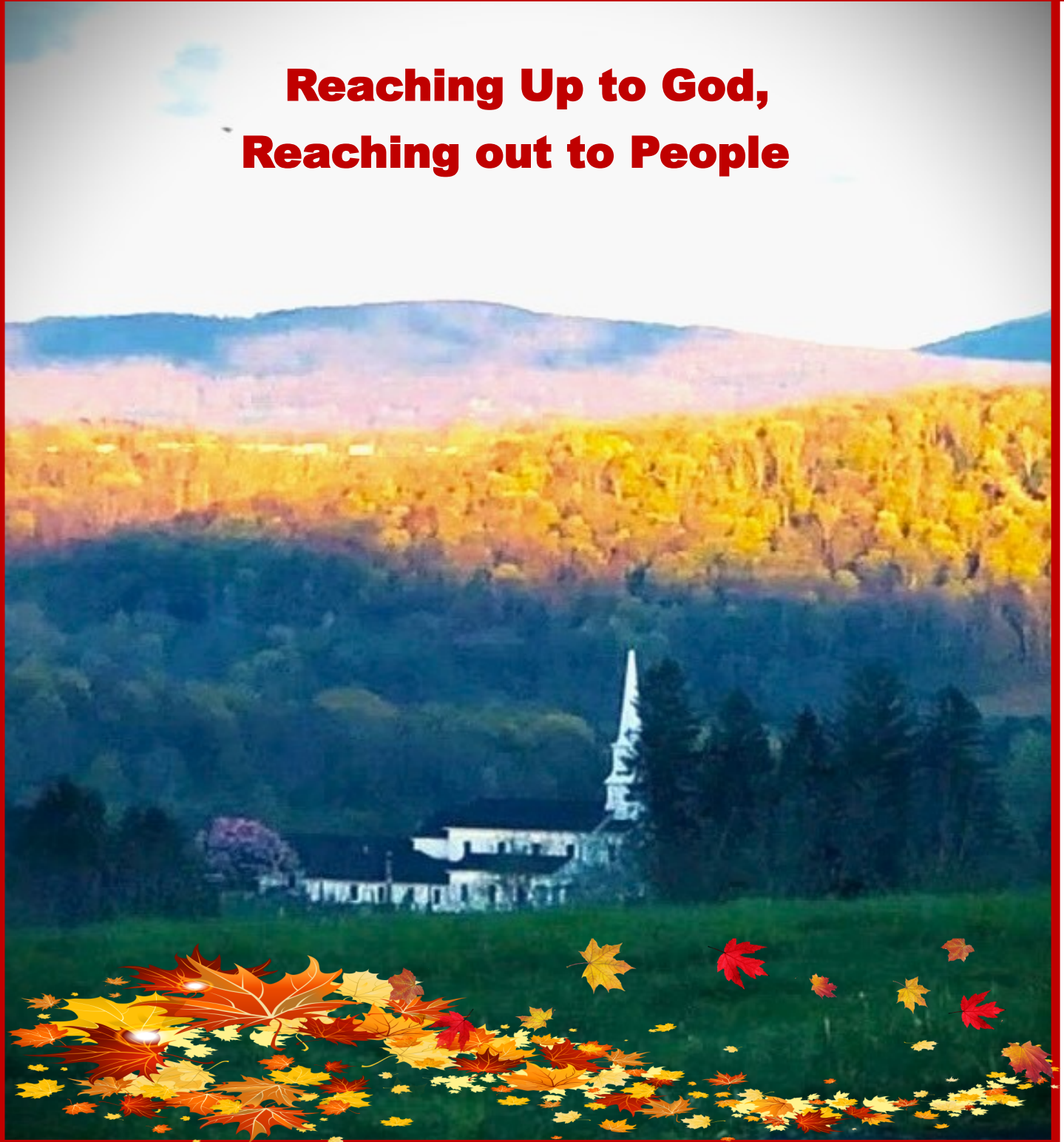


Our Spire

Volume 43 Number 8

October 2023

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



Pastor's Page:

Dear Congregation

Have you ever wondered how Jesus can sleep while His fearful (and likely clamorous) disciples—who are literally right beside Him— experience incredible winds, pelting rain and turbulent waves that tip, turn and threaten to sink what cannot be an exceptionally large boat?

The story of Jesus calming the sea appears in the synoptic gospels. It's such an important story that carries for all of us an important question: How can Jesus be sleeping during such a troubling time?

We can extend the question. How can we be at peace during times that are not peaceful?

In the four-part Peacekeepers sermon series we had this September, I began with how we would end. That's right! Just before the first scripture lesson was shared at the pulpit on September third, I shared with you, the congregation, where we were headed and what our final scripture would be in the series.

