

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

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

From Our Elder ~ Karen Thatcher

Step 1– God’s Purpose: Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and eternal life—abundant and eternal.

The Bible says:

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

"I [Jesus] came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

Why don’t most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?

Step 2– The Problem: Sin Separates Us

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and freedom of choice. We choose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

The Bible says:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

Our choice results in separation from God. People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God...

Continued from pg. 1...

The Bible says:

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Proverbs 14:12

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden

His face from you so that He does not hear."

Isaiah 59:2

No bridge reaches God... except one.

Step 3– God’s Remedy: The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

The Bible says:

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 2:5

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."

1 Peter 3:18

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

God has provided the only way... Each person must make a choice...

Step 4– Our Response: Receive Christ

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me."

Revelation 3:20

"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:12

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

“From the Office”

Thank you to all who contributed to our newsletter for this season. The Newsletters will resume in September. The Bell Choir is completed until September/October, but if you would like to join us, please reach out to me. You don't have to read music to play, just bring your enthusiasm!



Good Luck to all of the SHR Class of 2024, and may God Bless them!

Have a safe and blessed summer!!

Sue

Church News:



Communion Sunday is June 2nd-at Mt. Airy, July 7th at Holcombe-Jimison and August 4th here at First Pres.

Our Summer Worship Service starts on June 9th. At 9:30 am.

Sunday July 7th is the joint worship service with the river churches, at the Holcombe-Jimison Farm– 10:00 am. A picnic is to follow. Please bring your lawn chairs, a bottle of water and bug repellent. Picnic Plus– Bring your own picnic, PLUS something to share (salads, desserts, main course.) Hot dogs will be provided.

Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Church Library at 2:00 pm throughout the summer. All are welcome!

VA Expands Burial Benefits for Veterans

Starting in October of last year, the VA raised the burial plot allowance for veterans who qualify. The new benefit covers the cost or transportation expense of the Veteran to any National veterans cemetery. The VA also encourages families to plan ahead for the interment of their veteran family members. You cannot 'reserve' a specific spot or place in any veterans cemetery, but you can pre register for benefits at the time of death at <http://www.va.gov/plan-ahead>. From there you can review all end of life benefits which you may have been entitled. Any spouse of any deceased veteran is also entitled to burial in the same space or plot as their loved one.

Arlington National Cemetery is operated by the US Army and has different rules than the VA. Normally, one must be a retired veteran receiving retirement pay, and or have received combat related medal Purple Heart and above, or a war service medal or combat action awards.

2 Chronicles 16:9

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

Every believer must ask themselves, ‘Am I fully committed to Him?’

If my life is in disarray more often than in order, if I am living or just existing to get through another week-then sorry to say your focus is not on the Lord who redeemed you. That probably sounds harsh, but true.

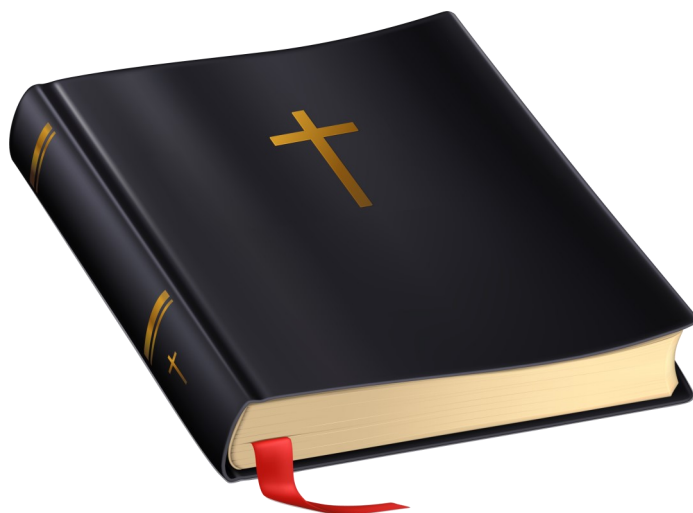
A wise pastor once said “God loves you-just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way.” Satan desires that we wallow in despair, negativity and unhealthy choices-both physically and spiritually, leaving us to feel defeated.

