

OUR SPIRE

Volume 37 September 2018

Number 8

Reaching Up to God,
Reaching Out to People

All are
Welcome Here



Pastor's Page

Out with the old...

...in with the old?

You've redone at least one room in your house. The room's color, furniture and window dressings have changed—and the once familiar space felt *new*, or at least different.

Maybe you think the sanctuary will look—or seem—different. The new windows, for example, which are still so handsome, tall, numerous, and orderly, have cleaner lines and a generally brighter look. Mid-gray carpet squares cover the Narthex floor that used to be a light laminate. The new sanctuary carpet holds a deeper shade of red and, with new padding under it, you may notice even your footfalls are, well, unusual, or odd. We will have new pew cushions and the white trim work is a fresh, crisp, unblemished white.

Despite these changes, the sanctuary isn't different—and I'll argue why this is. Thankfully, the space still holds the same feel. The newness in the changes just mentioned do not outshine what was. On the contrary, the updates and upgrades enhance what the hail damage storm on May 15, 2018 couldn't—or didn't—touch. *Our space is still wonderfully, perfectly godly.* All that is new does not diminish, tamper, or change the sacredness that was. God's church in Harford is still God's church in Harford.

When you return to the sanctuary, see if I'm right. Even better, *feel* if I'm right. The worship space that has sustained almost 21 decades of worshipers still holds the same invitation to you as it did before. The silence of the sanctuary still enables you to experience in its resilience that God is still here, God is still close, and God is still love.

Now speaking of remodeling, think of your own life. Has God changed through your years (and through your own inner remodeling projects, your self-improvements and your wanted and unwanted changes), or has God remained exactly how God has always been—constant, assuring, guiding, protective, persistent and present?

Scripture from a recent sermon comes to mind. With His disciples immediately following the Great Commission, Jesus says, "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:29)."

Unchanging, God is with us always. Through any storm in life, and through any remodeling projecting we willingly—or perhaps begrudgingly—take on ourselves. Yes, God is always there, even to the end of the age.

Where are you? Ask this question to yourself as you literally or metaphorically enter the church you call home. Yes, where you are? What has changed within you, and what remains the same?

I trust you'll see what I see. God was, is, and will be your constant—and nothing can change this.

Hail Storm Update

On May 15, 2018, the Harford area was hit with a devastating hail storm. Many homes and vehicles were damaged. Our church was particularly hard hit due to its location, age and lack of surrounding trees. Our Trustees have worked tirelessly to contact insurance companies, get estimates, contact contractors, monitor repairs, submit paperwork and repeat.

Thanks to their hard work and dedication, we will be rededicating our renovated sanctuary on September 9, 2018 at 11:00 am, with a covered dish lunch after the service.

BEFORE



AFTER

We have new siding, new windows with screens, our sanctuary has been painted and new carpet has been laid. We will get a new roof and a repaired spire.



Our organ has been serviced and replacement Bibles and hymnals have been ordered. We will have new pew cushions.



Thank you
Trustees!!!

Welcome Conor Douglas Robert Phelps
Parents
Kaylee Dawn Parker and Allan Robert Eddie Phelps
Baptism
August 12, 2018



Welcome Sophia Elyse Feduchak
Parents Paige Seymour and Zachariah Feduchak
Baptism
August 19, 2018





9th Annual First Congregational Church of Harford Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament Team would like to express our sincere thanks for your support of our 9th annual Golf Tournament held at Conklin Players Club on July 15th. The day was a huge success, thanks in part to your generosity and participation.

Our business sponsors really came through for us and so did all of you that placed a sign in Honor or in Memorial of loved ones.

The baskets were awesome and brought in \$775. Everyone raved about the goody bags and our awesome cookies and all the extras we put in them thanks to you all!!!

A huge Thank You to Kandy Wellman for making all of our sponsor signs!

May God bless you!



9th Annual Harford Congregational Church Golf Tournament



The golf tournament was a great success. We took in \$3870 from our Sponsors, \$2160 from the golfers, \$210 from Mulligan sales, \$320 from the 50/50 (Thanks in part to Ralph Simons), \$270 from Skins (Donation from Rich Masters) and \$775 from the Basket Raffle for a

**grand total of \$7403
(minus costs).**

Thank you to all that Golfed, made cookies, donated snacks and water, made baskets, became sponsors or helped in any way to make this fund raiser so successful!

The 2018 Golf Committee!!

