deacons with prayer.

7:30 PM Beginning of Session Business Meeting

Around the Room

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

Moderator Time- Pastor Linda Gaden

Pastor Mike Atzert was not here this evening.

Clerks Correspondence, Session Mail Box and Other Issues- Susan McCloughan and Session.

Review of Minutes: Session reviewed the minutes from the October 21, 2024 Session Business Meeting.

A **motion** was called to accept the Minutes as written. All were in favor. The approved Minutes will be taken by Sue/Church Office to be printed in the Book of Minutes and to be included in the Church Newsletter.

Mail Box- A letter was shared with Session regarding SDG Security/Fire is merging with another company of Pye-Barker. Everything with the billing and contacting SDG will remain the same. The letter will be filed in the Church Office. The bid from Martinez Landscaping was accepted for the repair of the stone wall by the gym building. They will be contacted once the Church Roof is replaced. Sue received 2 emails regarding Boundary Training and How to Write an Anti Racism Policy from the Highlands Presbytery.

Handouts were given out to the Session, these are required to be done by our Presbytery in 2025. More information to follow regarding the workshops for those. I explained the situation with SDG-that the alarm is going off almost continuously and that the noise that comes from the alarm is a problem. Phil said that we are chasing that problem, and that it could be connected to the WIFI. Heather is in the process of talking with Comcast and, that we are paying a lot for our service. Phil suggested that we get Representatives here from SDG, Comcast and JCP&L to see what the problems actually are, so we can solve them once and for all. Our WIFI speed with Comcast may be too slow, and that may be why our Internet Service is being affected. Heather is seeing if we can get a better plan with Comcast. She is waiting for the Comcast Representative to get back to her. More to follow. Heather is working on having Garden State come in to work on the heaters, she did speak to the insurance adjusters in July, regarding the lightning that affected the heating system. She will have an update soon. A **motion** was made to approve the Called Session Business Meetings and Stated Communion Dates for 2025, "Addendum A." The motion was approved. *Addendum A* will be printed in the Book of Minutes.

Discernment Dates with Mt. Airy and Jeanne Radak- A date of 1/13 & 1/27/25 were given. Both dates were good, Sue will reach out to Jeanne with both dates to see what will work. Joanne, Karen, Phil and Donna Zambella will be our Reps. from our Church. More to come at the next Business Meeting.

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

Insurance Review- Karen let Session know that she will be in touch with Franklin Mutual, so they will come early next year for the review.

Young Adult Time- The discussion was maybe to have the children do the Krystal Bells and stay during the service. Maybe do those bells for the Choral Call. Don said that he always has something for YAT, when there are children/young adults at the worship service.

Sight & Sound- The show for Noah is next November 8, 2025 at 11:00 am. There will be a sign-up posted soon. 50 Tickets are available. Addie and LaNelle are working on getting the bus. Church fundraising will help with the price of the tickets. The price will include the luncheon at Bird & Hand and the bus.

Accompanist/Music Director- A few met with Lucia to see if she would be interested in the position. Lucia decided that she cannot be here each week. So she and Karen are going to be splitting the responsibilities of the position. Joanne went over the original Accompanist/Music Director job description. Sue has the updated job description at the office, which she will forward to Joanne. Karen will reach out to Jean K. to see if she would like to be in our rotation.

Spanish Ministry- It's at 3:00 pm on Sundays. There has been about seven people or so attending. A Spanish sign is out front of the church, so that may attract more to the Spanish Ministry. Joanne is happy to be here for the ministry.

Joint Communion @ Mt. Airy- This will be done in Lambertville on the odd months and at Mt. Airy the even months, 10:00 am, and with Pastor Gregory. Also, There are Hymn Sings at Mt. Airy during the upcoming year, and we'll support them as a sister church. The Friendsgiving meeting that was held, dates for that are being determined. Karen is our point of contact.

July Joint Worship Service at Holcombe-Jimison Update- Starting in April 2025, the planning will be done for the service.

Building and Grounds- Pat Durborow/Phil McCloughan/Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

New Technology for the Church Service- This was discussed earlier.

Organ- The organ has been tuned. More work needs to be done, but not until after the roof is completed. Don and Phil will look at the electric heater to see if it is in good condition so it can warm up the pipe room.

Church Roof- Phil said that the permit has went through the Canal Commission, now we are waiting for the Historical Commission to see if it will be approved. Eventually, the snow guards will be put on the church roof. Rainmaster is who is doing the roof, and the check has been cashed for the deposit. They will be starting the roof very soon.

Skating- Pat will be picking up the supplies for the skating. She and Terry will be here on Friday nights.

Martinez Landscaping- They have been here cleaning up the church yard. Money coming soon to replace the rock wall.

Hallway/Church Front Door Issues/Church Bathrooms- Joanne and Addie will be painting the hallway in the spring. Above the front doors have been painted, and in the spring, LaNelle will be repainting the sign above the front doors.

Church Heaters- Garden State will be called to come and service them soon.

Pastor Search Committee- Karen printed up the application from Princeton Seminary and Sue sent it out to Session to see if we can obtain a candidate from there. Session needs to review this information and get back to Karen or myself. Princeton Seminary got their last two pastors from Princeton Seminary. Follow up on this as soon as possible. Pastor Gregory sent us some information as well know as "Fellowship Community" to post a job. We will keep this for future reference.

Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery- Phil attended the Zoom Presbytery meeting on November 5th. For Ruling Elders there is a seven week program for preaching, possibly via a webinar. Once the course is taken they can be on the Pulpit Supply List. Pastor Linda will let us know when the dates for this is. A lot of churches are moving in this direction, and she seems to think that we are moving in the right direction with our people who are participating in our church.

Monthly Fire Inspection- Don has been testing our system, and all is good. A smoke detector has been replaced in the Nursery.

Budget and Finance-Heather McIntyre/Don Pidcock

Our Year-to-Date Summary from 1/1-11/18/24, and that our plate giving is under \$2427.52. This was reviewed by Heather to session. The investments are going well at this time with Morgan Stanley.

Lowell Hunter Estate-There are no updates at this time.

Boy Scouts- Going on weekly. Don would like to bring in more children to participate. He would like to speak to the Boy Scout leaders regarding this.

2025 Per Capita Review- Our Per Capita was voted on many years ago to have the money go to our Mission Fund. The Missions Committee decides how much goes to each missionary. It was decided that we should leave our Church Rolls they way they are at this time.

2025 Budget Review- Was discussed by Heather to Session. Different ideas were talked about by all to see how we may be able to cut spending for the 2025 Budget. The Budget will be voted on in December.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons/Youth Group- Joanne DiBlasi/ Don Pidcock

Sunday School is going well. Stephen is a Jr. Deacon at this point, but he may be moved up in February to a Deacon.

Missions- Joanne DiBlasi

The checks for the missionaries have been mailed out. Missions is going well. Maybe going to work with Samaritan's Purse next year in areas that were devastated during this year's hurricanes. Thinking of getting together with Aileen and her church in Georgia to work in an area there.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was held on November 3, 2024 with Mt. Airy Presbytery 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.

Friends of the Church- It was noted that our dear friend Konni Sandford passed away yesterday, November 17th, and Phyllis McCloughan Smith (Phil's Mom and Sue's Mother-in Law) passed away on November 10th.

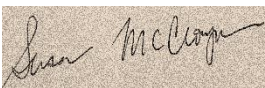
Prayer Meetings- Will continue the first Monday of each month with members sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer. If weather is an issue or for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation-For the December Meeting is: Pastor Linda Gaden, for January, Heather McIntyre and February, Don Pidcock.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm and the meeting was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session