- **Please read *Romans 5:1-5***

Our faith walk is meant to bring each of us hope and joy. I need to be sure I am spending my hours immersed in the ways of God-only then does He promise to strengthen my/our hearts.

Shall we all give ourselves a reality check?

Blessings,
Joanne DiBlasi



Ministry and Outreach:

News From Your Missions Team~

Summer is upon us once again! We look forward to warmer weather, a more relaxed change of pace, vacationing with family and friends, and even more importantly, gathering on Sunday mornings to worship the Lord together in the beauty of our air-conditioned sanctuary!

Please continue to keep our missionaries: John & Aruna Desai (ISI, Princeton, NJ), Bob and Carrie Louer (ISI, Princeton, NJ), Grace Morillo (Colombia, South America), and Terry Slemmer (our local missionary), in your prayers throughout the summer. Also, let's remember to keep Sarah Tielmann (Cru, Baltimore, MD) in prayer for safety and God's wisdom, as she works with the college students on campus. These servants are all busy on the front lines, proclaiming the powerful Name of Jesus Christ both here and abroad.

Some Missions "highlights" in 2024, are:

*In February, Pastor Bob Louer visited with us and brought us a powerful message entitled, "Die to Self, Experiencing True Life in Jesus." He and his wife, Carrie, are the Campus Directors for ISI, in Princeton. They are excited to be working with International Students and are actively involved with them, beginning with the Garage Give-Away in August, hosting weekly dinners, hiking in local parks, and planning day trips – all for the students to experience God's glory while studying at Princeton.

*Our own missionaries, Cooie and Desre Pidcock and their group, shared with us about their annual trip to the Dominican Republic last Fall. We have been blessed by the wonderful work they do on their yearly mission trips to the Dominican Republic.

*We had a visit from John and Aruna Desai, ISI global ministers, in March. John spoke to us and offered prayer for our church family, as they are sincerely grateful for our support of them and their wonderful ongoing global ministry to International Students for over 45 years! We are always grateful to the Lord any time these humble servants can visit and worship with us!

*Members of our Missions Team were pleased to participate in the Shad Fest in April. We were blessed to be able to lend a hand to our Deacons, who always do a great job as servants of the Lord, by welcoming the many visitors to Lambertville during Shad Fest and by sharing their faith in Jesus with all who pass by our Church!

*We welcomed Terry Slemmer, our local missionary, in April. She and her friend, Dave, shared a "Moment for Missions", by talking about their work with New Life Riders, Hunterdon County Chapter of Christian Motorcyclists Association. They presented our Church with a plaque, thanking us for our ongoing support of them. They have a wonderful outreach to people who are in the secular motorcycle community, many of whom have never stepped inside a church! This group has real hearts for the Lord and a tremendous presence witnessing for Him in many areas of Hunterdon County. Terry is involved with many other local outreaches in our area and we are always blessed whenever she is with us!

During the summer, we will continue to have a Missions collection the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our missionaries are God's humble servants, who have been moved to go out into the world and share the "good news" of salvation found only in the Name of Jesus. Thank you to our Church family for your prayers and your sacrificial giving to Missions throughout the year! Be sure to check out the board in the rear of the sanctuary for updated "Missions News" over the summer. Remember, God doesn't take a vacation! He's there, waiting for us to come to Him, to talk with Him and to praise His Holy Name! He is ever faithful and we are truly blessed! Amen!

Your Missions Team:

Addie Andino, Gail Armitage, Konni Sandford, Russ Topping and Donna Zambella

Ministry and Outreach Cont...

Greetings from your Deacons...

