

Our Spire

Volume 43 Number 1

February 23

**Reaching Up to God,
Reaching out to People**



Pastor's Page



Here is a question recently brought to pastoral relations.

Q: Has your ministry changed because of the kids?

A: Oh, yes! Totally yes! My ministry has changed significantly.

My ministry has changed in that I am gaining experiences in my call that would not have happened otherwise. An example of this is in a column I wrote that published in the beginning of the year. I shared in the newspaper about being the parent of Baby Jesus. (Craig had this role in the 2022 Christmas pageant.) You can find this column on my website if you have not yet read it and would like to do so.

My schedule has changed from working daylight hours to working in the wee hours of the morning! I get my God-given thoughts and my writing complete when the house is quiet. It's just quiet at different times now! I have kept my schedule in that I am getting done what needs to be done each week. This includes the occasional funeral or special event.

But yes, my ministry has changed. I am living more life than ever before. Living more life gives me more material and more connections not only to God but also to you, the congregation.

Let me mention Craig again. Having an almost 9-month old foster child makes me so much more aware of God's love for us. When we went to the Janet Weiss Children's Hospital in Danville following a 2-day stay at EMHS because the Pea Pod had RSV, I learned a lot about being a helpless parent. I learned how prayers come through midnight tears. I learned how help comes from God through amazing caregivers, including you, the congregation.

As I have just shared (and have shared before), I am a foster parent again. My ministry has changed, it's enhanced, because I realize again that as a foster parent "it's never about me or my needs." This is how we are to be as Christians. It is never about us. It is never about our needs. We are to serve. We are to seek God's guidance through prayers. Also, we are to trust God and His outcome, not our own.

Having the kids has not only changed me, but also it has changed you as a congregation. What can be seen is how deeply you care for our Christian Education program, and how you welcome and even embrace children during worship.

Sometimes when I hear the word 'legacy' I first think of how daunting it is! To pass our faith life along to the next generation? Um. Wow. Tall order. Just how do we do that with meaning and intentionality?

We do it one step at a time, one connecting moment at a time.

I want to share a story of the ecumenical Giving Thanks service we had this past November because it speaks to meaning and intentionality, and legacy. The Giving Thanks worship service was held at 6 PM at the Brooklyn Universalist Church. My kids and I hurried through our dinner to make it to this service.

Of course, I didn't do a seating chart for the evening. (Do parents do strategic church seating charts?)

I share this because we walked into the sanctuary and winged it. There was no "She'll sit here," and "He'll sit there." Honestly, you think of these things with the number of kids I have! That did not happen this time. We just felt our way into the sanctuary just as worship began.

My kids don't sit with me in church, of course. With pew buddies, they spread out here in Harford. To an extent, they did it in Brooklyn, too.

Pastors Page Continued...

One of my angels found a buddy to sit with who is faithful in church attendance here. I'll never forget the sight of my winged little one sitting right next to another angel. The taller angel gently had her arm around my daughter's shoulders. Later, the taller angel told me she did this to keep my daughter still and focused in church, and she was right and good in doing this, but something far, far greater swept over me. What this taller angel did was naturally and beautifully love on the shorter angel. It's a sight I won't forget. It's a memory my daughter won't forget, either.

That's legacy.

So, yes, my ministry has changed. It's changed me. It's changed you, too.



“Your faith has made you well” A memorial tribute to Richie Masters

(This reflection is based off what Pastor Will shared during Richie's service 12/11/22.)



Living words come to us through scripture. Here I remember the Son of God is speaking to a woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34). After she reaches for and touches the hem of Jesus' robe in a very crowded and very pressing public place, the One who heals says to her, “Your faith has made you well.”

Her pain had been unbearable both physically and psychologically. She had been an outcast with a forecast of gloom and dismay, but she had what Richie had. We can have this, too. It's the ability to seek and the desire to be made well.

Through the years of following the tremendous gift of his lung transplant, Richie showed all of us his ability to seek and his desire to be made well. So much like the woman I have mentioned, Richie reached for Jesus. He knew great shadows in terms of his health prior to his significant, life-saving surgery. But this didn't stop him. On the contrary, this inspired him not to stay but to move forward, not to settle, but to seek.

It's an audacious move to stand, let alone speak, at a pulpit and go on about wellness when, in fact, the person we remember has died. To preach of being made well when someone we love beyond measure has passed? Who does this?

The one who does this, me, knows Richie well enough to say what is true. His faith did make him well. His faith made him float. I can even say, and I'm not stretching this an iota, his faith made him fly. I say this because Richie wasn't held back. Oh sure, he had days when he hurt physically. His health journey wasn't always bliss, but it was beautiful because as the woman touched Jesus' robe, Jesus touched Richie's soul.

Jesus and Richie had an encounter, an exchange. Amazingly, and that is the word, the two of them didn't have a one time only event. The two experienced an ongoing, interconnected relationship. In this ongoing, interconnected relationship that we, too, can experience, Richie was made well.

Richie knew, and lived, what we can all know and live. It's this. We can all reach out past our barriers, blocks and burdens and touch this gift of heaven here on earth. This gift is called life. And if this scares you, and it might, I have news for you. Remember reach out to Jesus and you will be made well.