**Gary and Wendy Phillips, Ron Phillips, Judy Mitchell,
Gary Housel, Richie Masters,
Bill and Holli Chichester**



Fair Dinner

Chicken n Biscuits



We cooked and prepped 300 pounds of chicken



We served 570 meals and made approximately \$3800



Log Cabin Prep for the 2018 Harford Fair

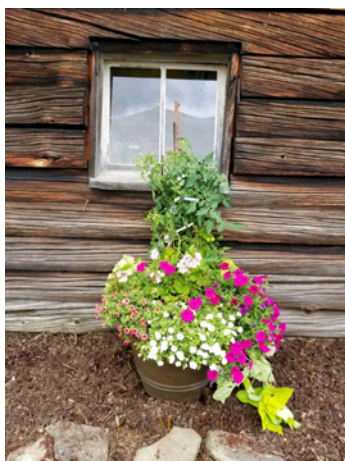


Fudge making with North Harford Willing Workers.

Welch Cookie making with Kingsley Willing Workers.



Log Cabin at the 2018 Harford Fair



Thank you to all those that donated Attic Treasures, made craft items, made fudge and Welch Cookies , worked in the Log Cabin and came by to buy during the Fair. We were very successful and a complete report will appear in the October Spire after all costs have been calculated.

Willing Workers

Fair Dinner - A.R.C.



Dog House built by Susquehanna County Career and Technology students and donated by True Friends for the Basket Raffle.



Dog Chew Toy Prep



The kids were set up outside of the Dining Hall to bring awareness to their new program A.R.C. (Animal Resource Center).

People were encouraged to make dog chew toys from old T-shirts.





Kids Corner

By: Mikaela and Bailey



Kid's Corner

This summer a few of the kids at church started something new. They wanted to do something for their community. They came up with "ICMM". ICMM stands for- Ice Cream Monday Ministry. Each Monday during the Summer, Sunday School kids, along with Pastor Will took turns going around the area to people's houses and handing out ice cream sandwiches.

Each ice cream bar had **1 Corinthians 16:14**
"Let all that you do be done in love" on the wrapper.

The kids loved to see people's happy faces when they received the ice cream sandwiches.



Another thing that the older kids started is something called A.R.C! A.R.C. stands for Animal Resource Center.

This is an organization to help people who are struggling to care for their pets. People can donate pet products to A.R.C. as well as make monetary donations. Once a month, at the church, we will give out the products to pets in need. Stay tuned for more details!

These are just a few of the things that our church and youth did this summer.

Fun Fact: The longest name in the Bible is found in Isaiah 8:18:1

Mahershalahashbaz !!!!!
Look it up to hear the pronunciation!!





Dairy Maid Chelsea Empet, shared her insight into Dairy Farm life and then treated us to after service ice cream on August 5, 2018!!!



Game-On at Tingley Lake!!!

Game On Movie Night



Game-On at the Park!!



Calling All Fall Decorations!!!

If you have or would like to donate gourds and/or pumpkins to the church for all to enjoy this upcoming season, please leave your treasure/s at a time that is good for you in the Pastor's office.



BYOB.... Bring your own blanket!

We are asking for extra or unused blanket/s that can be used in the pews until the new pew cushions arrive. The new cushions are not expected to be in until October.

Pastor Will has sat in our pews and reports that without pew padding, you will be uncomfortable in time. We know people will come to church not thinking to bring something to make themselves more comfortable while seated.

We are asking that you leave your blanket/s in the pew/s until they are no longer needed. All blankets will be returned in October or donated to Ugly Quilts if you do not want your blanket returned. Any help will be appreciated.

Thank you, Deacons!



Reader Alert: If you would like to be a Reader during our Church Services and are not already on the Reader List, please contact Priscilla Allen at 570-434-2383 or rmallen@nep.net.

September 9, 2018

Rededication of the sanctuary after the hail storm in May

Covered dish after service.

Service at 11:00

Bring a dish to share, meat and drinks provided

**Hope you will be able to make
church on the 9th.**

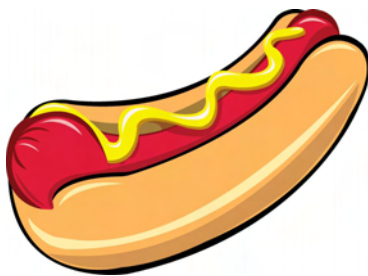
Time for some fun!!!!

