

Our Spire

**Volume 42
July-August**

**Number 6
2022**

**Reaching Up
to
God,
Reaching Out
to People**

Pastor's Page:

Crazy Life, Continued Legacy

We get the “crazy life” part of the current sermon series, *Crazy Life, Continued Legacy*. After all, who isn't busy these days? Most of us want to choose a slower lane on the road of life, at least for a while. But continued legacy? *Whoa!* That's something heavy. That's someone else's job. Then the nerves sink in that sets doubt in motion. We begin to think, “How can *I* be a part of a continued legacy—especially when it comes to passing my faith along to others?” What if I shared that you're actually continuing your faith legacy right now? It's true! What you're doing—what you're living in the now—*is* a continued legacy of faith for future generations.

We want to think that we are too weak, too imperfect, too _____ (fill in the blank) to be models or pillars of faith. After all, we aren't always in church. We can't read the New Testament in Greek, the original language it was written in all those centuries ago. We don't even know all the books in the New Testament, and the New Testament is a whole lot shorter than the Old Testament. We can't do this!

The thinking that we can't do this is the thinking the enemy wants us to buy into and believe. And we don't have to listen to this. That we should be saintly to participate in a continued legacy of faith is something I do want you to hear for a moment, however. Why? This puts us in the good and right place to understand that those we read of and study in both the Old and New Testaments weren't so saintly, either.

I think of Sarah ousting Hagar. Moses murdered. Jacob played favorites with one of his children. Jonah turned down God's plan. Zacchaeus was a thief. Judas betrayed Jesus. Yet these stories (and countless others in scripture) inspire our stories. As we consider the significant history of our church this year, it is time to understand that your story inspires—or can inspire—someone else's. And it is time for this story of God in you to move forward in your life. You're doing this anyway. Three cheers! Can it be more centralized? Can it be more readily shared? You know the answer to these questions. Yes and yes.

Here is the truth you know. We aren't good enough.

But God's grace in us? *Whoa!* This is more than sufficient. 2 Corinthians 12:9 rings true! Paul, who is TOTALLY an anti-Christian as Saul, speaks in this verse after he wrestles with who he is apart from Christ. Here Paul speaks of Jesus when he writes, “But he [Jesus] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”

Boast about your weakness. You'll certainly use it in your story—your continued faith legacy. When we stop dropping the “I can't...” bologna and live with the “I can do all through Christ who strengthens me” truth (which comes to us in Philippians 4:13), then the legacy we live into here at this historic church will do exactly what it is supposed to do, which is pave the way forward in faith formations in the future. Start with now. Let a God nudge, a God wink or a God direction come into a story you'll share today.



Our Senior Graduates



Jimi Bernoski: Graduating from MountainView and going on to study journalism at Penn State. Graduating with high honors, 8th in the class.



Travis Bridgeman: Graduated from Scranton Prep with honors. He plans on pursuing a degree in Musical Theater.



Alexy Callaway: Zeb Feduchak's girlfriend and neighbor of Sharon Decker. Alexy Callaway graduated from the Penn State School of Nursing on May 7th 2022. She has accepted a job at Moses Taylor Hospital in the GI Lab.



Emma Demark: Graduated with a Bachelor's in Veterinary and Biomedical Science from Penn State. She plans to continue onto Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine Saint Kitts Virgin Islands.



Shannon Toolan: Shannon is graduating from Mountain View High School. Shannon also graduated from Lackawanna College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. She took additional courses during her junior and senior year from Lackawanna to obtain two degrees at once. She will be going on to Penn State, starting at Worthington Campus in Scranton/Dunmore area, then onto main campus.



The graduates were recognized June 26, 2022 and given a devotional, "Jesus Calling for Graduates" by Sarah Young.

Happy Birthday, Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

WHY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 MATTERS

These days, church closings are a part of everyday life. Churches struggling to stay alive—to keep their ministry vital, active and present to the community—are common. I remember the gentleman who said of this church, “It’s been around this long. It will stay here a little longer.” Think of major businesses that have folded. Think of the Presbyterian Church in Hallstead, a church that had been an integral part of the ministerium. It closed.