She persisted A memorial tribute to Dottie Hagenbuch



*We may never know the legacy we leave
But do it anyway*

“I want to go to church,” she had announced that Sunday morning, December 25th. Dressing my mom that morning was an adventure and then a significant challenge for her physically. At one point there in her bedroom after a sudden wave of fatigue and nausea weakened her, she wondered if this would be too much. But she persisted.

That Sunday was the last time my mom and I would ride together. What a blessing, a memory, and a gift. My kids would go with my nieces in the van. My mom and I had her car. Just the two of us.

Getting her into a pew? I will remember those challenges. She landed—and I do mean landed—in the pew that you, the congregation, designated for those with physical limitations or mobility issues. Months ago a pew was taken just in front of the one where she sat. This pew was removed so that even more space to maneuver is available.

I’ll share from firsthand experience that “more space” was indeed needed that Christmas morning. That space is needed every Sunday for anyone who may need it.

Mom wasn’t well during worship. Her face showed discomfort at times. But she was there.

A legacy my mom leaves is one we can all leave for our loved ones. Be there. In church. Feeling well. Not feeling well. Triumphant. Troubled. Be there.

Four days after Christmas, December 29th, my mom died. We can all persist through our challenges and leave love where we find love, and that’s in the sanctuary where God meets us, lifts us, inspires us, and speaks.

My mom’s memorial service will be held on Holy Saturday, April 8, at 11:30 AM. A luncheon in the Lecture Hall will follow.

Flower Sponsorship

Here’s a new way to serve in your congregation and add beauty to our worship experience! **Sponsor Altar flowers!!** All you need to do is take a pew envelope, place cash or check for \$20, put your name on the envelope with the date you wish to sponsor and who/what the flowers honor or commemorate. The Deacons will then purchase and arrange the flowers for you. You may also sponsor a week yourself by signing up on the purple altar flower sheet in the hallway. If you have your own flowers at home. No money involved, just bring the flowers and sign the sheet.



Lenten Schedule

February 22 - Ash Wednesday, Harford First Congregational Church, 6:00pm

March 1 – Host First Church Harford UCC, 6:00pm
Lucas Taylor (Brooklyn) music,
Annette Zrowka preaching

March 8 – Host Brooklyn Universalist, 6:00pm
New Milford UMC choir,
Laura Kincaid preaching

March 15 – Host South Gibson UMC, 6:00pm
Harford choir,
Lucas Taylor preaching

March 22 – Host Great Bend UMC, 6:00pm
South Gibson choir,
Will Hagenbuch preaching

March 29 – Host New Milford UMC, 6:00pm
Great Bend choir,
Ho-Shik Kang preaching

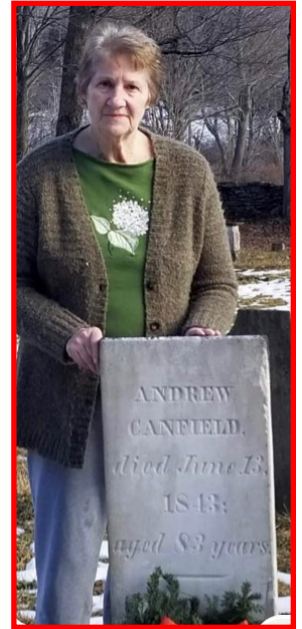
April 2 - Palm Sunday Harford 10:00

April 7 - Good Friday: Seven Last Words Service:
Harford First Congregational Church, 6:00

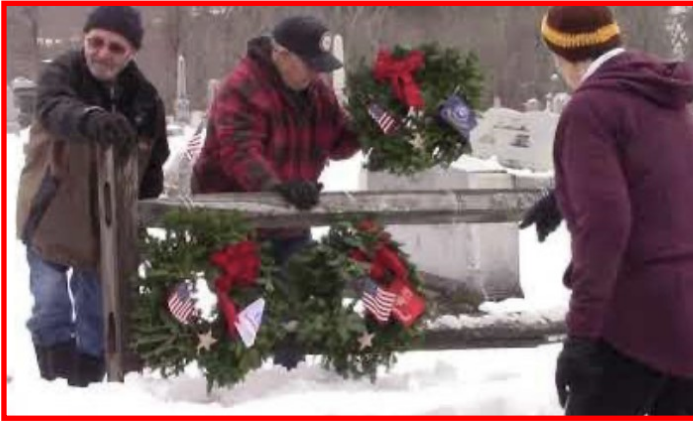
April 9 - Easter Sunday Sunrise 7:00am
Harford First Congregational Church
Sunday School 9:00am (Lesson and Easter Egg Hunt)
Worship 10:00am



Spire Sponsor
In memory of
Dottie Hagenbuch
from a friend



Wreaths Across America was sponsored by our DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution. Sue Needham, our local representative, is seen in the picture to the right standing by the marker of her relative, who at 17 years old, fought in the revolutionary war.



The Gift

A gift was born
On a cold Christmas morn.
A manger was His bed
A savior for His people Isaiah said.

