



Lawrenceville

letter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER *of the*
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAWRENCEVILLE

JUNE 2026

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I've long been fascinated by science—and more specifically, by how science relates to the business that I'm in: the faith business. Recently I picked up a book entitled *God: The Science, the Evidence* by the engineer and mathematician Michel-Yves Bolloré and Olivier Bonnassies, and my interest was rekindled.

In brief, the book argues that our modern understanding of the universe—physics, cosmology, biology, mathematics—all point toward what we might call a telos, a purposefulness that lies beyond purely scientific explanation. It is, in essence, a contemporary version of the argument from design: that the astonishingly improbable existence of a universe so finely tuned for life suggests a creator and designer behind it all. The authors even go so far as to argue that it is difficult to be a serious scientist and not believe in some sort of creator God.

Now, I would recommend the book—but with a significant caveat. The authors do a brilliant job showing how science has historically been shaped by ideological agendas (for example, both the Nazis and the Soviets resisted the Big Bang theory, though for very different reasons). Yet they seem somewhat unaware of their own strong bias toward Christian faith, and at times one could accuse them of bending the evidence in that direction. The book veers from the history of science into discussions of the Miracle of Fatima and whether it might be scientifically defensible. Reading scientist-engineers on theology can sometimes feel akin to reading my own rather crude attempts to explain science in relation to faith. As the saying goes: a little knowledge is a dangerous thing in the possession of a small mind.

And there is another important question the book does not fully address (though I haven't quite finished it): faith in God does not finally rest on empirical proof. It rests on a kind of knowledge accessible only through faith itself. Faith is not merely

the conclusion of an argument; it is also one of the means by which we come to know God. But perhaps that topic is for another Pastor's Letter.

Still, despite its weaknesses, the book opens the reader to something I have sometimes called science as doxological—science as a pathway toward praise and awe. “The heavens are telling the glory of God,” writes the Psalmist (Psalm 19). John Calvin believed that one way to understand the nature of God is to study creation itself. And Francis Bacon, one of the pioneers of the modern scientific method, worked within a Protestant intellectual world that viewed the study of nature as a way of honoring the Creator.

All of which is to say: one of the things we hope to explore together in the coming year—likely beginning in the fall—will be the relationship between faith and science, through both Adult Education and preaching. I would genuinely love to hear your thoughts. In your mind, how are science and Christian faith compatible—or not? What might science lead us to reject (for example, certain overly literal or fundamentalist readings of Scripture)? And what might it help us to embrace more fully?

Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, I hope you and yours are thriving in this spring season of new life.

Jeff Vamos

A NOTE ON THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

We Are Trying Something New!

This will be the last edition of *The Lawrenceville Letter* as it has been published in the past. We are trying something new! Don't worry! *The Lawrenceville Letter* will still exist - just with a new purpose! Going forward, *The Lawrenceville Letter* will be published 3-4 times a year and recap all of the amazing events and programs that have happened in the months prior. We will celebrate milestones and holidays, service and mission

efforts, Children and youth programming and everything in between. You will get to read and see photos of everything that has been happening at PCOL. We ask that you refer to the church eNews and Order of Worship for details about upcoming Church events and the Community Well eNewsletter for Community Well information, as it is easier to keep those publications up-to-date with any detail changes that may occur!

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Summer Intergenerational Fellowship Gatherings

Join us this summer for a variety of fun intergenerational fellowship opportunities! These gatherings are a great way to connect with one another, enjoy time together, and build community across all ages. Here are some upcoming events:

Trenton Thunder Game – June 13

We will gather for a family-friendly evening at the Trenton Thunder ballpark, with post-game fireworks.

Terhune Orchards: Sips and Sounds – July 24

Come join other PCOL members for wine, music, and light bites at Terhune Orchards Vineyard and Winery. What better way to unwind after a long week? Bring your family, grab a glass of wine, and relax with live music in the outdoor wine garden.

PCOL @ Johnsonburg – August 2-7

All children and youth are invited to join Alicia at Camp Johnsonburg, August 2-7, for a week of faith, friendship, and fun! Camp Johnsonburg offers a wonderful oppor-

tunity for young people to grow in their relationship with God while enjoying outdoor adventures, meaningful worship, new friendships, and classic camp activities. If your child or youth is interested in attending, Alicia would love to help you get connected and answer any questions about the week.

Needle Creek Farm Brewery – August 16

All PCOL members are invited to join us on August 16 for good fellowship and good beer at the Needle Creek Farm Brewery. The brewery is located on the historic John Hart farm in Pennington, NJ. The taproom is set in a 1700s barn, and the beer garden occasionally features wandering baby goats! Come unwind and reconnect with nature and friends while enjoying pints of farm-brewed beer.