People want to care for each other. People want to help their neighbor. People want a place where God’s love is known and shown. This is not nice, but necessary. Where does this happen but in church? That we have the opportunity—the *gift*—to say thank you to God for keeping this congregation not just maintaining itself but actually making significant impacts into the community is cause for both appreciation and celebration. We get to do this. We get to reflect and rejoice in our God who is not just maintaining the church in Harford; our God is propelling our church forward in dangerous times. I think of the breadth and width of this church today. I think of those who care. Those who show up. Those without fuss or muss get done what needs to be done. They are here. YOU are here.

Oh yes, we are leaner than we were when I began ministry here 14 years ago. We have fewer members in the books than when I became fulltime pastor in September, 2008. The aging congregation I served—those representing what I call the Golden Era—have all passed away. To say that I have done a lot of funerals is an understatement. To say that I feel and hear vital, active and exciting ministry happening today among those who worship here is an understatement. There is passion in those pews. There is prayer and there is God’s power among us in the pews and in the world we are called to love around us.

This day, September 25, 2022, matters. We get to look into our past, live out the present, and push forward into the future not with fear but with faith in God who has guided the ministries of this church for 22 decades. God still guides the ministries of this church today.

Has every year been easy? No. Did lean times fall upon worshippers who called the church in Harford home? Yes. Did the nation around us always welcome the church’s voice? No. Did the devil dance in ways to divide the congregation? Yes. But we are here. Faces have changed. Situations have changed. The way we have done some things has changed. But listening to God? Following God? Relying on God to help us help others with the gospel message of love? This has never changed. This is what we lift. This is who we are.

To be able to gather and praise God for the glorious work He has done to love and sustain the oldest church in Susquehanna County is wonderful. I never think of the past as something that burdens us. I see the past as something that defines us. And I see the future as something that God will fulfill in those who follow Jesus each day by worshipping in Harford each week.

**Join us for this 10 AM celebration.
It is time to sing to God, thank God, listen to God,
and lean on God and His direction all the more completely.**





Christian Education



Our 2022 Vacation Bible School theme was “Make Waves” and ran June 13-16, 2022. Our church has joined forces with six other local churches: Gibson UMC, New Milford UMC, South Gibson UMC, Great Bend UMC, Brooklyn Universalist and Hop Bottom UMC.

We had 40 volunteers from all the churches and the community!



Pastor Laura Kincaid (New Milford UMC) and Tracy Weed (Great Bend UMC) opened large group with a Bible Story, music and fun. Three teens (Janna Weed, Caroline Symuleski, and Sophie) helped teach the songs, motions and Shane Toolan ran the Technical portion of our show!



Pastor Kim and Anne Bode (Grace Lutheran Church) planned and prepped the small group lesson and fun time for all the children.

Our daily themes were:

Day 1: Wave Maker - God made People with a Purpose

Day 2: Catch a Wave – Jesus invited People to Follow Him.

Day 3: Life Saver - You can Trust Jesus with your Life.



Day 4: Ripple Effect – God can Help you Change the World Around you.

The faces of Make Waves VBS 2022



The VBS Mission was to collect food for The Summer Lunch Box Program





The children were grouped by age: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 and had group leaders stay with the children through every activity rotation.



Karen Jones (Harford First Church) and Susan Green (South Gibson UMC) marshalled their considerable talents to decorate the sanctuary and every room used for our VBS celebration as well as planning and prepping all the crafts.



Linda Lindsey (Harford First Church) and Cheri Thompson (South Gibson UMC) coordinated the game time for all the children. South Gibson UMC has loaned the VBS their large outdoor tent for outdoor games.



Sue Schwalm (South Gibson UMC) and crew manned the snack brigade, planning delicious and fun treats for every day.



The Harvatine Dairy Princesses came and served delicious ice cream.

Our Volunteers helped in all locations to make 2022 Make Waves a super fun VBS!!

Thank you Congregation for making the Make Waves VBS 2022 possible!!!