A gift so precious and rare
Came from heaven to share.
Salvation, freedom from sin
Open your heart and let Him in.

A gift for one and all
Open your heart and heed His call.
To find joy, peace, contentment and love
Look to Jesus who came from above.

By Kay Gow



Christmas Eve

Advent Candle Lighting

Hagenbuch Family

Tavin, Sereena,
Emma, Anna,
Micky and Pastor
Will Hagenbuch

Christmas Eve Music

Robbie Fisher, Earl Cottrell,
Abby Toolan, Kandy
Wellman and Shannon
Toolan



Christian Education Christmas Pageant



The story of Jesus' birth was told through scripture and re-enactment. Christmas carols were sung after each reading. The children then went to the lecture hall where they watched a Christian video, had snacks and made a Christmas ornament to take home. Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers for their willingness to participate.

Bring your kids to church!

Bring them to church. Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior ... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay out, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job.

Bring them to church. We love your kids and look forward to seeing them here often!





Two new Eagle Scouts!!

Congratulations to Our new Eagle Scouts!!!

Gavin Bewley and Alex Empet

Special thanks to Leader Kristin Williams and Craig Stout for helping them on their way.



Welcome home to Evan Clarkson from his Army Deployment. Pictured with his sister Alyssa Nolan and his mother Melissa Clarkson. Also pictured is JoAnn Titus, Evan's grandmother currently residing at Gracious Living in South Montrose.



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 \$75/month. Please send to:

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC PO Box 217 Harford, PA 18823

Other Council Minutes

December 2021	December 2022	YTD
Income: \$19,906.70	Income: \$21,753.58	Income: \$212,891.09
Expense: \$19,962.44	Expense: \$20,850.78	Expense: \$137,193.48
Total: -\$55.74	Total: \$902.80	Total: \$75,697.61

Choir: Practicing. Singing at Masonic Temple on Palm Sunday afternoon

Pastoral Relations: Met. Next meeting Feb 14 at 9:00.

Nominating: Still need two more persons for Stewardship and 1 for nominating.

Old Business: AED is in but we are still waiting for a part.

-Earl Cottrell may be willing to lead a beginners bell choir that meets after worship Sunday mornings. Council voted to proceed with this beginner bell choir.

New Business:

-Finance Committee to meet in February

-By-Law and Constitution review will be scheduled in February. The notes and recommendations will be sent to the committee.

-Deacons were asked to look into an online membership class.

-Waiting for cart recommendations for new Weinberg carts.

Next Meeting: February 23 at 5:00

Christian Education - 1-10-23

Our Sunday School presented the Nativity story December 18, 2022. Sunday School was recessed December 25 and January 1, 2023. Sunday School resumed January 8, 2023.

We continue with the Simply Loved curriculum from Group Publishing.

February 5, 2023: Pastor's Sunday School will be asked to help fill goody bags for the Valentine Outreach on February 12, 2023

February 12, 2023: The Sunday School teachers will hand out Valentine goody bags to the children as they leave.

February 19 2023: The children will learn about the burning of the palms from the previous year for Ash Wednesday. If the weather cooperates, we will plan to burn the palms before they are dismissed to class.

Easter: Judy Mitchell plans to have her Easter Egg Eggstravaganza at 9:15 during the Sunday School time for all the children. Pastor Will's class will be asked to help out.

The last day of Sunday School will be May 7, 2023. There will be a reception after church for the 50-year members, the new members and Sunday School.

We will be reviewing new curriculum for next year and VBS packages for this summer.

Deacons - 12-11-22

Attending: Linda Lindsey, Lisa Hahn, Will Hagenbuch, Holli Chichester, Kay Gow, Sharon Frantz

December 11: Christian Education Christmas Pageant

December 24: Christmas Eve - 4 Ushers (Kay Gary Phillips, Alyssa Melissa)
Melissa and Alyssa will pass out the candles

December 25: Christmas: Lisa Hahn is singing a solo and also the lay reader
Short poem by Kay Gow

January 1, 2023: New Year's Day. Kay will read a short poem.

Poinsettias: 14 Poinsettias have been donated for distribution. Deacons will make a list of shut-ins and others for receiving a poinsettia. They will be distributed after the Christmas Day service if family is present and Monday for the others. Cards will be made by Kay to accompany the poinsettias. Holli will make an insert for the card.

Deacons for next year: Kathryn, Lisa and Gail are rotating off.
Lisa volunteered to remain on Deacons.
Nominating will search for two Deacons (Alice Archer, Wendy Phillips)

50-Year Pins: The last 50-year pins were distributed 10-19-08. We have 33 members from 1960-1973 that have not received recognition. We will plan to have a Recognition Sunday May 7, 2023. All 50-year members will receive an invitation to attend. If they are unable to attend, we will ask if they would like to receive the pin via mail.