September 16, 2018

12:00 to 3:00

Invite your friends and families

**Come One, Come All to a fun-filled afternoon
on September 16th with hot dogs, ice cream, brownies,
obstacle course, games for
children.**



Memorial Garden



A huge “Thank You” to Sharon Kinney and Twila Williams on the Memorial Garden and beautiful flower pots at the church entrances.



Come and stroll through the Memorial Garden and visit the Plaques placed there in memory of loved ones.

Memorial Plaque Information

Are you interested in having a plaque attached to the memorial stone in the memorial garden?

One may have a plaque ordered by doing the

Following:

Cost---\$25.00

Send check (made out to First Congregational-UCC) along with name of person and the year of birth and the year they passed away to the office.

The office will then proceed to order the plaque and have it placed on the stone.

Thank you.

Council Minutes

July 19, 2018

Treasurer – Julie Gardner. She has transferred \$100,000 to Vanguard. Vanguard will pay more interest on the money than NBT. Julie will scan the bill from Kavetski and will send to the adjuster. Kandy, who has spent considerable amount of time with the adjuster along with Harry and Gary, reported that we do have replacement value. When the job is completed we will receive the balance of the depreciated value from the insurance company.

Christian Education-Kay reported that they will be having a breakfast in the fall for the kids. The breakfast was unable to happen in the spring on account of the hail, wind and water damage. Children's activity the day of the church's dinner at the fair was discussed, however, at this time nothing has been finalized. Kandy mentioned the flyer about the youth activities for the rest of the summer that Tammy had posted on Facebook.

Choir-no activity until September. Kandy mentioned the organ that had been in all the moisture should be examined. The bill should be submitted to the insurance company. Julie will share organ information with Harry and Kandy to decide what to do and Kandy will check the insurance sheets.

Deacons-Kay reported that any graduates that show up for service on July 1st will be recognized and presented with a book. Next year an announcement will be made in the Spire and the bulletin to let the office aware of any seniors that may be graduating so that no one is missed. One graduate was not mentioned in the Spire. The Deacons sent a letter of apology to the missed recognition of the graduate. The baptism of Sallie Diana Schulte took place on July 14 and was recognized the next day during the service. Ginny Ahearn and Kay Gow represented the Deacons and flowers were given to the parents and grandparents.

GAME-ON-Tammy and Craig Stout have a list of activities for the youth for this summer:

- July 20th pizza, popcorn , movie 5-8pm at the Stouts
(7th grade and up)
- July 23rd-6:00pm- ICMM (Ice Cream Ministry Monday)
- July 27th- Swimming party @ Tingley Lake-1-4 pm (all kids are invited to come with a parent)
- July 30th- ICMM 6:00pm
- August 2nd- Lackawanna State Park -11-2pm (all kids are invited to come with a parent)
- August 5th- Ice Cream Party (after church- ALL are welcome!)
- August 6th-6:00 pm-ICMM
- August 8th- Salt Springs- 11-2pm (7th and up)
- August 13th- ICMM 6:00pm
- August 15th -10-2pm Lahey Family Fun Park (all kids are invited to come with a parent)
- August 20th ICMM 6:00pm
- August 27th- ICMM 6:00pm
- September 8th- Ice Skating Binghamton University? TBA

Historian-Kay Gow. Attendance numbers for June. June 3-48; June 10-61; June 17-44; June 24-42; average 48.

Missionary-Kay Gow. Final meeting for the summer was in June at Holli's with everyone bringing a covered dish to share. They will have their first fall meeting in September, third Tuesday at 1:00 at the lecture hall.

Nominating Committee-Jacque Phillips. The committee will have their first meeting the last week in August. Jacque would like to talk with all chair people to get their input and suggestions for people to fill vacant positions. Jacque will be contacting them in the next few weeks.