Just before Sue Needham, our lay reader that day, read Matthew 5:1-10, 13 and 14 (where our focus verse was "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God*"), I shared that we'd be in the topsy turvy boat with Jesus when the series ended on September twenty fourth.

Think about the disciples in the boat. Think about yourself. How can we be at peace when the world around us isn't peaceful?

The Spirit led us to understand that peace isn't self-generated. Contrary to what we might think (or try to practice), peace is not something we experience by wishing for it, meditating on it, or creating it on our own.

Peace comes when we center on and learn from the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Now it's true that Jesus didn't always experience peace. The gospels reveal times Jesus appears to be angry (Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 3:5, Mark 11:15-18, and John 2:13-22). He also wept (Luke 19:41-44). Certainly this isn't peaceful! Yet these texts reveal a real Jesus in a real world filled with the very situations we experience or could experience.

Yet Jesus is peaceful. The quintessential text that demonstrates this peace is the story of Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8:23–27, Mark 4:35–41, and Luke 8:22–25).

The environment around Jesus in this storm is tumultuous. Yet Jesus is literally at rest. He is at peace. This peace is not something Jesus keeps to Himself. It's peace Jesus shares with us.

Blessed peacemakers who are children of God, we experience peace in our stormy situations when we realize what the disciples realized: Jesus is right beside us. Even more so, Jesus IS right WITH US!

We can only share peace as a peacemaker when we experience peace from Jesus.

Our world needs His peace. Let's continue to be peacemakers so that all the hard winds and storms are silenced and stilled because Jesus' peace prevails.

Peacemakers have learned peace is not the absence of upset. Rather, it's the control over it.

Dear Congregation,

You get to determine if this church will continue to offer vital ministry, make a difference in a sometimes, dangerous world, and offer the broken a chance to heal, connect and love again.

It is your choice.

If you choose to open the door to your heart, you'll find you have the opportunity to open the door for others to know peace, live joy and share love where there is (or has been) very little peace, very little joy and very little love.

You get to make the difference.



LITTLE KNOWN FACT:

The very first church that called me to interview for the position of full-time pastor was the Hallstead Presbyterian Church. This was in September, 2005. I received my MDiv in May, 2004. Why not, I thought. They called me. I had the three-year master's degree. Let's go. Let's see.

That door didn't open for me. I left that interview knowing God didn't want me there. It just wasn't right. The Hallstead Presbyterian Church permanently closed its doors several years ago.

To imagine Harford First Congregational-UCC closing its doors and becoming another lifeless building is unimaginable to me. It's likely unimaginable to you, too.

I remember the twenty-something who shared the following about Harford First Congregational-UCC, her family's home of worship for many generations: "You may not see me there, but I **am** there." She meant that while she wasn't an active part of the congregation, she was still a part of the church. A connection—the connection—was strong for her.

Maybe you're like her. Maybe now is the time to hear Jesus knocking on the door. Jesus is calling you to be a part of an active church. You can choose to be involved in the Spirit of a living movement that seeks the lost and cares for the lame and the lonely, the bruised and the broken.



A stewardship letter was recently sent to you and 279 others. Let's hear from all 280! Please respond to that letter or contact church secretary Judy Mitchell at 570/434-2260 or firstchharford@gmail.com. Check in. Say hi. Connect. Let us know how you are. Maybe you need to experience a door opening, or somehow you have had a door close. Let us help you. Let us hear you. Let us hold you in prayer.

COME EACH WEEK. YOU'LL SEE A DIFFERENT DOOR.

Five different doors will be in place during the five weeks the Stewardship Committee will help us hear where and how God is calling us into 2024. Each week I will speak to what it is like for us when doors open. The hope Christ gives us each day will be reflected in scripture, sermon, call, and affirmation. How and where Christ is using us as a 223-year-old church is exciting, empowering, and certainly equipping for the challenges our world faces today.

HOW TO BE A PART OF THIS:

- 1). Open the door.** Open the door to the possibility that this congregation can do far more than “just continue” but can actually live into the promises of the Kingdom of God. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, “...Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...” we can (and will do) God's will on earth!
- 2). Pray.** Pray for what needs to be opened in your heart and mind. God is good. He'll answer this prayer.
- 3). Participate.** I'm not sure what this means for you exactly. It's likely you don't know, either, at least not now! But God **IS** calling you with His care for you, His love for you, and with ministries large or small that He has for you.
- 4). Listen.** Recall Elijah on Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19). I preached on this text on September 17th. God didn't speak to the prophet in the wind, earthquake or fire. God spoke to Elijah in the still, small voice—a whisper. It's likely God is using that same still, small voice as He speaks to you. Whatever God says to you, wow, it's going to open what needs to be opened for you.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”

— Revelation 3:20



*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man
hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in
to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
Revelation 3:20*

Dear Friend,

Opening the door to our hearts often brings heartache, pain, sorrow, and grief. But on the other side we have joy, love, and happiness.