New Member Class: A new member class will begin March 26 after church for 5 weeks. The members will join on May 7, 2023 on 50-year recognition Sunday. Will plans to speak to a few people that have expressed interest in the past. The class will be advertised for all. Deacons will attend each class and provide lunch.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2023

Deacon Minutes - 1/10/23

Attending: Sharon Frantz, Wendy Phillips, Dee Archer, Dave Schulte, Holli Chichester, Kay Gow, Will Hagenbuch, Lisa Hahn

Secretary: Wendy Phillips volunteered to be secretary

Poinsettia Outreach: Poinsettias were delivered to 13 persons after Christmas.

50 Year pins: Lisa volunteered to research stores to buy new pins. Invites to 33 recipients will be sent at the end of March for the May 7, 2023 recognition. 50-year members will be asked to RSVP. If they are unable to attend, but would like the pin, they are asked to RSVP to that situation. A reception will follow worship to congratulate the 50-year members and welcome new members into our fellowship. Deacons will provide the refreshments (Kandy will be asked if she would be willing to make the cake).

New Member Class: A New Member class will be starting March 26, 2023. It will be held after church at 11:30- 12:45 March 26, April 2, 16, 23 and 30. No class on Easter. Lunch will be provided. A Deacon will attend each class to help with the flow and to contribute in the conversation. Members of each Church group will be asked to attend to share information from that group with the new members. We will review the class summaries at the February meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please let Judy know of your interest.

Deacons Schedule: March 26 – Kay Gow, April 2 – Wendy Phillips, April 9 – Easter no class, April 16 – Lisa Hahn, April 23 – Sharon Frantz, April 30 – Dee Archer

Deacon Minutes - 1/10/23 continued

Hymn Dedication: The hymn dedication has had a rough start. We will re-advertise the hymn dedication in the Spire and in the announcements. The hymn dedication will be sung during the offertory (sitting down). Wendy and Lisa will assist Will in checking the hymn sign-up sheet and Judy will send any request placed in the collection to Will and Holli to be included in the worship service.

Welcome statement: We have been using the current Welcome Statement for quite a while. We reviewed the Welcome statement and have a draft prepared. We will consider the changes and discuss the Welcome Statement next month.

Welcome Statement—Draft

This church welcomes everyone. This church welcomes the faithful. This church welcomes the fallen. This church welcomes those who reach out and those who are so broken that they cannot reach out at all.

This church welcomes those who are joining us online, our neighbors, our extended community and those worshipping with us for the first time.

We welcome children in our worship, for they are our present and our future. This church welcomes you, wherever you are on your faith journey and whoever you are.

Let's welcome the Spirit of our Living God already here among us. To do so, let us pray.

Valentine Outreach - February 12, 2023: Deacons will provide (with the help of Sunday School) the goodie bags. Kay will take the lead on this. Holli will provide the stuff. Goodie Bags to be taken at the end of church to those our congregation knows that could use a lift and a little love. The children will receive a goody bag in Sunday School for themselves.

Ash Wednesday: February 22, 2023 at 6:00

Lenten Services will be encouraged at the Rt 11 Ministerium meeting this week. Deacons suggested that if there is hesitation regarding buildings, refreshments etc. that Will might offer our church.

Good Friday: Dave Schulte has suggested doing the 7 Last words of Christ (actually the seven last phrases) during the Good Friday worship, April 7, 2023 at 6:00. This service will be open to the entire Rt 11 ministerium. Dave is hoping to have readers.

April 8, 2023: Dottie Hagenbuch's memorial service and luncheon. (Willing Workers – meal)

The lily cross will be set up after the memorial service.

Easter: April 9, 2023: Easter Sun Rise Service: 7:00

Sunday School 9:00 (Easter Egg)

Worship 10:00

Dave Schulte indicated that the AED has been ordered. When it comes in. Deacons will schedule Stop the Bleed Classes and CPR/AED Classes for the congregation as needed.

The **next meeting** is February 19, 2023 after church.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Phillips

Missionary Minutes 12-20-2023

Attending: Ellen Holdredge, Wendy Phillips, Priscilla Allen, Sharon Decker, Karen Jones, Peg Empet, Kay Gow, Holli Chichester

Open with Prayer: Priscilla

Cookie Love: Trays of cookies will be taken to Ginny Ahearn, Maureen Warren and Jean Bonham, our much beloved and missing members.

Annual Report: Read for the members

Treasure's Report: starting balance: \$7,178.39

+\$570	In for Shoebox shipping
-\$1,007.78	Shipping of Shoeboxes
-\$500	Interfaith
+16.00	Least Coin
+\$779.75	Bake Sale
-\$105.00	Interfaith Gift Tags (3)
\$6976.30	Final Total

Soup Ministry: Running low on soup. Will make soup Thursday, January 12 at 9:00am in the Kitchen. Peg Empet to purchase soup items. Wendy bringing bouillon. Using 5 pounds of hamburger meat in the freezer. Holli will bring the quart containers.



Least Coin: Wendy Phillips. Karen Project in Thailand. \$3000 to Youth Leadership Development Training in refugee camp.

Correspondence: Letter from CareNet requesting financial assistance.

Discussion of financial support for early 2023:

WRC	\$300
CareNet	\$300
Interfaith	\$300
Trehab	\$300
Weinberg	\$300
Susquehanna Child Evangelism	\$300
My Brother's Keeper	\$300

Total Donation YTD 2023: \$2100

Discussed Ukraine and how to continue to help will bring ideas January.