Council Minutes—June 23, 2022

Treasurer Julia explained the Money Market, the Balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. She commented that the Money Market looks good, we are staying ahead of our expenses. There is a \$98.70 website amount that was designated for Ukraine. Income and expenses for May, 2022 are as follows.

Comparison of Income and Expenses for 2021 and 2022 up to the end of May, 2022

May, 2021

Income: \$ 6,648.80
Expenses: 9,231.19
Balance -\$ 2,582.39

May, 2022

Income: \$14,065.20
Expenses: 10,065.67
Balance \$ 3,999.53

General Year to Date for 2022

Income: \$ 101,004.61
Expense: -51,255.79
Balance \$ 49,748.82

Julia reminded us that in 2021, we were already in the minus.

We received an email from a man who sells a lot of churches their insurance. Comments were that we should be very careful about taking insurance out with another company since we recently had a big claim. We also now have a \$5,000 deductible. The insurance comes due the end of the year. Maureen suggested we refer this information to the trustees for their research and decision.

Christian Education-Judy shared information from Holli. We had 69 students registered for VBS and 40 volunteers. We think that with all the churches donating we probably were close on the costs which is wonderful news. The children had a very good time, and everything ran quite smoothly.

Choir-Ellen reported that they are not practicing. Robert seems to be working everything out just fine.

Church Cupboard-Maureen reported that they are serving one family a month.

Clerk-Judy reported that we had five baptisms. Ellen commented that if even only one person has an interest in joining the church, we should not wait until a group want to join. We should let them join as soon as possible. Instructions could be given at a later date.

Deacons-Sandy Tingley decorated the altar table for Fathers' Day. There is to be a baptism (Kari Lynn and Michael Zeshonski daughter) on Sunday (June 26) and recognition of the graduates that are connected to our church. The Deacons had a discussion about the small extent of handicapped seating available on a Sunday. They suggested that the first pew at the bottom of the ramp be removed so that the wheelchairs would be able to move around more easily. Joe and Patti Vietri have two children in wheelchairs and they would like to bring both of them to church as the same time. It was suggested that this suggestion be given to the trustees to decide how and when to lessen the congestion in that area.

Historian-Kay had remembered to get the numbers. May 29-63; June 5-53; June 12-52; June 19-53. Average of 55.

Missionary Group-no meeting in the summer months. They are collecting for the yard sale. Please leave items in the lecture hall.

Pastoral Relations-they did have a meeting.

Stewardship-Kay shared that they are beginning to work on the Centennial celebration that will take place September 25. All are welcome to come up with ideas and to help. She made a correction to last month's Stewardship minutes that if we needed income to meet general expenses it would be obtained in this order: gas royalty money would be used first, but only for this year, then interest from Equitrust. Ivie Simons was at the Stewardship meeting with much historical information that she shared with the group.

Council Minutes Continued:

Technical Committee-Linda asked what happened to the idea of a third monitor for the sanctuary. It would have been handy for VBS. Will is not really in favor of an additional monitor. David doesn't like it when he has to turn his back to the congregation. Possible reconsider the monitor at a later date. Julia suggested having a monitor that was movable. The loudspeakers were discussed. When watching on YouTube the sound is definitely better for hearing the choir. Question as to whether the loudspeakers could be adjusted a little bit louder during the service. Yes, the knobs and location of where they should be are marked. Anyone would be able to turn it up louder.

Trustees-Bill, explained that the paving of the driveway was actually happening. Someone had driven up on the undried concrete. Harry will be able to make moveable volley ball and tennis equipment instead of having permanent hooks in the concrete. The porch needs to be replaced. Irv is looking for someone to fix the porch and to fix the corner of the lecture hall that is rotten. They had also discussed making more handicapped available room. The two short pews are holding up some of the sanctuary foundation. They suggested starting by removing the one pew and to see if that was helpful. The motion to go forward with this removal of the pew was tabled until the next meeting.