Trustees-Kandy Wellman. Some of the broken windows were placed in the dumpster, carpet has been ordered and proposals for cleaning the ductwork in the lecture hall and for the roofing have been received. Clean Force One has been in to clean, remove carpet and dry out the moisture. Kavetski is close to completing the siding and windows. Barry Bennington came on Monday June 18, 2018 at 9:30AM. Binghamton Slag and Roofing came on Tuesday June 19, 2018 for roof estimate. Carpet people came Wednesday June 20, 2018. The pews will be painted and we are looking at pew cushions. Julie and Kandy will sign the agreement with Wagoneers for the pew cushions. This is the same company that we had ordered cushions from twenty five years ago in 1992. There are 387 linear feet of contoured pew cushions to be replaced. The contouring makes it possible to flip the cushions over if they become worn or faded. g. The cushions are guaranteed for 20 years. The cost is \$19.44 per foot which comes to \$7,523.28. We will place the pew order with a check of 1/3 of the cost as a down payment. This cost is covered by the insurance amount. Vince Heron is painting, filling and sanding the pews. Kandy shared that the insurance company allowed us 128 hours at \$60.60 for two people per hour. We will have money left over. Kandy was wondering about getting carpet out of the hallway and replacing the carpet with three foot vinyl blanks. Carpet is ordered from Fabulous Fashion Flooring from Wilkes Barre. Received e-mail from the adjuster to go ahead with the steeple. Harry and Gary will get together regarding redoing the steeple and the roof as there is over lapping. The adjuster, Kristen, and Bennington will work out deal. They will pressure wash the entire steeple. Cost may be a bit more because of the open ended repair. Kandy showed us some Christmas decorations that she would like to buy to replace the ones stored upstairs that were damaged during the hail storm. Money in the insurance estimate for replacing the decorations.

Willing Workers-there will be a quarterly meeting at 7:00 on August 1, 2018 in the lecture hall.

New Business-Craig suggested that this might be a good opportunity to get an audio system set up. He could ask Kurt Sussman to come and look at our sound system. He would be here early tomorrow morning. The cost would be \$150. It would be very helpful for Will to have to use only one microphone instead of two as he is presently doing.

Judy shared information about Rev. Handwerk. He was a pastor at First Church and is now retiring. After retiring, he and his wife Daisy will be moving to South Carolina. Judy will include information in the bulletin and in an e-mail to the congregation.

Next meeting will be August 30, after the fair.

Spire Sponsors

We need Sponsors to help us cover the cost of printing and mailing the Spire. Please let us know if you can help. The sponsorship can be in Memory or in Honor of someone or just a donation.
Mailing costs approximately
\$50/month.

Worship Assistants

Greeters

September 2	Evan Clarkson
9	Twilla Williams
16	Judy Mitchell
23	Kay Gow
30	LeAnne Colwell

Ushers

September 2	Kay Gow & Gary Phillips
9	Rich & Shirley Masters
16	Kay Gow & Jacquie Phillips
23	Alyssa Clarkson & Cody
30	Ken & Betty Lou Bennett

Readers

September 2	Peg Empet
9	Leanne Colwell
16	Rich Masters
23	Barbara Weideman
30	Kandy Wellman

September birthdays and anniversaries

September 04	Joe Kulyeshie Benjamin Millard Lydia Herbert
September 05	Kaiden Warren Bob and Dot Simons
September 06	Breanne Simons Hiller Ron and Jacquie Phillips
September 07	Ralph and Ivie Simons
September 08	Bonnie Resseguie
September 11	Jeffrey Zick
September 13	Leanne Colwell
September 16	Brad Millard
September 16	Alice Archer
September 18	Jason and Jessica Miller Wayne Wellman
September 20	Don Lindsey Payton Colwell
September 21	Rick and Dana Empet
September 23	Bob and Irene Deemer
September 24	Aiden Empet Delaney Heller
September 26	Henry Rush Simons Griffin Patrick Simons
September 27	Patrick Simons
September 28	Belva Adams Harry Gardner



Notice: Please send all material for the Spire to

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

Correspondence

Friends at First Congregational,

On behalf of the Summer Lunch Box Program, Hop Bottom, PA, thank you for your recent \$154.43 donation.

You folks have been a staunch supporter of our efforts for many years. We certainly acknowledge and appreciate that, especially in light of the challenges you face with the damage to your own buildings. As we move forward this summer with our own program, we prayerfully remember you and challenges you face.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Stanton
For Summer Lunch Box
Hop Bottom, PA

Dear First Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards and prayers. You truly give me courage and strength as I Continue my long journey for better health.

Love,
Sandy Zupanovich

Thanks so much to Twila Williams and Sharon Kinney for the beautiful blooming Memorial Garden and the lovely flowers outside the church doors. Thanks for sharing your green thumb talent.