Representative to Council: January – Peg, February -Sherry, March – Karen, April – Wendy

Next Meeting: January 17, 2023

Missionary Minutes 1/17/23

Attending: Laurie Grant, Peg Empet, Ellen Holdredge, Kay Gow, Sherry Decker, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Wendy Phillips, Karen Jones

Open with Prayer: Priscilla Allen

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Warren read by Sherry Decker

Opening Balance: \$6,871.36

+ \$	21.00	Dues
+ \$	12.30	Least Coin
\$	300.00	Women's Resource Center
\$	300.00	CareNet
\$	300.00	Susq. County Child Evangelism
\$	300.00	Interfaith
\$	300.00	Trehab
\$	300.00	Weinberg NE Foodbank
\$	300.00	My Brother's Keeper

Closing Balance: \$4804.66

Least Coin: Wendy Phillips

Bethune House for Migrant Women in Hong Kong

\$3000 given to support this program

Over 400,000 migrant workers in Hong Kong many facing abuse and poor working conditions.

Bethune House offers shelter, education, medical and legal help for 25-30 women.

Correspondence: In: Letter from the small Japanese church

Out: 4

Soup Ministry: Peg Empet took the lead in soup making. We made 29 quarts of Beef Vegetable Soup. We will remove the notice in the Spire for a while.

Mission Outreach:

UCC – Did not have special mission programs but referred us to online groups.

Doctors Without Borders: This mission is very highly rated although not specifically Christian. We voted to send \$300 to support this mission.

Yard Sale: We have been collecting Yard Sale Items and storing them in Gwenn Diaz's garage. We have been approached for furniture from two families in our area. We have donated two dressers to one family. Recently we were asked for furniture for a family that had a house fire and lost everything. We were able to donate 1 full bed, two twin beds, four dressers, two side tables, a bunk bed, a microwave table and a microwave to this family. We look for ways to help our local families.

We voted to continue support of the house fire family with donations of items when they are made known to us. We also voted to give a Gift Walmart card to this family. Laurie Grant indicated that Laura's Hope Rescue had new towels and other items to donate to this family.

Children's Outreach: Laurie also indicated that Laura's Hope Rescue had many new stuffed animal toys that they would like to donate. Missionary/Christian Education accepted this donation.

Operation Christmas Child: Our OCC Shoeboxes have been shipped to Columbia.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2023 at 1:00

Trustee Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2022

Harry Gardner, Bill Chichester, Gary Housel, Kandy Wellman and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Old Business:

Gary will contact Sentry Alarms about the fire monitoring system.

Julie Gardner will touch up the area where the pew was removed. Connor Freytag will turn the pew that was removed into a bench.

Judy asked for the phone number for the fire monitoring system and will place it on the box so it's visible

Old Lecture Hall basement needs to be cleaned up. It appears the Boy Scouts have done clean-up. Kandy asked why they need to store ALL of their materials in the Lecture Hall basement.

New Business:

Harry and Gary met with a new Insurance Agent. He will provide a quote, but we will need the new quote before the end of the year. Gary is waiting on the 5 year loss history from the current insurance provider

Harry got some solar panels for the security cameras so as to not have to constantly recharge the batteries.

Trustees discussed finding a back up person to shovel snow in cases where Tanner isn't available. Harry offered to shovel in this circumstance.

A potential place to put the pew from the church is against the wall that divides the Lecture Hall and the kitchen. There was an open discussion as to whether to even keep the pew or if it would just always be in the way. Trustees invites suggestions.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Masters

Stewardship Minutes -January 18, 2023

Present for the meeting: Joe Metzler, Kay Gow, Pastor Will, Ellen Holdridge, Nancy Burris and Michelle Estabrook

Pastor Will opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

The minutes from November 2022 were approved we did not meet in December 2022.

Kay showed us what she is working on to display at the Annual Meeting. It is an exhibit showing what our church does for our community with donations and outreach.

Pastor Will talked about the new sermon series he is working on. It will be about membership or attendance – how are we supporting the church.

Nancy Burris brought up an issue she would like council to discuss – she feels the Financial Committee should meet every 3-4 months. It would be good to stay on top of the finances and can we do more to help families in the community? There have been several devastating fires recently. I will bring this up to council at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is February 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the lecture hall.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Estabrook

Ed and Sandy Tingley
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February Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 4 Dana Empet
February 7 Ben Heckman
February 8 Randy Decker
February 14 Charlie and Missy Heller
February 15 Kim Bridgeman
Kathi Feger
February 18 Charlie Grimes
Justin Moser
February 23 Lynette Muller
February 25 Jim and Gail Batzel
February 26 Connor Mitchell
February 27 Charline Hudson
February 28 Kay Gow
Jim Bernosky, Sr.



Congratulations

Baby Jesse Joseph Corbin
Born 11/17/2022
To David and Carly Corbin

Attention!!