Willing Workers-Ellen shared that they did a luncheon for the lunch after Helen Foster's funeral service. They made desserts for Mr. Tingley's funeral lunch. Kingsley Willing Workers made, rolled, fried, packaged and froze Welsh cookies for the fair. Attic treasures are being gathered in the music room for the fair and for the yard sale.

Pastor's report-Helen Foster's memorial service was a joy to officiate. Janet Foster was a true pleasure to work with before and during this heartwarming, inspirational and moving service. Three different speakers, including Janet herself, made Helen's service personal, meaningful, and even funny at times. Helen is a dear soul who is missed.

I have had a delightful meeting with Paige Seymour in preparation for her August 6 wedding to Zach Feduchak. Another meeting will be set in a few weeks.

Also, I look forward to baptizing Kari (Zupanovich) Zeshonski and Michael Zeshonski's daughter Lydia Jaye. Both Zach and Kari (who are cousins) were a part of my first membership class.

It may be a crazy time to launch our current sermon series, *Crazy Life, Continued Legacy*. But there is no time like the present! And that's my point! We all live crazy lives. In the hustle and bustle—and even in the busyness of our own thoughts—we have the opportunity to do what we do, which is speak of God in real, tangible ways. We are living legacies to faith today and faith practices tomorrow. This series points out the opportunities we do have (and do use) to build the church of tomorrow through our actions today. This is no lofty, impossible task. It's daily practices, daily interactions, and the daily realization that God speaks in the moments—even (or especially) the crazy ones!

It's a celebration time! How great it is to live into the 200th year anniversary of the church building which coincides with the 222nd anniversary of the church itself. Shirley Masters through a visit to the Historical Society in Montrose, confirms we are responsible for (and blessed by) the oldest church in Susquehanna County. Our history is our present day. We can't ignore or dismiss the feel of the Spirit in the sanctuary. This same Spirit, which I preached about on Pentecost Sunday, sets us up for a future of vitality through Christian mission, education, and worship.

Speaking of education, the 2022 Vacation Bible School program reached and met such a great need in our immediate and wider communities. Yes! The success of this outreach reminds me that we are called to move past fear to the fruition of faith! I pray God continues to move our CE leaders and teachers.

I want to share an inspiring story when it comes to VBS this year. A few weeks before their baptism, my older three children expressed that they wished to be baptized in a lake. "Oh," I thought. "It's too late to change plans." The beautiful water imagery behind the pulpit took me by surprise two weeks before the baptisms. "Water!" I said out loud when I entered by the organ door and turned to what had been the wall behind the pulpit. At least a dozen quality VBS programs are available these days—from Westerns to outer space to science-themed programming—and the one chosen was water! God was perfect here!

My children still sing the VBS songs—and we are a week out from their worshipful, educational experience. My oldest son even found the songs they sang online. What a great effort and reward for VBS this year!

Council Minutes Continued:

As of this council meeting, we have 399 members on Facebook. This is an impressive number and I am honored God is calling us as a congregation to reach our immediate neighbors with opportunities to worship God and practice Christian faith in action together hand in hand.

Currently, I am reading *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times* by Peter L. Steinke (The Alban Institute, 2006) and *Sacred Strategies: transforming synagogues from functional to visionary* by Isa Aron, Steven Cohen, Lawrence Hoffman and Ari Kelman (The Alban Institute, 2010). Both books speak to the process of God at work through the visions, outpourings, passions—and even the frustrations—of those who hear the urging of God to speak in the now to people in the now who are disconnected, disenfranchised, and even despondent to faith communities today.

I wish to thank the congregation for the outpouring of love and support through the June 17th adoption and the June 18th baptisms of my five children. We are certainly blessed by this church, and pray blessings upon this church.

Will also mentioned how good it was to visit with another pastor. At this moment, David mentioned that an eleventh-grade student of Mt. View had passed. Will offered a heart felt prayer for his family and for the Stout family.

David mentioned that Weinberg pickup is tomorrow and the driveway is not finished. Somehow with God's help the food will be delivered at pickup time.

New business-Judy asked if she would be able to sign the church up for membership at Quill so that we could purchase two cartons of paper a month at a very reasonable price \$34.99. Paper has risen in price.