The Stewardship Committee's theme for our 2024 Pledge Campaign is, "Open the door to your heart so our church doors can stay open."

Wouldn't it be nice to know if, and when one needed our church in the future for a service (baptism, wedding, memorial service) that our church is still open and available?

Please keep your heart and mind open to our church's gift giving for 2024.

Yours in Christ,
The Stewardship Committee
Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

Harford First Congregational Church-UCC
Reverend Doctor Will Hagenbuch
PO Box 217, 5016 Creek Road, Harford, PA 18823
Office: (570) 434-2260, Lecture Hall: (570) 434-2137, Pastor's home (570) 434-7729
E-mail-church---firstchharford@gmail.com
Pastor's emails---wrh@nep.net and pastorwill.firstchurch@gmail.com
Web site ---www.firstchurchharford.com/ Facebook---Harford First Congregational Church-UCC
Live Worship:[https://www.youtube.com/ channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZSOyVs7dtg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZSOyVs7dtg)

2024-Time and Talents

Christian Education

Candle Lighting _____
Sunday School Helper _____

Church Program

9:30 Monday meeting _____

Committee-serve

Deacons (member only) _____
Stewardship(anyone) _____
Trustee (Member only) _____

Deacons

Altar Flowers Provide _____
Bible Study _____
Coffee Hour Help _____
Greeter at doors _____
Read on Sundays _____
Usher _____
Visit shut-ins _____

Missionary

Donate to Disaster Kits _____
Donate to Shoe Box _____
Soup Ministry _____

Music

Bell Choir _____
Choir _____

Outreach

Cocoa-donate _____
Drive folks-appointments _____
Golf Tournament _____
Peanut Butter/Jelly-donate _____
Pick up folks for service _____
Spire Sponsor _____
Ugly Quilts-help _____
Weinberg-Help _____

Trustees

Church up-keep _____
Memorial Garden _____
Repairs/maintenance _____
Yard Clean-up _____

Willing Workers

Attend Meetings _____
Attic Treasures _____
Dinners _____
Log Cabin help _____

Youth

Fair Dinner Help _____
Yard clean-up _____

Other

Name _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

**PLEASE RETURN BY
NOVEMBER 5, 2023
THANK YOU**

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Christian Education

Candle Lighting _____
Sunday School Helper _____

Church Program

9:30 Monday meeting _____

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Other

Name _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

**Keep this side for your
Records**



*Harford First Congregational
Church-UCC*

**2024
Commitment Card**

*Let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity: for
God loveth a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9: 7*

In the next calendar year (2024) the church will
Receive from you a contribution of

\$ _____ per
(Week) (Month) (Year)
(Please circle one)

Please apply the pledge above as follows:

- \$ _____ General budget
- \$ _____ for Our Churches Wider Mission
(OCWM)
- \$ _____ for Capital Fund (Property & Large
Maintenance & Improvement)
- \$ _____ Other _____
- \$ _____ Other _____
- \$ _____ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

*Return this side to the financial
secretary (Judy), or mail to the
office, or deposit in the collection
plate*

by November 5, 2023

Thank you very much.

(Envelopes will be supplied to you, as
the least we can order is 50.)



*Harford First Congregational
Church-UCC*

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Maintenance & Improvement)
- \$ _____ Other _____
- \$ _____ Other _____
- \$ _____ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

*Please detach and Keep this
copy for your records*

To make expense every month in general (example: electric, payroll, office and programs). We will need \$12,939.17 a month to meet our Budget for 2023.

Here is the Income and Expenses for 2002 and 2023.

| August | 2022 | August | 2023 |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Income: | \$13,061.80 | Income: | \$7,920.20 |
| Expense: | \$13,117.93 | Expenses: | \$11,506.28 |
| Total: | -\$56.13 | Total: | -\$3,586.08 |

General Year to Date for 2023

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Income: | \$122,701.68 |
| Expenses: | \$95,074.04 |
| Total: | \$27,627.64 |

Other Council NEWS

Christian Education: Dave Schulte created a first aid kit for the Sunday School rooms. Clifford Methodist Church has been contacted to see if they would like to join us for VBS 2024.

Class: Stop the Bleed Class will be offered in January. Stay Tuned for more info.

Cocoa Collection: Cocoa collection will start in November. We hope to collect 150 boxes this year.