We need empty square bottles or other unique bottles about the size of wine bottles for a craft. We also can use the corks! We also can use vintage books that you no longer want for a book/lamp craft. Please take emptied, rinsed bottles to the kitchen and text or call Holli that they are there so she can come get them.



301-643-1775



Notice: Please send all material for March to be included in the Spire to:

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of February 2023!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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 Harford First Congregational Church -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.

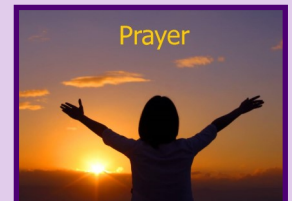


Thank you.

Problems or Issues regarding Harford First Congregational Church—UCC?

Pastoral Relations is the group that handles all concerns, issues and difficulties that can not be resolved directly. These meetings are confidential. Contact the office if you find that you need to meet with Pastoral Relations at **570-434-2260**.

Emails: It has come to our attention that some of you may not be receiving our email prayer lists. This is an oversight that we would like to correct. Please call or email Judy and let her know that you are not receiving the emails.



Attention!

We are fully open for worship at 10:00 am each Sunday!

We have been eager to worship together again. We are now open!!! Our ushers and greeters will be present during the service.

Hymnals and Bibles may be utilized but all text will be available via our new monitors in the sanctuary. We would like to invite those who do not feel ready to worship in groups to watch our livestreaming worship at 10:00 am.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmQ-Xr0lE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>



Men's Breakfast

February 14, 2023 at 7:30am

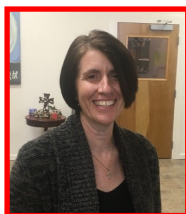
at Bingham's Restaurant.
The second Tuesday of each month.



The Website is up and running.

We have worked hard, but we realize that important things may not have been included. We are still adding and changing things so if you have suggestions, please email Holli Chichester at hollischichester@gmail.com or call 301-643-1775. Please check it out at

www.firstchurchharford.com



Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church
Please contact Tammy if you have registered but do not plan to pick up.

Next distributions Friday, February 24, 2023 from 4:30-5:30

Any income can apply, complete the form online firstchurchharford.com or call Tammy @ 570-396-7081.

Day of Distribution please bring with you a photo ID and a current household bill with your current Susquehanna County address.



**The Harford Volunteer
Fire Company**



**Chicken Barbeque
February 19, 2023**

**Pick-up only
Harford Fire Hall
12:00-2:00
\$12.00**

**Contact Judy 570-434-2716 or 570-396-8184 for
Tickets.**

**Deadline to order or purchase tickets is
February 12, 2023**



North Harford Willing Worker

Bake Sale and Potato Sale

February 19, 2023

12:00-2:00

During the Harford Fire Hall

Chicken BBQ.



To pre-order or reserve items contact Holli at 301-643-1775.

Home Bound

Martha Jenkins

Norma Carey

Jean Bonham

Lynola Carey

Dorothy Greene

Barbara Pease

Joanne Connolly

John Zimmerman

JoAnn Titus



Prayer Concerns

-We pray for our nation to be blessed and that our nation seeks its blessings

-We pray for our national and local leaders

-All school districts—this includes school board members, administration, faculty, staff, parents and students

-for those with medical issues large and small

-David and Brandy and family

-Those with Alzheimer's and their families

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addiction

-Lois Gibson and all those in nursing homes along with their families

-Will's kids

-Evan Clarkson, Andrew Kazmierczak, Robert Schulte and all those serving in the military

-Sandy Zupanovich

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-law enforcement officers & EMS

-hospital workers and fire personnel

-George Lotter

-Maureen Warren

-Truck drivers, farmers & Small businesses

-Kristine Koehler

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Family of Lola Zimmerman

-Family of Richie Masters

-Jean Bonham

-Family of Elsie Hackbart

-Norma Carey

-Family of Barbara Pompey

-Martina Lingobardo

-Mark Ezdebski

- Dave Casey

-Earl Gow

-Karen Doolittle

-Paula Adams

-Mike (Tammy Stout's step-brother)

-Hollister Family (House Fire)

-Ruth Ann Batzel

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-John Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Ginny and Charlie Ahearn

-John Holdredge

-Andy Granick

-Margaret Frederick

-JoAnn Titus

-Joanne Zick

-War in Ukraine

-Dorothy Greene

-Vivian Rutherford

-Meals-on-Wheels Program

-Millie Tingley

-Family of Dorothy Hagenbuch

-Cheryl Augustine

-Kandy Wellman

-Julie Kesten

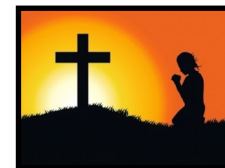
-All those battling cancer

-Phil (Schulte's son)

-Valerie (Wendy Phillips' sister)

-Jackie (Ivie Simon's friend)

-Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)



Women's Lunch

3rd Monday of each month

12:00 at Bingham's

All Welcome!