She also asked if they would be able to have Mr. Eklund come and pick up the old printer. We have not used it since we purchased the new color printer. He would need someone to help him with loading it into his truck. Questions asked: are we renting this machine. No, we purchased it quite a few years ago when the office was in the trailer. The new printer we also purchased. Ellen made a motion to let Mr. Eklund come and take the old printer, seconded by Kay. All in favor. Motion carried. Yes, it is okay to set up a membership with Quill.

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**.



**Father's
Day
Altar
Decorations!
Thank You Sandy
Tingley**

Dear Congregation,

We are sincerely OVERJOYED at the outpouring of your love and support during the celebration of the adoptions on Friday, June 17, and the baptisms on and Saturday, June 18. We are grateful to share this God-given, God blessed time in our lives.

We thank you for your care and your participation along the way. We thank your for your prayers that made this journey from foster care to adoption possible. You are an amazing, God-led congregation!

As a dad, I wish to uplift and thank the children's Godparents. These are the people in our congregation who are known as the children's pew buddies, those who sit with the children each Sunday during worship.

**4 year-old Michael
Holli and Mr. Bill (Chichester)**



**5 year-old Anna
Tammy, Craig, Tanner
and Mikaela Stout**



**6 year-old Emma
Judy Mitchell**



**8 year-old Sereena
Nancy Burris**



**9 year-old Taven
Kay Gow**

There are many pictures and many new memories that show God's love and God's presence here among us all. We trust these select photos make you feel (and see) God at work. Our God IS good.

With love and with appreciation, The now official Hagenbuch Family

***Bless These Little Children, Lord solo,
accompaniment Robert Fisher***



Cake by Kandy Wellman



July Birthdays and Anniversaries



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 1 Kandy Wellman
 July 2 Pat Gallan
 July 4 Joy Heckman
 Michelle Estabrook
 July 5 Heidi Millard
 Bruce and Eleanor Meyer
 David and Connie Schulte
 July 10 Brandy Lindsey Gebo
 July 11 Kathy Brown
 Susan Green
 John Zimmerman
 July 12 Robert Fisher
 July 14 Corinne Chichester
 July 15 Gail Batzel
 July 16 Eli Titus
 July 17 Dale and Peg Empet
 July 18 Patrick Lamberson
 Buddy and Susan Green
 July 20 Jim Batzel
 July 21 Jim and Nicole Bernosky
 July 22 Nancy Burris
 July 24 Elizabeth Masters
 Kara Batzel
 July 27 Scott and Dusti Mitchell
 July 28 Bruce Meyer
 July 31 Bill and Holli Chichester

August 2 Julia Gardner
 August 3 Craig Stout
 August 4 Nancy Marr
 August 6 Jean Bonham
 Patrick and Kate Simons
 August 7 Ellen Holdredge
 Bristol and Diana Zick
 August 8 Joe Metzler
 August 9 Ilse Lohrey
 Connie Schulte
 Tanner Stout
 August 10 Brendan and Becky Herbert
 August 12 Lynn Butler
 August 13 Caitlin Mitchell
 August 16 Mark Lewis
 August 21 Nancy Tyler
 Shane Toolan, Sr.
 August 22 Fay Frederick
 Sarah Gardner Key
 August 23 Shannon Toolan
 August 25 Dottie Hagenbuch
 Charles Ahearn
 August 27 Barbara Pease (105 this year)
 Brandon and Erin Zick
 August 30 Jimi Bernosky



Spire Sponsor

In Thanksgiving for the Spire
Rich and Shirley Masters



Spire Sponsor

**In celebration of David and Connie's 25th
wedding anniversary !**

David Schulte, Jr.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Harford First Congregational Church – UCC



The Golf Tournament Team would like express our sincere thanks for your support of our annual Golf Tournament held at Tall Pines Players Club on June 11, 2022. The day was a huge success, thanks in part to your generosity and participation. Our business sponsors really came through for us. We have given a list of our sponsors. Please keep them in mind when you are looking for goods or services.