Hello church family,

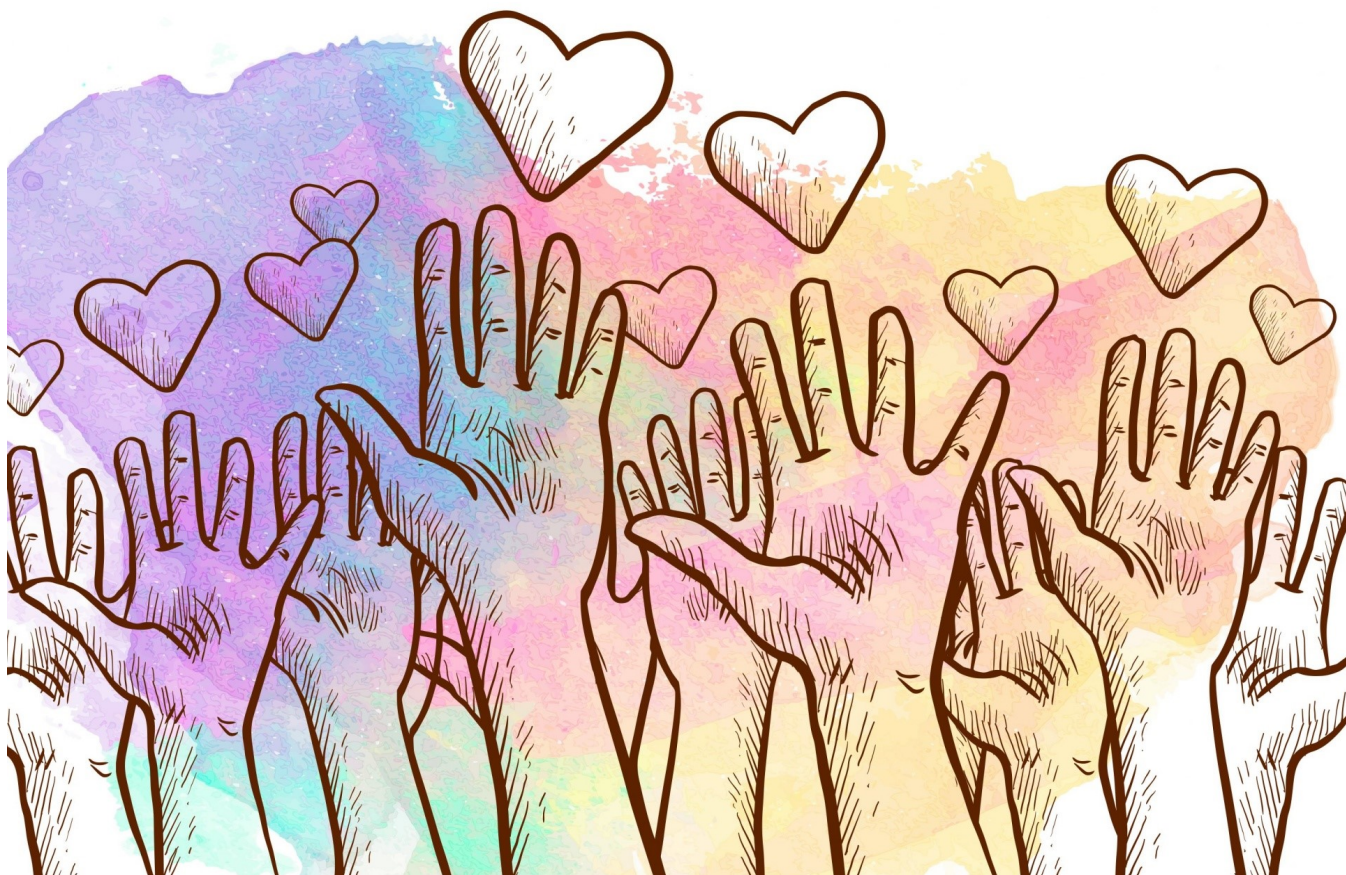
As we go into our Summer months things may seem more quiet around here at the church, but we want to make sure you know that your Deacons are still here and only a phone call away. Never be afraid to contact us for prayer or help. We hope all of our church family have a safe and blessed Summer. As our seniors are graduating and getting ready for what comes next let's all pray for each of them.

“How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.”