Bring a Friend



Greeters and Ushers

Feb. 5: Dee Archer (Greeter/Usher)
Sharon Frantz (Usher)

Feb. 12: Gary Phillips (Greeter/Usher)
Judy Mitchell and Emma (Ushers)

Feb. 19: Sue Needham (Greeter/Usher)
Irv Needham (Usher)

Feb. 26: Karen Jones (Greeter/Usher)
Kay Gow (Usher)



October Lay Readers

Feb 5th- Kandy Wellman
Feb 12th- Peg Empet
Feb 19th- Gary Phillips
Feb 26th- Ellen Holdredge



Celebrate the joys in life!

Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, weddings,
births, graduations and let us celebrate with you!

Contact Tammy at 570-396-7081

for more information or to request your celebration sign.



A Kingsley Willing Worker Christmas



Trustees

The Trustees are working on repurposing the pew removed from the sanctuary (to give us more accessibility). The legs have been adjusted and the pew awaits repainting (Julia Gardner has volunteered to paint the pew).

Thank you to all!!!



Hymn Dedication

Dedicate the Offertory Hymn of any Sunday Service in Honor or in Memory of someone. There is a sign up sheet in the Hallway next to the Flower sign-up sheet or place a card in the collection plate with the hymn and the name of the individual to whom you wish to honor.



Spire Sponsor

In memory of my brother,
Butch Hagenbuch
Jean Kretzing



Correspondence

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the choir and congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, thank you for allowing us to borrow "*When I Get to Heaven, I Will Sing*". It was a blessing for our worship service on All Saints Sunday. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity! In Christian Love, Pastor Tony Lorenz

Dear Church Family,

May the blessing of a bright and peaceful Christmas be yours. It is with a thankful heart for all the cards, calls, and general best wishes that come my way from all of you.

Many blessings this holy season. Love, Jean Bonham

Dear First Church Family,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Love, Mallory

Dear Church Friends,

Wishing you all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Merry Christmas to all of you, and best wishes for the holidays! Love, Dorothy Greene

Dear Cradle Roll,

Thank you so much for the blanket that was made for Jesse. It is beautiful! Emma loves the one that was made for her as it is so nice and cozy. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We hope to be out and about soon, but for now we are laying low with cold season being here.

See you all soon, Thank you again! Love, Carly, David, Emma, and Jesse Corbin

Dear Congregation,

May the New Year bring us and our loved ones much happiness, joy, strength, and courage to face Any challenges which come our way. Love in Christ, Kay Gow

Dear Friends at Harford Church,

Thank you. Just a note to thank you for your kindness. Thank you for the generous donation. It helped with our missions in Papua, New Guinea, and Bancroft Bible Camp and our building project.

Blessings! Thank you so much for your kind donation! Happy Blessed New Years! Pastor Ray Mitchell

Thank you for your generous gift and partnership in the gospel ministry. Pastor Mike

**** Note to Congregation****

David Oakley donated many, many hours to hooking up our new computers in the office. Council voted to donate \$1,000 to David's church. The above note explains how the donation was used at David's church.

Dear Harford First Congregational Church Congregation,

Thank you so much for the cards, notes and support that you have given our family during this time of sorrow. We very much appreciate your care.



The Roger Whittaker Family

Correspondence Continued

Dear Church Family,

When we face death of a loved one, the unimaginable takes over. During this period family and friends become a part of this with us. As hard as it is to face, it would also been unimaginable not having Faith and a Church family supporting us. Repeatedly we heard that it was a beautiful celebration of Richie's life. The music, the words, the atmosphere in the church touched us all.



There could never be enough words to thank our community and church family for being present in our time of need; with the many cards and notes, along with donations received. We thank the outreach of Willing Workers who provided desserts, Bob Deluca for the beautiful Bell Choir's Harford and Note-A Bell. They played Breath and The Lord's Prayer. We also thank the Tech committee of Tammy Stout and Holli Chichester that streamed the service live and on YouTube so those that could not attend still were able to be with us. We are grateful for Pastor Will and Judy Mitchell for their assistances with the service programing coordination and Robbie Fisher for playing Riche's song requests. Kay Gow giving attention to the balcony so that it was prepared for the Bell Choir and guests. It became a difficult weather day at the time of the service, but the Trustees made sure the slippery driveway was attended to.

The beautiful prelude, Richie's favorite on his requested meditative music (Heavens Window). In Richie's expression of gratitude and deep appreciation, he would always say, "It's more than I ever could ask for."

With Heartfelt Appreciation, The Family of Richie Masters

Dear Congregation,

Along with our families, my sister, brother and I want to extend a sincere THANK YOU for the kindness, support and love you have shown us at the time of our mother's loss. You have touched our hearts. Additionally, you always make "Harford" home to my sister and brother. For this, I am grateful.

I want to add that my children are especially touched by your care and concern at the time of their grandmom's death. The Upper 5 (as they're sometimes called these days) have known tremendous loss in their short lives. Your attention, consideration and conversations are amazing gifts. I cannot thank you enough for being so available to my children.

The steps we take together as we move toward my mom's April 8th memorial service are easier because of you. Thank you again.