Interfaith Christmas Tags: We will be getting 25 tags from Interfaith for Children's Christmas gifts.

Finance Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss combining some categories on the Treasurer's spread sheet and to discuss the Memorial fund..

Choir: Practicing Tuesdays. Will sing again at the Feast of the Pascal Lamb.

Bell Choir: Practicing 2nd and 4th Sundays after church. Working on a Christmas selection.

Cradle Roll: 1 child receiving a birthday book.

Pastor Relations: Met September 12. Next meeting October 10.

Council Meeting dates: October 26 at 6:00
November 30 at 6:00
December—none
January 4, 2024 at 6:00

Annual Meeting: January 28 , 2024 after church.

Deacons 9-17-23

Attending: Nancy Burris, Sharon Frantz, Dee Archer, Kay Gow, Linda Lindsey, Holli Chichester, Will Hagenbuch

Opened in Prayer: Linda Lindsey

Communion: World Wide Communion is October 1, 2023. We will use the pre-packaged communion until it is gone. Stewardship is starting the fall campaign and pre-packaged takes less time. The next communion will be November 19, 2023.

Ushers: Karen Jones gets the ushers. Jobs include: greeting, handing out bulletins, taking the count during the service, ringing the bell with selected children (rotating who is selected), offering.

Lay Reader: Kay Gow gets the lay readers. Jobs include: welcome, responsive readings, scripture and benediction.

Candles: Kay Gow will manage the lighting and extinguishing of the candles with selected children. Rotating who is selected. Kay will also change out the candles as needed.

Bible Study: We will study Ephesians: Wholeness for a Broken World: We will meet every first Sunday after church 11:15-12:00 in the lecture hall. The facilitator will encourage participation and lead when necessary. After December, attendees will be asked if they would like to facilitate. The Bible study will be xeroxed. Bible study will be encouraged during the announcement time. Facilitators: October: Linda Lindsey, November: Kay Gow, December: Dee Archer

Community Outreach: Trunk or Treat is October 29, 2023 from 2:00-3:00. We will put up a sign-up sheet to determine who can help. The Trick or Treaters will enter the back parking lot door and follow a path through the church. The congregation members participating will give out the treats they supply at each station. Game will be available to those congregation participants that wish to have a game at their station. (Corn Hole, Clothes pin in the bottle, ring toss, hoop throw, ball in the basket, etc). Flyers will be sent out at MountainView and Blue Ridge elementary schools.

Christmas Tree Lighting: November 26, 2023 at 6:00pm. Theme: Tree of Love (Hearts, Stars, Angels). Pastor Will plans to MC the event. Robbie Fisher will be asked to play for the Christmas carol sing. Deacons will make invitations next meeting. Kay will make the Cards. Plan to invite: Fire company, police, state police, deacons, trustees, stewardship, CE, Willing Workers, Ugly Quilts, Choir, Missionary, school board, principals, boy scouts, girl scouts, 4H, Township Supervisors, Route 11 churches. Others will be added as needed.

The Stouts will be asked if they want to do the lights on the tree this year. They said yes. The ornaments will be red, silver and white. We plan to have coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cookies.

Missionary 9-26-23

Attending: Karen Jones, Ellen Holdredge, Ruth Ann Batzel, Wendy Phillips, Peg Empet, Sherry Decker, Kay Gow, Holli Chichester, Grace Allen

Open in Prayer: Karen Jones

Opening Comments: Priscilla Allen, current president of Missionary is retiring from this position. Karen asked for those interested in taking this position. It was decided that Karen will step into the president role.

Minutes: read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sherry Decker is handling the treasurer's position until Maureen is well enough to return. Paid out: \$132.94 to Least Coin from (Missionary and Willing Workers)

In: \$9,077.67 Yard Sale

Least Coin Report: Wendy Phillips – Discussed a program in Canberra, Australia that has converted a coach bus into sleeping quarters for women and children escaping abuse. The bus has 10 pods with two beds each.

Daily Bread: the order for the church has been renewed 10 regular print and 10 large print. We have traditionally given a \$75 donation to cover cost to Daily Bread. We voted to increase this donation to \$150.

Werkheiser Relief: We received another \$40 for the Werkheiser's. This will be sent to them with a note. We will see if we can get an update on their progress.

Summer Lunch Box Update: SLB is settled into the old Master's Concrete building in Kingsley. Shelving is in place along with two large chest freezers (one from willing workers and one from missionary). Two commercial refrigerators and one commercial freezer have been donated anonymously and have been installed. Tables have been purchased and are in place.