Psalms 139:17-18 NIV

Have a Great Summer,

Jennifer, Dana, Terry, Heather, LaNelle and Heidi



June Birthdays

5 Dillon Gallagher
7 Jeffrey Shurts
10 Heather Pursell
27 Doug Pursell
27 Julia Garrenger

July Birthdays

9 Crystal Robertson
10 Peter Gilbert
11 Sharon Fisher
17 Courtney Hartpence
17 Giulia Reading
18 Ryan McIntyre
18 Steve Chernoski
20 Russ Topping
22 Jack Zambella
27 Pat Dorborow
27 Donald Gallagher
28 Ruth Crews
30 Connie Fisher
30 Sue McCloughan

August Birthdays

2 Dan Dorrow
6 Danielle Griffiths
11 Jim Gallagher
11 Hannah McIntyre
13 Jennifer Wiley
15 Carin Gallagher
17 Terry Peck
18 Gail Armitage
18 Quinn Durborow
19 Bill Shurts
21 Torrey Pursell
22 Jen Chernoski
23 Debbie Crow
23 Phil McCloughan
27 Graham Cummings
31 John Frangakis



Just for Kids...

MY PRAYER JOURNAL

TODAYS DATE _____

MONTH: J F M A M J J A S O N D

DAY OF THE WEEK: S M T W T H F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

GOD, I ASK YOU FOR:


 SOMETHING GOOD THAT HAPPENED TODAY WAS:

.....

.....

I'M THANKFUL FOR:

I'M SORRY FOR:

SOMETHING NOT SO GREAT HAPPENED TODAY, AND I NEED PRAYERS: 

.....

.....

A SPECIAL NOTE OR PICTURE FOR GOD:

I AM PRAYING FOR:

June Assisting Schedules:

Elder Schedule

June 2- **Communion At Mt. Airy**
June 9- Don Pidcock
June 16- Karen Thatcher
June 23- Joanne DiBlasi
June 30- Pat Durborow

Deacon Schedule

June 2- **Communion at Mt. Airy**
June 9- Terry Peck
June 16- Jen Chernoski
June 23- LaNelle Gallagher
June 30- Heidi Danberry

Greeting Schedule

June 2- **Communion at Mt. Airy**
June 9- Carol Griffiths
June 16- Joan Yannarella
June 23- Connie Fisher
June 30- Donna Zambella

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

Schedules are subject to change

Please see the upcoming bulletins for the July and August Assisting Schedules.

Thank you!

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House
April 15, 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

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

Excused: None

Welcome: Reverend Gaden, declaring a quorum, welcomed all to the
 April 15, 2024 Session Business Meeting and opened in prayer.

7:00 PM-Devotion, Joanne DiBlasi

Let all that I am Praise the Lord!

- Read *Psalm 103*: David realized that he could not exist without God.
- Does the thought of meeting your Heavenly Father face to face make your heart joyful, or does it fill you with panic? If panic, then ask yourself why.
- One of the goals of the Holy Spirit is to draw us closer to God in wisdom, trust and love.
- *Jeremiah 31:3* Reminds us that God's love for us is everlasting and His kindness is unfailing.
- *Romans 8:38-39* and *Isaiah 43:1-2* God/Jesus has redeemed us.
- *Hebrews 4:12-16* Tells us that Jesus is our High Priest, so we can stand confidently before the creator of the universe; our God and our Father.
- We should remember that Satan is always nearby trying to spread lies, doubt and fear when it comes to our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Let's fill our hearts and mind with God's word so we too can say "Let all that I am Praise the Lord."

Moderator Time - Pastor Linda Gaden

Pastor Linda shared when going “Around the Room.”

Clerks Correspondence and Session Mail Box - Susan McCloughan

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

Mail Box/Clerk Correspondence- A post card was received from Bob Heath and the Gideons and they will be praying for our church on 4/27. Handouts from the Presbytery were given: *Your Appointed Moderator* and *Turn the Page*. Session was asked to review both and that the *Turn the Page* handout should be revisited as soon as possible. That handout is the process for finding a new Pastor. The Inspection Report from the Boilers and Fire Inspections were received. There were issues with one of the furnaces and Phil and Heather will take care of getting this issue fixed. Stephen M. asked if we can have Steve Emery come to tune the organ soon. Sue will reach out to Steve to see when he could come. The joint service at Holcombe-Jimison on July 7th is being coordinated by Karen Thatcher, Pat Masterson, and others. Pat will reach out to Mt. Airy and Titusville. Karen will go through her notes and reach out to Pastor Gregory, as well as Mary Lou from Holcombe-Jimison. More information to follow.