End-of-Summer Church-Wide Ice Cream Social – August 21

All are invited to an end-of-summer ice cream social at PCOL! Bring your favorite topping to share. Ice cream will be provided.

Contact Alicia Morrison with questions or for more information. We hope you'll join us for a summer of fellowship and fun!

Join the PCOL Walking Club

Join Alicia each week for a walk through Mercer Meadows on Thursday mornings at 8:30am. During the months of July and August we will walk at 8am to avoid the heat. We gather in the Mercer Meadows parking lot located on Keefe Road. Contact Alicia at amorison@pclawrenceville.org for more information.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of our member Helen Fowkes upon her death on April 11.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Joey, Pam, and Zac Quagliero upon the death of Joey's mother, Nellie Quagliero. on April 18.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Margie and Peter Gibson and their children, Chris, Katie,

Men's Breakfast

Monday, June 1 at 7:30am

Our next gathering will be on June 1 at the Route 1 Diner. Please join us for a time of fellowship and good conversation! We will pay individually. No need to RSVP; just show up. Reach out to Kyle Anderson with any questions.

Strawberry Sunday

Sunday, June 7 following worship

We're welcoming the warmer months in the best way—with STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE! Once again, the Deacons will host our annual Strawberry Sunday gathering after worship. Come enjoy fresh strawberries from the farmer's market, pound cake from the Gingered Peach, and homemade whipped cream. See you there!

Taizé Worship

Sunday, June 7 at 7:00pm

If you are looking for a space to breathe deeply and (re)connect with God, join us on June 7 at 7:00pm in the Chapel for our Taizé worship service. Taizé worship is characterized by simple refrains, repetition, and silent meditation. All are welcome. We hope you'll join us, and invite a friend. This will be our final Taizé service before we break for the summer.

Ladies' Lunch

Monday, June 8 at 12:00pm

Join the ladies of PCOL for a time of fellowship around the table! The next gathering will be on Monday, June 8 at Chambers Walk. We will pay individually. RSVP to Cheryl Cavanaugh (609) 712-0842 or the church office by Friday, June 5.

Cordy, and Coby, upon the death of Margie's mother, Happy Wallace, on May 1.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of our member Lew Thurston upon his death on May 5: to his daughters Linda Thurston, Karen Thurston, and Jill Pierantozzi and their families. The memorial service for Lew will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 2:00pm in the Meetinghouse.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ashley, Terence, Cayden and Avery Driscoll upon the death of Ashley's father, Bill Cobb, on May 8, 2026.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Eric, Abby, and Jackson Gillette upon the death of Eric's grandmother, Ardis Gillette, on May 17.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of our member Betty Stout upon her death on May 1. A memorial service for Betty was held on Friday, May 22 at the Hopewell Valley Country Club.

Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, June 28, 11:00am

The Annual Congregation Meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville will be held on June 28 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Center and on Zoom, immediately following worship. The congregation's annual report will be reviewed and received, the terms of call for the pastors will be presented for approval, and a slate of Elders and Deacons and members of the Nominating Committee will be presented for election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor and any matter of interest and concern to the church and its work may be properly presented at this meeting by any eligible voter. A Special Corporation Meeting will be held at the same time and place to nominate members of the Auditing Committee.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Nursery Care

Quality infant and toddler childcare is offered Sunday in the Nursery (Room 103). Our childcare providers offer a nurturing, safe environment for our children. Silent beepers are available for parents.

Sunday School

Children begin in worship each week and are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their Pre-K through Second Grade children on the playground, and their Third Grade through Sixth Grade students in the Youth Room after worship.

Please note that June 21 will be our final Sunday School gathering until the fall. We are grateful for a wonderful year together and look forward to seeing everyone again when Sunday School resumes on September 6th!

Worship Bags

Worship Bags are located by the Ushers' table. They contain age-appropriate Bibles, worship materials, and fidget toys for children to enjoy during worship. Please return your bags at the end of worship. Feel free to take home a Bible from the worship bags for your family.

Summer Camp at Johnsonburg with Alicia

August 2-7

All children and youth are invited to join Alicia at Camp Johnsonburg, August 2-7, for a week of faith, friendship, and fun! Camp Johnsonburg offers a wonderful opportunity for young people to grow in their relationship with God while enjoying outdoor adventures, meaningful worship, new friendships, and classic camp activities. If your child or youth is interested in attending, Alicia would love to help you get connected and answer any questions about the week.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 14

Join us for worship on Sunday, June 14 as we celebrate our Confirmation students and the faith journey they have undertaken this year. During the service, students will publicly profess their faith and be welcomed as confirmed members of the church community. We hope you will join us for this special and joyful Sunday as we celebrate and support these young people in their growing faith.

