



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

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

**From Our Elder ~ Joanne DiBlasi**

**I Saw This on a Christian Billboard:**

**“On the outside you’re as cool as a cucumber, but on the inside, you’re a squirrel in traffic.”**

- How do we calm that squirrel that’s inside us? Please read *Psalm 4*
- In *Matthew 6:24-34*, Jesus teaches us to let go of our worries for the future and instead focus on the present. We need to trust God in a moment by moment way, and yes, I know that is not always easy.
- \* Trust that God will provide and guide us through life’s difficulties. After all, God loves us more than we love ourselves.
- \* Please take time to look up these scriptures as you read through this page.
- Here are some practical steps to calm that squirrel:
  1. Deepen your connection with God.  
*Psalm 55:22* and *John 14:27*
  2. Practice Gratitude: Express thankfulness instead of focusing on the negative.
  3. Surrender Control: *Philippians 4:6-9*
  4. Practice Mindfulness: Engage in activities that promote calmness.
  5. Prioritize rest and self-care: *Psalm 91*.
  6. Embrace Forgiveness: Resentment and bitterness are toxic to your inner peace.  
*Proverbs 17:22* and *Matthew 6:14-15*
- \*Forgiveness leads to improved mental health, less anxiety and stress, lower blood pressure, a stronger immune system, fewer symptoms of depression and improved self-esteem.

## “From the Office”

A thank you to all who attended the Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday February 23. A lot of business of the church was discussed and votes were cast. Without those who attend the meetings of the church, and our members, our church wouldn't be able to function. All of us are important! Newsletter items are due to the church office during the week on the 20th, of each month.



Welcome back to the Bell Choir! If anyone would like to join us, please let me know. We are always looking for new members!!

Blessings,

Sue

## Church News:



**Communion and Ordination/Installation Sunday is March 2nd here at First Pres of Lambertville. Pastor Gregory will be here, and Mt. Airy.**

**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.**

**There is a Shrove Pancake Supper at Stockton Presbyterian starting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday March 4th.**

**Ash Wednesday starts our Lenten Season, with a Service at 7:00 pm at Reaville Church in Ringoes, March 5th. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be listed in the upcoming bulletins.**

**Don't forget to turn your clocks Ahead 1 Hour at 2:00 am on Sunday March 9th!**

**Youth Sunday is March 9th during the Worship Service. If any Youth are interested in participating (who haven't as of yet) please contact Stephen McCloughan: [stmcc0306@gmail.com](mailto:stmcc0306@gmail.com)**

**The last Friday for Roller Skating is March 14th. There is No Skating on March 7th.**

**As a congregation we will be putting together a timeline of the history of our church. This timeline will show the good times (in pink), the sad or conflicted times (in blue) and the times when the Holy Spirit was at work (in yellow). The timeline will start in 1950 and will span 75 years, to present day. Things like Weddings, baptisms, events and other special dates are a good place to start. You do not have to sign all of your post it notes. Please give some thought to your important dates and keep an eye out for more information on this project.**

## 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.....

Hello All ,

As we go into the Spring and Lenten season the Deacons are saying goodbye to Heather Purcell as she steps down. Thanks so much Heather for your years of service. We now welcome Stephen McCloughan as a first time Deacon and Welcome back Gail Armitage. For the month of April, we have our yearly Deacon East-



er breakfast. Please look for the upcoming sign up sheet for anyone who can help out with a dish or also help with the children's egg hunt. After that we will be looking for help at the Shad Festival more information to follow. In the meantime your Deacons are always here for you especially for prayer. Dana, Jennifer, LaNelle, Stephen, Gail and Heidi

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,”

*Matthew 25:35 NIV*



EXPLORE TIME WITH THE LORD AND  
FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS

# WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT



*March 28~30, 2025*  
CONTACT HEATHER IF YOU  
ARE INTERESTED

Cost \$40.00 for all 3 days  
Also Bring money for one meal out

Join us for a  
weekend filled  
with worship,  
singing, and  
relaxing!