Calendar Highlights from May-July 2024

Communion is scheduled for 5/26, 6/2 will be a joint Communion Sunday with Mt. Airy at Mt. Airy and 7/7 at the joint service at Holcombe-Jimison. See the bulletins for who is scheduled to give the upcoming Sermons and our Accompanists. The Ladies’ Bible Study will be continuing on Wednesdays throughout the summer. LPS is continuing with the use of our gym. On Thursday May 2nd is the National Day of Prayer. Our Sanctuary will be open for prayer. Care and Share is being planned for upcoming Sundays. Session and Ladies’ Bible Study are hosting so far. The Almira Holcombe Scholarships will be given out to Julia A., Dillon G., Stephen M., and Marcus R., they are our graduating Senior’s this year. The scholarships will be given out later in May. On Memorial Day Sunday, is the last Sunday for Adult and Children’s Sunday School until the fall.

Pat will get carnations for the women on Mother’s Day. Sue contacted Gabe Stephens from SHR and some of the Marching Band will come and play special music for our 5/26 service. Our last service for 10:30 am until September is June 2nd. We will be starting the summer schedule on Sunday June 9th, and the worship service will be at 9:30 am. The last Session Business Meeting until September is Monday June 10th. There are no Session Business Meeting during July and August. More on the summer prayer meetings to follow.

New Copy Machine- Was received from Prior-Nami, and is a Canon Image Runner Advance. Sue will go ahead and pay them. The new machine is working out well.

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

Insurance Review- Karen- We are still with the Duryea Agency and Franklin Mutual Insurance.

Young Adult Time- Same as last month. Whoever is preaching and if they aren’t giving the young adult time, then Joanne will look into getting someone.

Soup Sale and other Fund Raisers- The soup sales have made over \$3000. Sight and Sound was talked about and how the church will be attending “Noah” for 2025. Karen will be assisting LaNelle to work out the details. Other fundraisers could be to fund the DR trip and different Ladies’ and Mens’ retreats. The Deacons and Fish Pond will be asking for donations at the Shad Fest. This year’s Fish Pond monies will be going back to our church for the construction of the new church roof.

Accompanist/Music Director- We are blessed to have the Brass Ensemble, organ, saxophone, keyboard and vocals. Karen has done a post on Facebook to the Liturgical Musicians page, and we had gotten a response. Adri will be coming to our service on May 5th to see what our church is about and hopefully she'll be put on the rotating Accompanist's list. Our resume for the Accompanist/Music Director is still active on "Call Finders" the Presbytery Website.

Spanish Ministry- Joanne has been in touch with Francesca regarding the Spanish Community to rent our Chapel on Wednesday nights. This was approved by Session. The Spanish Ministry will be starting in the Chapel this coming week at 7:00 pm. Joanne will be staying on at this time, to see how things would be going.

Easter Breakfast on 3/31- Don talked about the breakfast, and said the Deacons did a great job. Session agreed.

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

The **new technology** for the Livestream is up and running. Phil suggested that we buy 2 or 4 more microphones for the front of the church, so that the people that are playing can be heard better. A lot of the kinks were narrowed down.

Martinez Landscaping- Cleaned up the church grounds. Heather will take care of paying the bill.

Church Roof- This is ongoing, and Heather and Phil will narrow it down to one contractor. There are 2 possibilities at the moment. Don asked if we should fundraise by reaching out to the community. Maybe have "Reel to Real" come back to do a fundraiser for the new roof. Phil talked about the painting to be done to the outside of the church, possibly, at the same time the roof is being done. Finkle's billed the church for fixing the gutter guards on the back of the church. Nate will look at the trees in the back of the church to see how it is presenting a problem for the gutters. Water is going into Finkel's basement. Heather will look into why they billed us. **Roof of Westminster House-** Gutter is coming off, and Nate to look at this as well.

Skating and Friday Night Hang – Skating ended for the season in March. Jen and Steve Chernoski will be overseeing the skating for next season. Friday Night Hang will not be continued next season as of now.