This program fed a total of 616 children throughout through the summer in Susquehanna County:

282 children - MountainView/Blue Ridge

124 children - Elk Lake

132 children - Montrose at Interfaith

8 children - Montrose/Choconut

Total Grocery Expense: \$40,450.48

Total Milk Expense: \$ 4,796.05

Total Expense: \$45,246.53

MountainView School: All children can receive free breakfast and lunch.

MountainView Back Pack Program: Teacher, Kelly Richmond, has started a Backpack food program and food pantry for any high/middle school child to come and get a snack or food for the weekend. Her Life Skills Class is assembling these backpacks (17-20 inch). Missionary voted to send \$100 to support this program and get more information and updates.

They are looking for donations of the following items:

*Backpacks (basic, washable, large 17-20 inch)

Nonperishable food items: granola bars, cereal, instant oatmeal, pancake mix (just add water), peanut butter, jelly, bread, fruit cups, canned fruit, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, pasta, sauce, canned tuna, canned soup, cup o soup

***Basket for collections at the back of the church.

Missionary continued:

Operation Christmas Child: Program to introduce Jesus to Children that may not have had that opportunity. Christmas boxes are given along with the Good NEWS of Jesus Christ. We will begin the Program October 8 and run through November 5.

The congregation can select the age and sex of the child. Shoe boxes will be available along with choices of small stuffed animals.

Missionary voted to purchase 50 pairs of “A shoe that grows” www.becauseinternational.org at \$20/pair. These shoes can increase 5 sizes, are easy to clean are very sturdy. The shoes will be available for children 5-9 and 10-14 (school aged).

Sign up with information about the program and items to include will be available before and after worship October 8-29. Boxes are due back November 5. Please include \$10 cash or check made out to “Missionary” to cover shipping.

Election Day Bake Sale: A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the gathering room for those that would like to help Missionary with the Election Day Bake Sale at the Fire Hall.

Yard Sale: A discussion was had about the Yard Sale. This fund raiser is a huge community outreach that connects with so many people and raises a phenomenal amount of money to support our church’s missions and outreaches. As our congregation ages, we find that more help is necessary from the congregation. The congregation will be asked to provide more assistance moving, unpacking and sorting our yard sale items next year. The sale is planned for Labor Day Weekend.

Correspondence: Since Karen is stepping into the president position, Kay Gow will take over the correspondence for missionary.

In: Thank yous from The SLB Program, Priscilla Allen and Maureen Warren

Letter from Jean Bonham

Out: sympathy

Soup Ministry: We are out of chicken and turkey-based soups. Will make turkey noodle October 5, 2023 at 9:00. Holli has a turkey, Wendy will cook it, Peg will get the recipe from Kandy Wellman and purchase the ingredients. Wendy will make the labels and Holli has the containers.

Military Care Packages: We would like to send out care packages to our members in the military. Families of these person will be contacted to get preferences and addresses.

Counsel Representatives: September 28 – Karen, October 26 – Wendy, November TBD.

Other Church Missions: We will be participating in the Clothing drive, Christmas Tags, Cocoa drive.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2023 at 1:00.

Stewardship Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2023

The Stewardship Committee met on September 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

We stuffed the envelopes for our fall campaign – about 275 envelopes were done. It was certainly a team effort!

We went over the readings for the campaign which will start on Sunday, October 1, 2023, and wrap up on November 5, 2023.

Oct 1 – Wendy Phillips

Oct 8 – Ellen Holdredge

Oct 15 – Shirley Masters

Oct 22 – Peg Empet

Oct 29 – Michelle Estabrook

Nov 5 – Ellen Holdredge

We started to look at the budget for 2024.

Our next meeting will be October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Estabrook, Secretary

Trustee Minutes September

Trustees met on Monday September 11th. Harry Gardener, Jim Batzel, Irv Needham and Kandy Wellman attended the meeting.

There was further discussion concerning the front doors of the church. Gary Conklin said that he can work on the door. A plan and estimate will be done in the spring. It will go to Council before any work is done.

Irv is going to make and post a map of the location of fire extinguishers in the church. He will also be putting up signs to indicate their location in case of an emergency. We feel the code for the office door should be provided to the fire company in case a fire occurred in the office area. A floor plan of the buildings may also be useful to the fire company.

The carpets were cleaned and look much better.

Brendan Herbert will be plowing for the church this winter.

Kandy Wellman



Operation Christmas Child

Missionary Group is kicking off our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. Boxes and lists of item suggestions will be available all through the month of October 2023. Completed boxes to be returned by November 5, 2023.



*Don't forget the \$10 shipping fee please!

Pastor's Report:

September marks a month of visits! Having time in August to refresh and rejuvenate makes me all the more appreciative of the home visits I have with shut ins. This month has been busy. I haven't seen everyone, so if I've missed you or a neighbor, please let me know. I'll be more than happy to stop by.