Priscilla Allen

The Deacons would like to apologize for not mentioning the following graduates in the June Spire:

Elissa Muller
Devon Colwell
David Schulte III

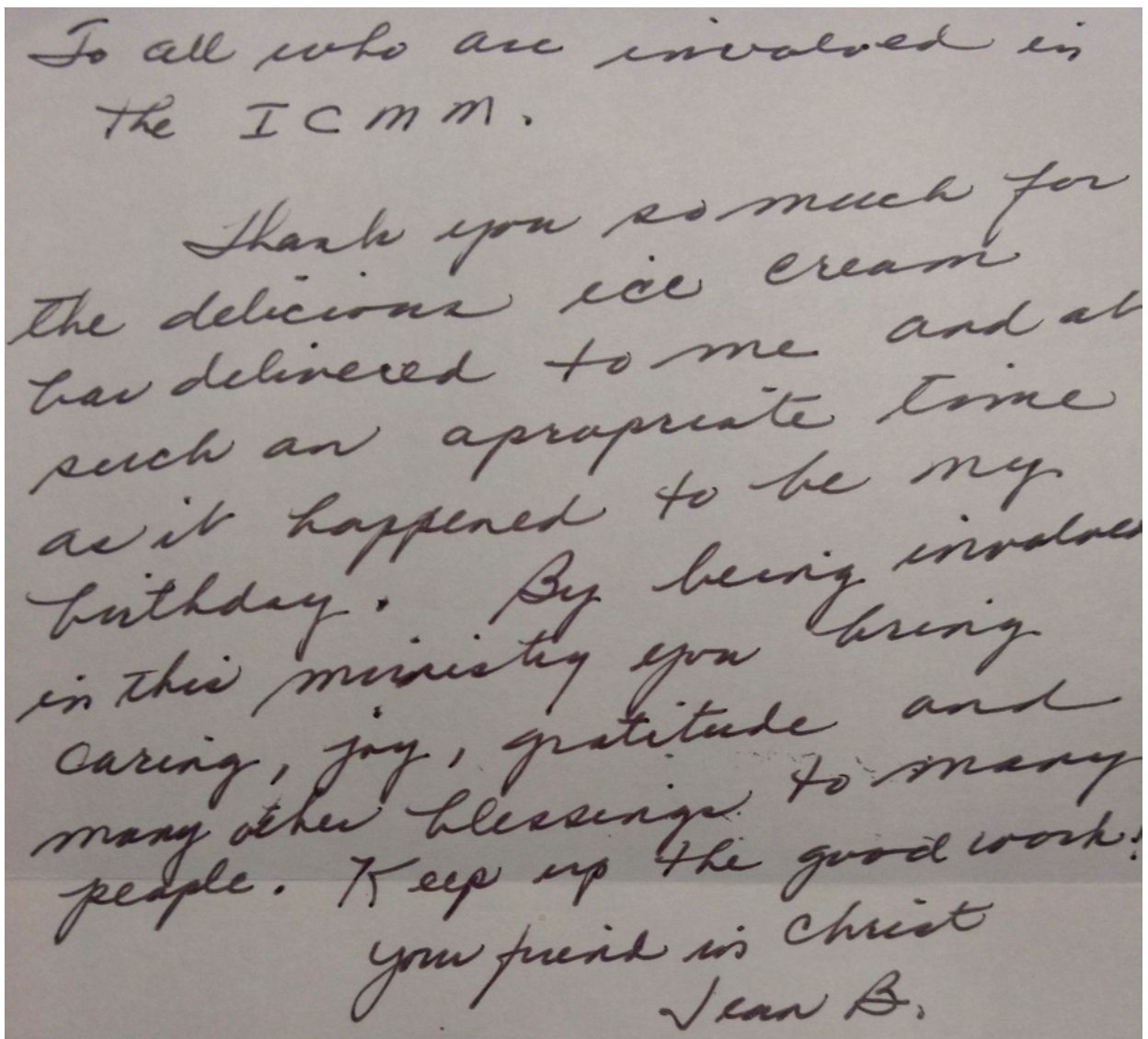
Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments.

Love in Christ, The Deacons.



It's the little things but this was huge! Our local church just stopped by to give the kids ice cream sandwiches with this verse attached! Out of the blue.....a knock on the door and a warm smile!! Actions speak louder than words and they got it down!

The Drake Family



To all who are involved in
the I C M M.

Thank you so much for
the delicious ice cream
that delivered to me and at
such an appropriate time
as it happened to be my
birthday. By being involved
in this ministry you bring
caring, joy, gratitude and
many other blessings to many
people. Keep up the good work!
Your friend in Christ
Jean B.