Celebrating Our High School Graduates

Sunday, June 21

We will be celebrating our high school graduates during worship on Sunday, June 21. We hope you and your graduate will be able to join us for this special celebration as we recognize this important milestone and pray for our graduates as they begin their next chapter. We look forward to celebrating together.

Youth Group Summer Fellowship Opportunities

Our final Youth Group gathering of the program year was Sunday, May 31. Thank you to all of the youth, volunteers, and families who helped make this year such a meaningful and joy-filled one! While our regular weekly youth group gatherings have come to an end for

the summer, we hope youth will stay connected by participating in our intergenerational summer fellowship events, the youth summer mission trip, and our special summer youth fellowship gatherings.

- Monday, July 20 from 6:00–8:00pm
- Tuesday, August 18 from 6:00–8:00pm

Invite your friends and join us in the Youth Room for evenings of fun, fellowship, games, and community. We hope to see you there!

Coastlands Presbytery Summer Youth Event

Saturday, August 22

Middle school and high school youth, along with youth leaders, are invited to join us for the Coastlands Presbytery Summer Youth Event on Saturday, August 22 at The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville. Come enjoy an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and connection with youth from across the presbytery. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, reconnect after the summer, and spend time together in community. Please register each participant separately so we can plan accordingly. Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/ym2b7sav>

MUSIC MINISTRY

June Choir

Beginning on Sunday, May 31

Beginning on Sunday May 31 we will again offer our “June Choir.” Please feel free to come to the Chapel at 9:15am to learn an easy Introit, Anthem and Benediction Response – then sing in the choir for the 10:00am worship service. June Choir is open to everyone of all ages, and is a great way to become a part of the music

ministry on a single Sunday morning. Please plan to join us May 31–June 28 for 5 Sundays of “June Choir.”

NEWS AND NOTES

Music in the Park Free Concert Series

Join Lawrenceville Main Street this summer for the FREE Music in the Park Concert Series, Thursday nights in Weeden Park from 6–8 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, pack a picnic or grab dinner in town, and

enjoy a relaxing evening of live music and community in the park. There will also be free fun and games for the kids, making it a great summer night out for the whole family. The concert series is free and open to the public. See their website for a full schedule.

PCOL IN MISSION

Volunteers Needed for Arm In Arm's Lawrenceville Mobile Pantry

Arm In Arm is looking for volunteers to help support their Lawrenceville Mobile Pantry on Mondays from 1:00–4:00pm. Volunteers assist with welcoming guests, distributing food, and helping make this important community ministry possible. If you are interested in serving, please sign up here: <https://givepul.se/yd7iqx>

Thank you for helping care for our neighbors and support food security in our community!

Volunteers Needed for Arm In Arm Summer Service Opportunities

We are organizing groups to serve at the Mill One location of Arm In Arm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, July 21 | 12:00–3:00pm
- Saturday, August 22 | 9:30am–12:30pm

We need at least five volunteers for each service opportunity in order to complete the work. This is a wonderful chance to support our neighbors and serve together as a church community. Volunteers will meet in the church parking lot and drive over together. Please contact Alicia Morrison for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

LIVING GENEROUSLY

June 7 is Legacy Sunday

On June 7, as we celebrate Legacy Sunday, we recognize members of the Maidenhead Society, who have chosen to leave a legacy that will outlive them by remembering the church in their estate planning. Becoming a member is easy! To become a member of the Maidenhead Society, you simply need to make a commitment to leave a legacy gift as part of your estate plan. If you already have a will, doing so is easy, by creating a codicil. We'd be happy to help! pclawrenceville.org/legacy-sunday for more information.

Help Build Our Patio – Buy Your Engraved Brick Now!

We are now taking orders for personalized engraved bricks for our new patio outside of the Fearon Atrium. This fundraiser will help cover the cost of installing the patio. You can honor a loved one, celebrate a milestone, and create a lasting legacy right here at PCOL. Bricks will be \$100 each. You can buy your brick online <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/pcol> Deadline to order is June 15.

Birthday Endowment Fund

Are you a June baby? Do you know someone who is? We invite all who have a birthday this month, or would like to celebrate someone who does, to contribute to

the Birthday Endowment Fund. This money supports the endowment funds of the church. The suggested gift is \$1 for each year of life. Please mail your check with "Birthday Endowment Fund" on the memo line to the church office. You may also give through our website.