Sometimes our seniors choose to "meet" me by phone, which is understandable given the situation with health. In person connections are always best, but how good to it to meet with the congregation whichever is best.

I've enjoyed meeting people new to the congregation as well. After worship chats are typically not very in depth (understandably), but it's a start! How good it is to greet people we, the congregation, haven't met before.

I want to share a thank you for those of you who do reach out to me about goings on in your life. Often I don't know about what's happening with you unless you share it, and it's always best to hear any news from you directly (and sometimes privately and confidently). I say this: Let me do my job! Let me sit with, sigh and even shoulder any situation or storm you are experiencing. I can't go into any details with conversations I have had, but I can share that teens and twentysomethings and as well Gen X and Baby Boomers have heard God and do open to me what event or hardship is happening in their lives.

Speaking of teens, it's GREAT to enjoy my Sunday school class each Sunday in my office. I am equipping my students to engage in the world theologically and practically. Our "life as a teen" questions and situations are relevant, informative, and enlightening. All teens are welcome in my office at 9 AM on Sunday mornings.

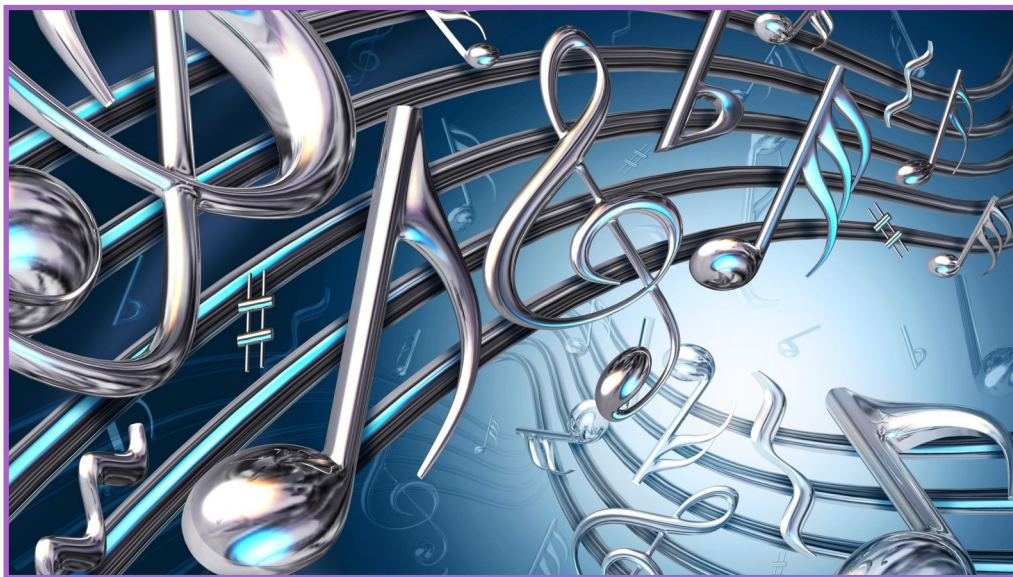
The four-part September *Peacekeepers* sermon series has concluded. I remain SO grateful for *Let There Be Peace in Me*, a hymn in *Our Favorites*. On one level, yes, peace does begin with us. Peace is certainly expressed and shared through us by God. I'm not disagreeing with the lyrics to this favorite hymn of mine, but I believe peace begins with God and God alone. We cannot know the peace that passes understanding until we follow the Prince of Peace in worship not now and again, but each day, every day and always.

I wanted a relevant topic as we began the fall of 2023. I wanted the topic to be linked Sunday to Sunday, so that we could build on it, not have a "one and done" Sunday four times in a row. The texts I chose on peace spoke to each other, informed each other, and equip us with a deeper and richer understanding that peace isn't hit and miss. Peace is not contingent on our moods or any season of any kind we may experience for a time. Peace comes from Christ. As active agents of Christ, being a peacemaker is not an option, it's a calling.

Please keep your weekly prayer list close to you and visit it as often as you can. So many depend on your prayers. God Bless you!

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.



Beginning Hand Bell Choir

Our beginner hand bell choir has started. Practice will be held right after church every 2nd and 4th Sundays.

No prior experience is necessary and the ability to read music helps but is also not necessary.

Please text or call Earl Cottrell for question or to let him know that you are interested at 701-405-3417.