Church Organ- Was discussed under the calendar portion of the meeting.

Hallway in Church/Bathrooms- The church hallway Joanne talked about washing and painting the walls. The bathrooms were not discussed tonight.

Heating in the Church/Westminster House- Nothing on the insurance claim regarding the heaters. Pat asked Sue to call Tilly to come and service the fire extinguishers, and SDG for the yearly Alarm Test. The reports are to be sent to Frank Ur the Lambertville Fire Inspector.

Almire Holcombe Scholarship- This was discussed during the calendar portion of the meeting. Don added that care packages get sent to our young adults who are in college from the Deacons.

Pastor Search Committee- The "Turn the Page" handouts were given to the Session Members to be reviewed in order to proceed with the pastor search. Session will talk to the congregation to see what kind of pastor that we would be looking for. Session would like to reach out to Mt. Airy Pres. to see if sharing a pastor would be the way to go, especially for both services. Don asked Pastor Linda if we will need to have a Presbyterian Minister, or if they can be from another domination. The pastor that we get, has to have the same polity that our Presbytery has. More people are getting certificates to be a lay pastor, instead of going into Seminary. This is happening mostly in the mid and southwest. It may become a trend here as well. Linda said that people aren't going into Seminary as much as in previous years. She did suggest that we keep an open mind and to talk to Mt. Airy about sharing a pastor, and that small churches should stick together.

Shad Fest- Don mentions that the Deacons will be giving out religious books and bibles out for the youth that come to the Deacon Table at Shad Fest.

Budget and Finance – Heather McIntyre

Our Year-to-Date Summary was given out and was discussed, from 1/1-4/15/24, and we are under in our Plate by \$530.68 and Heather reviewed this with Session. We can use Subsplash for fundraising if needed, for they wouldn't charge us. Phil mentions that maybe we can post hymns on YouTube while people are watching. We can possibly look at this at a later time.

Lowell Hunter Estate- No updates at this time.

Boy Scouts- No updates at this time.

Usage of the Gym for LPS during the 2023-2024 School Year- We have been paid up to date for the use of the gym. Heather will reach out to Jim if another check isn't received by the end of the school year.

Heating System Energy Assessment- On pause for now, but Heather will keep session updated with any new developments.

Grants- Were not discussed at this time.

Per Capita- Money was moved to Missions in December. Session would like to find out more information from the Presbytery regarding their stances on various issues, before our church funds the Presbytery's Per Capita. Joanne talked about our Per Capita funds our missionaries, and that they are doing God's work, and we should keep things as is, but Session will pray on this and will revisit.

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Highlands- Phil attended the Zoom meeting on 3/12/24, and brought a report back to Session. At the meeting, it was discussed to pull their money out of fossil fuels and to put it into something else-ex: Green Energy. The Presbytery seems to be getting more into social issues, so Phil listened. It seemed to be more about social issues than God's word. There is another Stated Meeting on May 14, which Phil will be attending on Zoom.

Sunday School/Junior Deacons – Joanne DiBlasi/Don Pidcock

Sunday School- Is still continuing. Don let Sue know that Sunday School will be ending in May.

Junior Deacons- The Jr. Deacons will be participating in Shad Fest. LaNelle Gallagher is looking to put together a group of Jr. Deacons to carry out a whole service in the future. More details to follow.

Missions – Joanne DiBlasi

Mission checks have gone out. No further updates at this time.

Notations

Holy Communion- Was on Sunday April 14, 2024 and performed by Pastor Peter Gregory.

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.

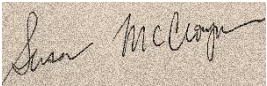
Prayer Meetings- Will be held on the first Monday of each month. Members will be sharing His Word through readings, thoughts, scripture and prayer, and will be in person. For those who cannot make in person, a livestream will be available. If for personal reasons keep session members from attending, the session resolved to pray wherever they are during the 7 o'clock hour.

Session Devotion Rotation- The devotion for the May meeting is Pat Durborow, and June is Phil McCloughan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm and was closed in Session prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Susan McCloughan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Susan McCloughan
Clerk of Session