Prayer Concerns

Family of Aaron Whitney

Dave Gow

Christian Kuhar

Family of Woody Woods

Kevin Tingley

Scott Klenk

Victims of Flooding

Family of Todd Garlocck

Sandy Zupanovich

Family of Carolyn Jennings

Family of Walt Ackley

Family Bill Robinson

Tom Salansky

Craig Stout's Mother

Adam Frankel

Home Bound



The Carey Family

Dorothy Greene

Alice Watkins

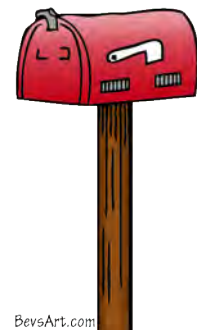
Catherine Escandel

Barbara Pease

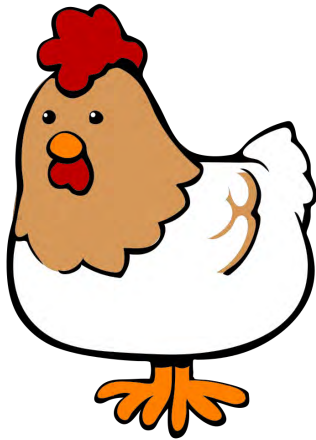
Address and Directory Change

Allan Robert Eddie Phelps/Kaylee Dawn Parker
& Conor Douglas Robert Phelps
189 Michaels Hill Road
Montrose, PA 18801
570-396-5895

Zach Feduchak/Paige Seymour
& Sophia Elyse Feduchak
598 Start Road
Uniondale, PA 18470



BevsArt.com



Main Street, Clifford

Chicken-n-Biscuit or Ham Dinner

Wednesday September 19th, 2018

4:00-6:00 pm

Take Out or Dine in with us

Donation \$9.95

Includes dinner, drink & dessert

Susquehanna County Library Help

Do you every shop at ShurSave Supermarket?

One may register their ShurSave Gold Card at the store's customer service counter or online (www.shursavemarkets.com-programs/Gold Card Program)

The Susquehanna County Library will receive \$.03 for each can or package of these brands: Best Yet, Nature's Finest, Top Care, Domestix, Academix and others not mentioned in the newspaper article. Hopefully you will be able to sign up on your next shopping trip or from your computer.



Thank You

September 2018

September 2018

October 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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			

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/26 - 31	Aug 26	27	28	29	30	Sep 1	
9/2 - 7	2 10:00am Worship service (LH) 11:00am Ch Ed mtg 7:00pm Scouts	3 LABOR DAY	4 Office closed	5 1:00pm Office open	6	7 Pastor's Day off 9:30am Yoga	8 Ice Skating? 9:00am Used Book Sale (Orphan school)
9/9 - 14	9 9:30am SS (LH) 11:00am Worship service - <i>Covered Dish</i> 7:00pm Scouts	10 9:30am 9:30 AM mtg 4:00pm Pastor in office 7:00pm Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Trustees	11 7:30am Men's Bkfst (Bingham's) 7:00pm Choir (MR)	12	13 10:30am Widows for Christ (SNMBC)	14 Pastor's Day off 9:30am Yoga	15
9/16 - 21	16 9:30am SS (LH) 11:00am Worship service 12:00pm Fall Festival (c) 7:00pm Scouts	17 9:30am 9:30 AM mtg 12:00pm Ladies lunch (Bingham's) 4:00pm Pastor in office	18 9:15am Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm Missionary (LH) 7:00pm Choir (MR)	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 12:00pm Knitting et al (LH) 4:00pm Dinner-Clifford 6:00pm Scouts (LH)	20 6:30pm Council (LH) 7:00pm Stewardship	21 Pastor's Day off 9:30am Yoga	22
9/23 - 28	23 9:30am SS (LH) 11:00am Worship service 7:00pm Scouts	24 9:30am 9:30 AM mtg 4:00pm Pastor in office	25 9:15am Ugly Quilts (LH) 7:00pm Choir (MR)	26 12:00pm Knitting et al (LH) 6:00pm Scouts (LH)	27 10:30am Widows for Christ (SNMBC)	28 Pastor's Day off 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm GAME ON (LH)	29 9:00am ARC? distribution
9/30 - 10/5	30 9:30am SS (LH) 11:00am Worship service 7:00pm Scouts	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6



Non-Profit Organization

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PERMIT—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
5016 Creek Road
PO Box 217
Harford, PA 18823
Tel. 570-434-2260
Email: firstch@nep.net
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: <http://www2.nep.net/~firstch/>

.....the people in darkness have seen a great light

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

Rev. William Hagenbuch –Pastor
Home Phone: 570-434-7729
Email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Mon. 4-5:30 pm

Judy Mitchell –Sec
Hours: Tues. 1-5 pm
Thurs or Fri 11am -