Yours in Christ, Will

Correspondence Continued

Invitation from New Milford /rifle and Pistol club:

To: First Congregational Church Members

We all pray we will never have to face violence, but sometimes it walks through the front door, even in a place where we should feel safe. Mass shootings have become all too familiar today and that is unacceptable. The cadre of instructors at New Milford Rifle and Pistol Club have responded to this by becoming credentialed as instructors for the USCCA Countering the Mass Shoot Threat. We are inviting Church Leaders, Church Security and Parishioners to attend this course.

This class specifically addresses the challenges and potential threats that Houses of Worship face and helps you to learn how to recognize danger and build a security plan while identifying weak points at your facility in order to mitigate overall risk to your congregation.

In this course, you will analyze data gathered from 48 mass shootings that have occurred since columbine to determine what can be learned from these tragedies. You will also be able to identify unique security challenges faced by Houses of Worship and solutions to these challenges that you can readily apply to your own facility.

In so much as New Milford Rifle and Pistol Club is a not-for-profit entity, and due to the vital implications of this training, we will be offering this course for a nominal fee. We can conduct the course at your location or our facility whichever is more convenient for you. Additional, representatives of several Houses of worship could attend the training together.

If you are interested in attending this training, please contact John Ord, 570-396-8798 or Fred Grasso, 570-434-2873 for additional information.

Thank you. We look forward to providing you with Actions and Solutions instead of Hopes and Prayers.

Information I have received after talking with Mr. Grasso:

The minimal cost for this 4-6 hour class is \$15.00 per person.

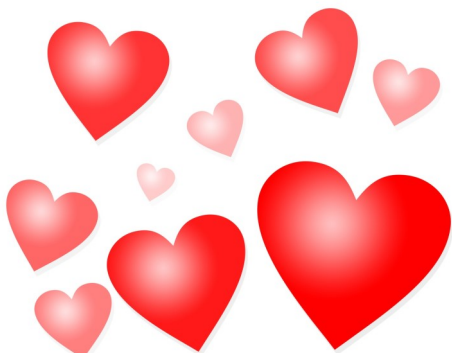
There is also a textbook available if desired-cost \$25.

All information would be covered in the class.

A Saturday class would probably be a good time to have this instruction as to the time involved. They would come to our church or we could go to their club. Needed would be a smart TV or screen or blank wall.

Please contact Judy if you might be interested in attending this class. jmm@nep.net 570-434-2716.

Thank you.



Spire Sponsor
Happy Valentine's Day
The Winemiller Family



SOUP, SOUP, *SALE*, SOUP, SOUP

Kingsley Willing Workers

Kingsley Willing Workers will be offering a soup sale on March 05, 2023, after worship service.

The sale of the soup will be by **pre-order only**.

Order by February 29, 2023. Cost will be \$8.00 a quart.

The following soups will be offered at our March 5 soup sale.

Broccoli Cheese

Chicken Noodle

Hot Sausage Tortellini

New England Clam Chowder

Taco soup

Please email Judy or call Judy 570-434-2716 or 570-396-8184 or jmm@nep.net with your order.

Thank you very much,
Kingsley Willing Workers



Spire Sponsor

In honor of the church committees that work so tirelessly



-Ellen Holdredge



VBS

Save the Date: June 12-15, 2023

10:00—12:30

**Multi-Church Vacation Bible School
At Harford First Congregational Church**



Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Holli Chichester: hollischichester@gmail.com
or 301-643-1775

To benefit First Congregational Church



Your Ministry

Your Membership

**How your ministry
(God's calling in your life)
is made better, bolder and brighter
by your membership here at
Harford Church.**

**New Member classes start March 26,
2023 and continue April 2, 16, 23 and
30 with joining on May 7, 2023.**

Classes after church at 11:15-12:45.

Lunch is included.

February 2023

February 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
7:30am Fire Co. 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Quarter back (PO) 7:30pm Harford Fair mtg (LH)	9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	1:00pm Qtrly WW mtg (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office	10:00am Pastor in office	12:00pm LH hall rented (LH)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Quarter back (PO) 3:30pm Girl Scouts (LH) 7:00pm Trustees	7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Pastoral Relations mtg 9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	6:00pm Stewardship mtg (LH)	10:00am KWW (LH) 10:00am Pastor in office	10:00am KWW (LH) 10:00am Pastor in office	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Quarter back (PO) 12:00pm Ladies Lunch (Binghams)	9:30am Ugly Quilts 1:00pm Missionary mtg (LH) 7:00pm Choir	ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00pm Service (Sanctuary)	10:00am Pastor in office 5:00pm Council mtg	10:00am Pastor in office 5:00pm Council mtg	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 11:20am Deacons 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Quarter back (PO) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	10:00am Pastor in office 5:00pm Council mtg	10:00am Weinberg-sorting/packaging (LH) 4:30pm Weinberg Distribution (Outside)	
26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
<i>Last day to order</i> Kingsley WW Soup Sale 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts	9:30am Quarter back (PO)	9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir				



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Permit—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

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5016 Creek Road
PO Box217
Harford, PA 18823
Tel.570-434-2260
Email: firstch@nep.net
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com

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

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MAIL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Rev. Dr. William Hagenbuch –Pastor
Home Phone: 570-434-7729
Email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12:00

Judy Mitchell –Sec
Hours: Monday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00