21 Barnes Lane, Perryville MD 21903  
Bring a dessert or snack to share



Heather Pursell  
609-610-8483

**March Birthdays**

1 Don Pidcock

7 Ashton Durborow

8 Stephen McCloughan

12 Zach Griffiths

13 Missy Pursell

14 Declan Durborow

18 Marcus Reading

19 Nick Armano

25 Rich Hopkins

29 Desre Pidcock



Just for Kids.....

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly version of the Bible, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



A 40-day Lenten Bible Reading Plan calendar. Each day is represented by a numbered card with a Bible reference. The cards are arranged in a grid that is partially obscured by various illustrations. The illustrations include: a footprint, a flower, a butterfly, a girl in a dress, a tomb with a stone, a crown of thorns, a cross, and a stone.

DAY 1 Genesis 3:15	DAY 2 Isaiah 7:14	DAY 3 Matthew 1:20-21	DAY 4 Luke 2:11	DAY 5 Luke 2:52	DAY 6 Mark 1:9-11	DAY 7 Matthew 4:10
DAY 15 Luke 9:20-22	DAY 14 Mark 6:41-42	DAY 13 Matthew 12:8	DAY 12 Luke 8:24-25	DAY 11 Luke 4:40-41	DAY 10 Matthew 11:28-30	DAY 9 Luke 6:27-31
DAY 16 John 3:16-17	DAY 17 John 6:35	DAY 18 John 8:12	DAY 19 John 10:14-15	DAY 20 Mark 10:13-16	DAY 21 Mark 9:2-3	DAY 22 Matthew 20:17-19
DAY 29 Mark 11:15-16	DAY 28 Matthew 21:8-9	DAY 27 John 12:3	DAY 26 John 11:25-27, 43	DAY 25 Luke 10:36-37	DAY 24 Matthew 14:25-27	DAY 23 Luke 19:9-10
DAY 30 John 17:17-19	DAY 31 Luke 22:3-6	DAY 32 Mark 14:22-24	DAY 33 John 13:3-5	DAY 34 Matthew 26:39	DAY 35 Luke 22:63-65	DAY 36 Mark 15:22-26
DAY 39 Luke 24:1-8	DAY 40 Matthew 28:19-20	DAY 38 John 19:40-42	DAY 37 Matthew 27:50-54			

## **March Assisting Schedules:**

### **Elder Schedule**

3/2- Communion/Don Pidcock  
3/9- Karen Thatcher  
3/16- Russ Topping  
3/23- Pat Durborow  
3/30- Phil McCloughan

### **Deacon Schedule**

3/2- Communion/Heidi Danberry  
3/9- Jen Chernoski  
3/16- Dana Garrenger  
3/23- LaNelle Gallagher  
3/30- Heidi Danberry

### **Greeting Schedule**

3/2- Connie Fisher  
3/9- Betsy Brown  
3/16- Joan Yannarella  
3/23- Carol Griffiths  
3/30- Sue McCloughan

**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**  
**December 16, 2024 7:00 pm**

**Class of 2025**

Joanne DiBlasi

Heather McIntyre

**Class of 2026**

Pat Durborow

Phil McCloughan

**Class of 2027**

Don Pidcock

Karen Thatcher

Rev. Linda Gaden, Moderator

Susan McCloughan, Clerk of Session

**Guest:** Mike Barlow Chief, Lambertville Fire Department**Present:** Joanne DiBlasi, Pat Durborow, Phil McCloughan, Heather McIntyre

Don Pidcock, Karen Thatcher and Rev. Linda Gaden

**Excused:** None

**Guest Mike Barlow-** Came to speak to Session regarding the Fire Alarm System at 6:45 pm. He told us that our SDG fire alarm system has a battery backup, and that if the power goes out, the alarm will still function. Once the power is restored, the batteries should recharge automatically. He suggested that maybe we should call a different company to monitor our fire alarm system. Mike also suggested that we call the Fire Department if we have an issue with the power going out or if we smell gas. They will come to check the buildings and see if we need to call the electric or gas company.