Thank you for all that you did as a congregation!

It meant so much to see your support through the signs you requested in Honor or in Memorial of loved ones. Thank you: Pricilla Allen, Gail Batzel, Ken and Betty Lou Bennett, Jean Bonham, Tim and Alan Bucklaw, Bill and Holli Chichester, Kathi and Dale Ferger, Kay Gow, Dottie and Will Hagenbuch, Ellen Holdredge, Gary Housel, Merle and Betsy Jones, Kingsley Willing Workers, Susan Klenk Rikkola, Dorothy Matthews, Lynnette Millard, Jason Miller, Judy Mitchell, Irv and Sue Needham, Connie and Dave Schulte, Jr., Barbara Sloat, and the Winemiller Family.

Our total Business and Memorial Sponsorship was \$7020. We received \$2013 from golfers and \$2030 from Baskets, mulligans, 50/50, Putting Competition, Pot O'Gold and donations by Ralph Simons and Team Butler.

The baskets were awesome. Thank you: Andre & Son, Cathy Archibald, Katie and Sal Armetta, Charlene Batzel, Dan and Mary Bennett, Diana and Mike Berry, Holli Chichester, Peg Empet, Kay Gow, Karen Jones, Gary and Wendy Phillips, Ellen Holdredge, Linda Lindsey, Rich and Shirley Masters, Judy Mitchell, Montrose Beverages, Irv and Sue Needham, Dave and Connie Schulte, Shaw's Barbershop and Debbi and Bill Strong.

Everyone raved about the goody bags and our awesome cookies and all the extras we put in them thanks to you all!!! Thank you: Priscilla Allen, Alice Archer, Betty Lou Bennett, Peg Empet, Kay Gow, Karen Jones, Sue Needham, Gary and Wendy Phillips and Cathy Archibald.

Thank you to our workers during the Golf Tournament: Ellen Holdredge, Karen Jones, Linda Robinson, Alice Archer, Anne Koes. A huge Thank You to Kandy Wellman for making all of our sponsor signs!

We made a grand total of approximately \$10,279.42 after costs.

May God bless you! The First Church Golf Tournament Committee Harford, PA

Gold Sponsors

Priscilla Allen
Gail Batzel
Ken Betty Lou Bennett
Bennett's Spring Shop
Bill and Holli Chichester
Kay Gow
Gary Housel

Hagenbuch Family
Ellen Holdredge
Kingsley Willing Workers
Kinney Welding
Lenox Propane
Judy Mitchell
Benedict Construction

Nicholson Tire
Frank Payne Excavating
Sipe Agency
Thatcher Flagstone
Van Cott's Nursery & Landscaping
Winemiller Family

Silver Sponsors

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Armetta's
Arendt's Outdoor Services
Lisa Baker for Senator
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Eastern Star Prosperity
Chapter #83
Dale and Kathy Ferger

Honesdale National Bank
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Master's Ready Mix Concrete
Dorothy Matthews
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GMC
Shaw's Barbershop

Bronze Sponsors

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Merle and Betsy Jones
Klenk Family
Jenny Leigh's Country Cookin'
Jenny Leigh's

New Milford Hardware
Nicholson Lumber
Stone's Garage
Susquehanna Beverages
State Farm



SPIRE SPONSOR

In thanksgiving of Ray Fredericks 85th birthday on August 22, 2022.

Given by his family.



Directory Update

Wanda Schmidt
17657 Marbury Street
Round Hill
VA 20141-2183



Altar 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 Altar flower sign-up sheet in the Gathering room.

Attention Snow Birds and Travelers!!!

If you have two residences that you inhabit during the year, I have a simple request for you. Would you please let the church office know when you will be moving from one home to the other home?



We are charged \$.78 for having the incorrect address and having to have the mail article returned. The Spire is mailed the end of the month, if you might be returning home or going away around the end of a month it would be very much appreciated if you could let the office be aware of where you will be living. Thanks ever so much, Judy

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.