Looking for a Place to Donate Books?

Children's books, adult books, encyclopedias, textbooks, etc. can be dropped at the big blue book bin located in our parking lot. BookSmiles works to collect book-wealth to irrigate book deserts. Used books are a commodity, therefore a kind of wealth. Please follow us on Facebook and/or contact Sherri Ahlers if you are interested in learning more about BookSmiles.



THE COMMUNITY WELL

Mah Jongg Game Night

Tuesday, June 2, 7:00–9:00pm

Join us in the Lounge for Mah Jongg Game Night! Mah Jongg is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. This game night is open to the community, and everyone is welcome — beginners and experienced players alike. Light refreshments will be provided. Mah Jongg cards will be available for purchase. Please RSVP to Ivy Cohen at ivy1021@aol.com.

Wisdom in Numbers

Meets the 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm, 1698 Café

You're welcome to join this informal, moderated group. Wisdom in Numbers gathers folks of different backgrounds and perspectives to share insights on investing, industry, technology, markets, and how to understand changes in a very complicated world. There is no assumption of any particular expertise. The concept of investing is considered broadly and includes the investment of time in things like education and training. Coffee and donuts are provided!

Check Mates

Thursdays, 4:30pm, in the 1698 Café

Join our chess group in the 1698 Café on Thursdays at 4:30pm. Practice what you're learning in class, or meet other chess enthusiasts.

Community Lunch

Thursday, June 11, 12:00pm

The Community Well invites you to our next Community Lunch. Our October luncheon centered civic wellness and how we come together as leaders and concerned citizens to address our wellness needs. It sparked a lot of collaborations among guests and was a fruitful meeting

of the minds. This June, we will gather to discuss Mental Wellness in our community, specifically among our youth. A few months ago, Marcia Kipp-Adams, who runs In Solidarity Counseling here, wrote an article on the Loneliness Epidemic. It's no surprise this is a critical issue among youth, and we have assembled an incredible panel of professionals to guide us through a powerful and thoughtful conversation. Join us at the Well along with representatives from NAMI and other community leaders who care about our youth.

Spirituality and Mental Wellness Group

Saturday, June 13, 10:00am

The next meeting of the Spirituality and Mental Wellness group is on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00am in Room 105. The group addresses how to manage our mental health with spiritual practices which are favorable to all people of faith and those that do not subscribe to a particular faith practice. The group meets one Saturday each month. If you have questions about the group, contact Marcia Kipp-Adams at (609) 651-1244 or email info@insolidaritycounseling.com.

Beginner Quilting: Disappearing Pinwheel with Janet Macgregor-Williams

Saturdays, June 6, and June 20 at 10:00am, \$30

Learn how to make a basic "Pinwheel," rearrange it into familiar quilt patterns, re-assemble it, and finish the top. Participants must supply their own machine and have basic sewing skills (ability to sew a straight line). Tickets online or by check to TCW or church office.

Summer Fundraiser Concert: Sam Lardner and Barcelona

Wednesday, July 22, 7:00pm

It's not too early to get your tickets. Come listen to the gorgeous sounds of Sam Lardner & Barcelona in a benefit concert for the Community Well. This is such an important fundraiser for The Community Well and a fantastic musical experience. Sam and his talented musicians are making a special trip to the states for a benefit tour, and we are grateful he is including TCW in their tour. Grab your tickets now! Please use our Zeffy link to purchase your ticket and/or make a donation to our summer fundraiser. Tickets are \$25, and additional donations are always welcome. <https://tinyurl.com/mr-2rx22s>

Heavenly Hounds Puppy Socials

Mondays, 10:00, in the Fellowship Center \$25 per social

Socialization is the most important thing you can do for your new puppy. We are passionate about HEALTHY puppy play and educating owners on dog body language and social interactions between dogs, so owners can feel confident in their abilities to navigate play throughout their dog's lives. Learning how to read our dogs helps keeps dogs and humans safe in ALL interactions and experiences. Our puppy socials are highly structured, safe and fun! For puppies 18 weeks of age and under. Sign Up: www.heavenlyhoundstraining.com

Fitness Classes at the Well

Visit communitywellnj.org/fitness for the most up-to-date schedule of classes! Current class offerings:

Chair Yoga	Pickleball
Early Bird Pilates	Zumba
Gentle Yoga	*Zumba Gold Chair
Mindful Stretch & Tone	

Class passes are available!

*First Zumba Gold Chair class is free!

See a full calendar of events at
CommunityWellNJ.org/calendar