**Welcome:** Reverend Gaden, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the December 16, 2024 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

**7:00 PM-Devotion, Pastor Gaden**

The Devotions are based on *Isaiah 9:6-7* from *Wonder of Wonders: Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, translated from the German by O.C. Dean Jr.

*This reading is part of a Sermon to German Speaking church in Havana, Cuba, December 21, 1930.*

“Wonderful Counselor” is the name of this child. God became human, the Word became flesh. God’s love wins us and saves.

“Mighty God” is the name of this child. The child born to us is none other than God.

“Everlasting Father” is the name of this child. Whoever sees the Son, sees the Father.

“Prince of Peace” is the name of this child. Peace is made between God and humankind and among all people.

“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” is summed up for us in one name: Jesus.

**Around the Room**

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



**Moderator Time** - Pastor Linda Gaden

This was done during the devotion.

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

**Review of Minutes:** A motion was called to approve the minutes from November 18, 2024. All were in favor.

**Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence-** CCLI licensing sent a letter asking that we report our song usage starting from 10/1/24-3/31/25. Sue has started the process and will continue working on. I am working on updating the Church Directory. A new directory will be given out early next year. The 2025 dates were discussed regarding the Riverside Symphonia, the dates are: February 14 & 15, April 4 & 5. Sue will get back to Vickie from Riverside and give her the dates. Friendsgiving will be held at Titusville Pres., on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Sue Stokes from Mt. Airy is the POC. We'll have a sign up sheet here at our church on what to bring to the luncheon. Also, monetary donations will be accepted.

**Discernment Process-** The Session is continuing to review the "Turn the Page" documents that were handed out previously in regards to looking for a new Pastor. Pastor Jeanne Radak our Presbytery Leader, and Mt. Airy will be emailed to see if they are available for the discernment process on Monday 1/27/25, time to be determined, here at First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville. Sue will keep the Session informed.

**Calendar Highlights from December 2024-March 2025**

Communion is scheduled on 12/8 and 2/2, at Mt. Airy, and 1/5 and 3/2 here at First Pres.

The information will be continuing in the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is 12/24 at 4:00 pm. The Ladies' Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays. The Session Prayer Meetings will take place on 12/2, 1/6, 2/3 and 3/3. Spanish Ministry will be continuing to meet at our church on Sundays at 3:00 pm. Riverside Symphonia are here for concerts on Feb. 15 & April 5. The Bell Choir will be playing in church in December. They will be resuming in Feb. 2025. The last day for Roller Skating is 3/21/25. The last day for the LBL is March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Reports are due to the Church Office starting the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> after the worship service, with Installation Sunday on 3/5/25. The Soup Sales will be held on selected Saturdays in January, February and March during the basketball games. Ash Wednesday is on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The First Sunday in Lent is Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>. The Session Business Meeting was moved from 3/17 to 3/24.

**Front Page of the Upcoming Newsletters-**The Session signed up to do the front page for the Newsletters from February to June 2025. Thank you all!!

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

**Insurance Review-** Is ongoing.

**Young Adult Time-** A message is given when the young adults are in church during the worship service.

**Accompanist/Music Director-** Lucia will not be taking the Music Director position. We will be continuing looking to fill the position. Lucia will be staying on as one of our Accompanists.

**Spanish Ministry-** Joanne spoke about the Spanish Ministry, and they are meeting here on Sundays at 3:00 pm. It's been a bit slow for them lately, and sometimes different people attend.