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

Ruth Ann Batzel
Apt. #307
201 School Street
Harford
PA 18823



William Hackbart
505 Clubhouse Road
Vestal
NY 13850-3736

Correspondence

Thank you
First Congregational Church of Harford,
Thank you very much for the Bible you gifted to me.
It has already been put to great use.
From, Jonathon Symuleski

******From Kingsley Willing Workers******
Check November's Spire for Kingsley Willing Workers
November Soup Sale Information

Volunteer Delivering Meals on Wheels

Looking for volunteers to deliver meals for the Fairdale (Montrose) and Clifford locations, both are on Monday's.

I am not sure about Clifford but we deliver for Montrose and leave the house at 10:00 am and are back home by 1:00 pm. The three hours go by quite quickly.

In addition, most consumers are very thankful and grateful. You also are reimbursed for your mileage during delivery route.

Please contact the Area on Aging for more information. Or if you have any questions ask me---

Area Aging Telephone number--570-278-3751

Thanks, Linda Lindsey



Spire Sponsor

Winemiller Family



Arts. Crafts. Food. Fun.

FREE ADMISSION

**The Clifford United Methodist Church
is hosting a Craft Fair at
1460 PA-106, Clifford, PA**

**Saturday, November 4th
10 am to 4 pm**

Featuring Local Vendors

We are still accepting Vendor Applications!

Food, baked goods, and beverages available to purchase

Fundraising benefits local families for Christmas 2023

For more information please contact:

Sarah Smith (570) 906-5243

CliffordUMCWebmaster@gmail.com



**Clifford United
Methodist Church**
Main Street, Clifford

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Chicken, Biscuit, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Harvard Beets & Dessert

Wednesday, Oct. 18th, 2023

TAKE OUT ONLY - DRIVE THRU

FROM 4:00 to 6:00 pm or until

Sold Out

Donations \$12



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

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of October 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.

Home Bound

Lynola Carey
Joanne Connolly

Martha Jenkins
Dorothy Greene
John Zimmerman

Norma Carey
Vivian Rutherford
JoAnn Titus

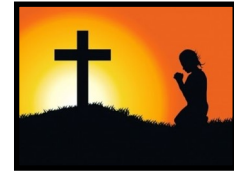
Anita Millard



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—All staff and students
- for those with medical issues large and small
- Those with Alzheimer's and their families
- those experiencing financial pressures
- those fighting addiction or cancer
- all those in nursing homes and their families
- Will's kids
- Evan Clarkson, Andrew Kazmierczak, Robert Schulte, Ainsley Allen 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
- Truck drivers, farmers & Small businesses
- Patrick Simons
- Bob Simons
- Mark Ezdebski
- Dave Casey
- Earl Gow
- Karen Doolittle
- Karen Jones relative
- Lynn Hernandez
- Chris (Paula Smith's brother)
- Dick Dewey
- Sherri (needs kidney)
- Breyden Peters
- Ann Koes—broken ankle

- Andy Granick
- family of Joanne Zick
- War in Ukraine
- Millie Tingley
- Phil (Schulte's son)
- Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)
- Norma and Lynola Carey
- Rhonda—(Kidney)
- Ron Phillips
- Wayne Wellman
- Don Lindsey
- Steve Holtsmaster
- Lynn—friend of George Lotter
- Mary Kiehl
- Jean on loss of her husband
- Maureen Warren—continued improvement
- Cheryl Augustine
- Sue Oakley and her prison ministry
- Ashley Ballard
- Joe Cowan
- Wes Kryger (Adele Bennett's dad)
- Skip Borrows
- Ruth Taugher
- wedding of Laura Moser
- Lois Miller Carlsen
- family of Dave DeMark
- Ed Lindsey
- Ken Bennett
- Bernie Bronzonis
- Trudy Butcher
- Carol Robinson
- Joe Metzler's sister—loss of her husband



October



Birthdays and Anniversaries

October 2 Ken and Betty Lou Bennett
Brandon Zick

October 4 Wayne and Kandy Wellman
Cathy Anderson

October 7 Matthew and Elissa Mitchell
Dale Ferger
Gary Phillips
Gary and Wendy Phillips

October 10 Ben and Bridget (Zick) Sherring

October 11 Paula Millard
Tatiana and Kurt MacDowall

October 13 Laura Jane Moser

October 16 Buddy and Susan Green

October 20 Sharon Kinney

Michelle Masters

Kelly Feduchak

Rev. Ghulam Nasrani 31 Federal Hill
Road, Oxford, MA 01540-1301

(He will celebrate his 95th
birthday this year)

October 23 Rebecca Gardner

October 26 Chad Batzel

October 27 Laurie Grant

October 28 Joyce Berish

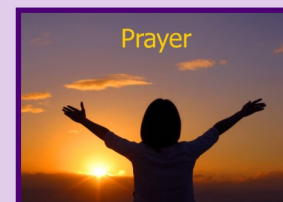
October 30 Maureen Warren

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.