Correspondence

Dear Congregation,

Thanks so much for your outpouring of sympathy on the loss of my dear friend Sue, and also for the words of encouragement as I begin this new medical journey. The calls, cards, texts, and visits mean more than you know. It's wonderful to be part of a small and caring church and community. And prayers for Gus too; this is not easy for him as his worries and his household duties have increased significantly. Hopefully, this is a temporary situation! Thanks again for thinking of me.

George Lotter

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love I have received through cards, texts, calls, and visits during both the loss of my childhood friend Sue, and my recent health problems. There is more testing to be done in order to arrive at a definitive diagnosis and treatment plan, but all appointments are in order. Your prayers mean a great deal to me, and I hope to be able to see you in person again before too long. God bless you all.

George Lotter

Harford First Congregational Church—UUC

Thank you for hosting the 2022 Multi-Church Vacation Bible School. What a wonderful week of working with children and teaching them about God and His gift of salvation.

Volunteers of the Make Waves 2022 VBS

Yard Sale



We are collecting yard sale items for
our huge yard sale
fund raiser

September 2-3, 2022.

We take household items, kitchen
items, books, craft items, holiday
decoration, linens, home décor,
electronics and so much more.

We do not take clothes, exercise equipment and large appliances.
Bring items to the church fellowship hall or call or text
Holli at 301-643-1775 for pick up.

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

July 12, 2022
and August 9, 2022 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, July 22, 2022 and August 26, 2022 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.

Home Bound



Lynola Carey
Joanne Connolly

Martha Jenkins
Dorothy Greene
Lou and John Zimmerman

Norma Carey
Barbara Pease

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

-Family of Jim Miles

-Craig Stout and Family

-for those with medical issues large and small

-Bill Chichester

-Missy Clarkson

-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 five kids

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

-Sandy Zupanovich

-health or loss of family pets

-Connie Schulte's son Phil

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-law enforcement officers

-emergency volunteers

-hospital workers

-fire personnel

-Linda and Mike Berol

-Richard Frederick (Ray's brother)

-George Lotter

-Family of Pat White

-Missing Person, Shelva

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-Lola and John Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-Braxton MacDowell

-Karen Doolittle

-Earl Gow

-Paula Adams

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Ginny and Charlie Ahearn

-Gift of Life Program (Organ Donation)

-Andy Granick

-Mark Gregory

-Bob Zupanovich

-Judy Strohl

-Margaret Frederick

-Willard Tingley Family

-Robert Hagenbuch

-JoAnn Titus

-Buffalo shooting victims and families

-Uvalde, Texas shooting victims and families

-Lynn Butler

-Sue Mc Bride

-Paraga Family

-War in Ukraine

-Dorothy Greene

-Tricia Deacon

-Millie Tingley

-Tim Gardner

-Mr. and Mrs. Yushinsky





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: firstch@nep.net

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

**Notice: Please send all material for September to be included in the Spire to:
Firstchurchspire@gmail.com
by the 15th of August 2022!**

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.

Women's Lunch

3rd Monday of each month except August

12:00 at Bingham's

All Welcome!



Greeters and Ushers

July Ushers and Greeters

July 3- Dee Archer (greeter)
Jimi Bernosky (usher)

July 10-Leanne Colwell (greeter)
Alyssa Nolan (usher)

July 17-Sherry Decker (greeter)
Leanne Colwell (usher)

July 24-Linda Robinson (greeter)
Loren Robinson (usher)

July 31-Lynette Millard (greeter)
Karen Jones (usher)

August Ushers and Greeter

Aug. 7-Linda Robinson (greeter)
Loren Robinson (usher)

Aug. 14-Dee Archer (greeter)
Karen Jones (usher)

Aug. 21-Betty Lou Bennett (greeter)
Ken Bennett (usher)

Aug. 28-Peg Empet (greeter)
Kay Gow (usher)

**You may access the Harford First Congregational Church—UCC 2021
Annual Report using this link:**

<https://firstchurchharford.com/newsletter-our-spire-and-annual-report>

Soup Ministry



Know someone that is shut-in or feeling down or sick? Take them a quart of home-made soup. It's in the large freezer by the church mailboxes. Just sign the paper on the door to let us know who received the soup.