**Joint Communion Services-** This was discussed earlier in the Calendar section.

**July Joint Service at Holcombe-Jimison-** In March/April 2025 the committee will meet to discuss the upcoming service.

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

The **new technology** for the Livestream has been spotty. Stephen M. has been using his personal phone to record the services. Stephen had gotten in touch with Heather to see if they can come up with an alternative to our WIFI, maybe a satellite service. If that doesn't work, then they'll go back and look at other options. Heather and Phil discussed the possibility of calling in JCP&L to get a protection plan, we've been prone to power surges, and this can be damaging our equipment. Heather would call Holicong to see if we can get information regarding the alarm system. Pastor Linda suggested that we contacted the Presbytery to send someone to do a "Technological Analysis" to see what our technology problems are, and how they can be resolved. Heather will reach out to Debbie C., and work on this. I can reach out to Casey Carbone, who came to our church to help set up our Livestream.

**Church Organ-** The organ will look to be repaired after the church roof is completed.

**Church Roof-** Is being put on by Rainmaster. The metal roof is expected to be done soon, the gutters, and snow guards.

**Skating-** Patrick D. was running the skating last week, and Phil did the message. Skating will resume after the New Year.

**Martinez Landscaping-** They are continuing to service our yards. The amount of \$5331.00 was approved by the Session in October to repair the rock wall by the church and install a downspout in that area. This repair will be done soon.

**Hallway in Church/Bathrooms/Front Door Issues-** Hallway and front doors, will be taken care of in the spring. Joanne mentioned that the bathrooms need to be ventilated.

**Church Heaters/Monthly Fire Inspections-** Heather got in touch with Garden State Heating, and the 1st furnace was serviced. We are still waiting for a part on the 2<sup>nd</sup> heater. Don will get another pump for the dehumidifier. Don has been doing the monthly checks on the smoke detectors and Exit Signs.

**Pastor Search Committee-** The application from Princeton and the Music Director/ Accompanist job description was sent to Session for them to look over. Karen and Sue are waiting to hear back from Session for their approval to see if the information can be sent into the Princeton Seminary. The Discernment Process with Rev. Jeanne Radak will be coming up in January.

**Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery-** Phil is waiting for the next meeting. There is a course for Ruling Elders to be able to be put on the Pulpit Supply List. Pastor Linda will give Sue the information for this once it becomes available. There are several of our Session members that are interested in pursuing this option.

**Budget and Finance** – Heather McIntyre

**The Year-to-Date Summary** from 1/1-12/16/24, and that our plate giving is under \$1718.00. This was reviewed by Heather to Session.

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

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

**The LPS using the gym-** This is done, and the church did receive the last check from South Hunterdon.

**2025 Per Capita-** It's in the budget and the money for the Per Capita goes to our Missions.

**2025 Budget-** The last 2 pages of the financial reports given out tonight contain the 2025 Budget. They were reviewed by Heather to Session. A **motion** was made to approve the 2025 Budget. All were in favor.

**Terms for the Session/Princeton Seminary-** Heather and Joanne are going off Session in February 2025. Karen suggested that if necessary that both complete another year. Also, Karen asked that Session review the information that was sent regarding Princeton Seminary and to get the information back in.

**Sunday School/Junior Deacons** – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Not discussed tonight.

**Missions** – Joanne DiBlasi

Not discussed tonight.

**Notations**

**Holy Communion-** Was held on December 8, 2024 at Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church.

**Sight & Sound-** The trip to Lancaster, PA., will be on 11/8/2025, and the show is “Noah.” Karen has gotten 50 tickets, and there is a sign-up sheet in the church hallway. The Buffet at Bird & Hand and the bus are included in the price.

**Lambertville Chamber of Commerce-** Sue is in the process of getting information from the Lambertville COC.

**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 7 o'clock hour.

**Session Moderator-** Pastor Gaden's last Session Meeting with us was tonight.

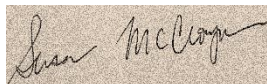
Thank you again Linda, for your time with us!

**Session Devotion Rotation-** January is Heather McIntyre, February is Don Pidcock, and March is Karen Thatcher.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan McCloughan  
Clerk of Session