Tel.570-434-2260 Email: firstchharford@gmail.com



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-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>



Men's Breakfast

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, October 27, 2023

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.



Women's Lunch

**3rd Monday of each month
12:00 at Bingham's
All Welcome!**



Bring a Friend

Greeters and Ushers



October 1 - Dee Archer & Marge Tater

October 8 - Linda & Loren Robinson

October 15 - Alyssa Nolan & Missy Clarkson

October 22 - Sue & Irv Needham

October 29 - Peg Empet & Karen Jones

Lay Readers

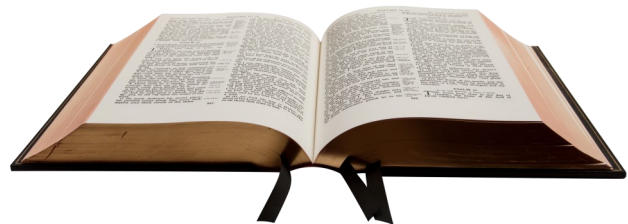
October 1 - Karen Jones

October 8 - Lisa Hahn

October 15 - Wendy Phillips

October 22 - Peg Empet

October 29 - Kandy Wellman



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.



Harford First Congregational Church
Willing Workers
Harford, PA

ROAST BEEF DINNER

October 21, 2023



Roast Beef and Gravy
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Roll
Pumpkin Pie



Presale/Take out only

Order by October 15, 2023

Drive by pick up from 3-5:30 pm

Call or text Holli at 301-643-1775

to order tickets.

Make checks payable to

“Willing Workers”

\$14.00



**Fun in the
Sun
Trunk or
Treat**

October 29, 2023

Sunday from 2:00-3:00

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Parking Lot

5016 Creek Rd. Harford PA

All Welcome!!

Family Friendly

Not Scary

Treats, Games and Fun!

To ask questions or to help

call or text Holli at 301-643-1775



Harford Park Fundraising

Construction on Harford Park is about to begin! If you would like to be a part of this wonderful addition to our community, this is how you can help. The figures below are estimates and more definitive costs will be given at the time of purchase.

Listed below are the items currently available for purchase:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Engraved Bluestone Benches | \$ 2,500 |
| Bluestone Benches without engraving | \$ 1,500 |
| Engraved Bluestone Pavers | \$ 100 |
| Picnic Tables | \$ 1,000 |
| Trees/Shrubbery | \$ 200 |
| Playground Equipment | \$ 10,000 |

***Please reach out with any additional ideas for donations. All ideas and inquiries are welcome!**

**If interested, please contact Erika Gething
Call or Text- (570)-557-9048 or Email- egething10@gmail.com**

Harford Township Municipal Authority

October 2023

October 2023

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | |

November 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 | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Oct 1</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am Communion Worship service (Sanctuary)</p> | <p>2</p> <p>9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)</p> <p>7:00pm Trustees (PO)</p> | <p>3</p> <p>9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p>10:00am Pastor in office (Office)</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am Worship service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:15am Handbell</p> | <p>9</p> <p>9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)</p> | <p>10</p> <p>7:30am Men's Breakfast (Bingham's)</p> <p>8:45am Pastoral</p> <p>9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>10:00am Pastor in office (Office)</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am Worship service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:20am Deacons</p> | <p>16</p> <p>7:00am Cook Roast Beef (kitchen)</p> <p>9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Lunch</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)</p> <p>1:00pm Missionary mtg (LH)</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p> | <p>18</p> <p>6:00pm Stewardship (LH)</p> | <p>19</p> <p>10:00am Pastor in office (Office)</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Beef Dinner preparation (LH & Kitchen)</p> | <p>21</p> <p>8:00am Roast Beef Dinner (pick up 3:00-5:30)</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am Worship service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:15am Handbell</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)</p> | <p>24</p> <p>9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>10:00am Pastor in office (Office)</p> <p>6:00pm Council mtg (LH)</p> | <p>27</p> <p>10:00am Weinberg (Sorting/bagging)</p> <p>4:30pm Weinberg Distribution (Outside)</p> | <p>28</p> <p>LH Rented (Baby shower)</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am Worship service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>2:00pm Trunk or Treat</p> | <p>30</p> <p>9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)</p> | <p>31</p> <p>9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p> | <p>Nov 1</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

Harford First Congregational Church –UCC
5016 Creek Road
PO Box 217
Harford, PA 18823
Tel. 570-434-2260
Email: Firstchharford@gmail.com
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com
Live Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>

.....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: Pastorwill.firstchurch@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12:00

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