We're Back and How Sweet It Is!

After two very long years, Great Chefs is returning “in person” and will be held on **July 20th** at Constantino’s in Clarks Summit. This special dessert edition of Great Chefs will be emceed by WNEP-TV 16’s Jackie Lewandowski. Attendees will enjoy a variety of passed hors d'oeuvres, raffles, music – and of course – dessert tastings! **As always, all proceeds from Great Chefs benefit the Women’s Resource Center of Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties.**

5:30 pm – Passed Hors D’oeuvres / Raffle Baskets / Music / Cash Bar

7:00 pm – Program

7:30 pm – Dessert Tastings & Coffee

8:00 pm – Basket Winners Announcement



OUR MISSION

The Women’s Resource Center provides comprehensive services for female and male victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. Our services include a crisis hotline, crisis counseling, emergency shelter, safe housing, legal services, support services, community education and advocacy.

SPIRE SPONSOR

In Thanksgiving for Holli making and editing the Spire

Judy Mitchell



July 2022

July 2022

August 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
Jun 26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2
9:30am 10:00am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (sanctuary)	4 Fourth of July No Quarterback mtg	5	6	7 10:00am 12:00pm Pastor in office	8 5:00pm 9:00pm LH rented	9 Lecture hall rented 9:00am 2:00pm Book sale-Orphan School
10	11 9:30am 10:30am Quarterback mtg 7:00pm 8:00pm Trustees (LH)	12 7:30am 9:00am Men's Breakfast (Bingham's) 9:00am 10:30am Pastoral Relations m	13	14	15	16
9:30am 10:00am Fellowship Time (Gat Gathering Room) 10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (Sa) 11:20am 12:30pm Deac	18 9:30am 10:30am Quarterback mtg (Zoom) 12:00pm 1:00pm Ladies Lunch (Bingh)	19 NO Missionary	20 6:30pm 8:00pm Stewardship (LH)	21 10:00am 12:00pm Pastor in Office 6:30pm 8:00pm Harford Historical (Log Cabin)	22	23 LH may be rented
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am 10:00am Fellowship Time (Gathering Room) 10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (Sa)	25 9:30am 10:30am Quarterback (Zoom)	26	27	28 10:00am 12:00pm Pastor in Office 6:00pm 8:00pm Council (LH)	29 4:30pm 5:30pm Weinberg-pick-up	30
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am 10:00am Fellowship Time (Gathering Room) 10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (Sa)	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am 10:00am Fellowship Time (Gathering Room) 10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (Sa)						

6/26 - 7/1

7/3 - 8

7/10 - 15

7/17 - 22

7/24 - 29

7/31 - 8/5

August 2022

August 2022

September 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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			

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	2	3 7:00pm WW (LH)	4 10:00am Pastor in office	5	6 Wedding-Feduchak/Seymour
7 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	8 Pastor Will vacation 9:30am NO Quarterback mtg 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	9 Pastor-Vacation 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:00am (Pastoral relations mtg (PO)	10 Pastor-Vacation	11 Pastor-vacation	12 Pastor-vacation	13 Pastor-Vacation
14 Pastor-vacation 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service 11:15am Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	15 Harford Fair NO Quarterback mtg NO-Ladies lunch Pastor-vacation	16 Harford Fair NO Missionary Pastor-vacation	17 Harford Fair NO Stewardship Pastor-vacation	18 Harford Fair Pastor-vacation	19 Harford Fair Pastor-vacation	20 Harford Fair Pastor-vacation
21 Pastor-vacation 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	22 NO Quarterback mtg Pastor - vacation	23 Pastor-vacation	24 Pastor-vacation	25 Pastor-vacation 6:00pm Council (LH)	26 Pastor-vacation 4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	27 Pastor-vacation
28 Pastor-vacation 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	29 NO Quarterback mtg Pastor-vacation	30 Pastor-vacation	31 Pastor-vacation	Sep 1	2	3



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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: Tuesday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00