

Our Spire

Volume 43

Number 4

May 2023

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



Dear Congregation,

Several years ago, a banner hanging at the Fain Presbyterian Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, read: “Someone first told you about Jesus. Who have you told lately?” Good question! Who have you told?

As we move past the Easter 2023 excitement and joy, here’s a good plan that addresses that good question. Sharing what you know of God’s love in your life is one of the best ways of leading others into a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ. It is also a good way of keeping the spark of Easter glowing.

“But I can’t talk about Jesus. Not really, anyway.” Is that your thought? If so, is it true? Of course, it isn’t.

The Apostle John writes, “This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:5-7).”

Light and darkness are two of John’s favorite themes. Light represents the righteousness of God. Darkness represents its evil counterpart. To walk in the light is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and to feel his presence every step of the way. To walk in darkness is choose our own course and pursue our own selfish desires. This inevitably leads us to alienating ourselves from God and this is the nature of sin.

Of course, we all do it all the time. A Burger King commercial that must now be some twenty years old but is still memorable because it is a very true line in our lives. We want to have it our way.

Perhaps this is also true for all of us. It takes a while to realize that God’s ways are best. Only God’s ways are fulfilling and lasting. Only God’s ways lead to a life of perfect peace and unity with others.

In his letter, John recognizes our sinful nature and has the grace not to put us down. His word of advice is to be honest about it. He says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).”

We confess our sins each week in worship. This act isn’t a something nice that we do. It’s a necessity! Another necessity brings us back to how this page began. Talk about Jesus. Yes, talk about Jesus.

If you’re thinking, “I can’t,” or “That’s awkward,” or “Others talk about Jesus so much better than I do,” this is nonsense. Here is a question you are likely asked daily. “Hey [insert your name here], how is your day going?” Um. Hello opportunity? Yes!

Isn’t it time to be honest? Maybe your faith is not 100% solid on the day you’re asked how your day is going. Okay, be honest about it! You don’t have to be the one with the God knowledge of all eternity all the time!

Being real about our faith—being genuine about our relationship with God—isn’t always a modern-day version of a God-affirming psalm. Some psalms, as we know, share pain or uncertainty or questions.

And this is okay. It’s okay because it’s genuine. It’s okay because it’s real. It’s okay because it’s yes—honest. Talk about Jesus. It’s not preaching. It’s not the same old/same old. You are handed an opportunity when you are asked how you are. It’s a gift! It’s a gift because with someone you have the opportunity to see where and how the Holy Spirit will come through in conversation.

And yes, the Holy Spirit comes through in conversation. And yes, this keeps Easter alive all year round. Talk about Jesus, and God will bless your Easter each day.

The tomb is empty. We are not.

With peace, Pastor Will

“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

Dear Friends,

As I contemplate the resurrection season of our Christian calendar and contrast it with the world, I wonder where the hate comes from – where the violence is birthed. 11,500 people died so far in 2023 from gun violence.

This week we held a Cultural Competency Training on “Repenting of the Unforgiveable” & “Beyond Lament: Movement Towards Repair” which focused on the American Indian Boarding Schools history in our nation, the abuse of native peoples, children torn from their families and indoctrinated to abandon their heritage and assimilate. Many of us asked how we begin to talk with our congregations about difficult justice, racial, economic, and theological issues.

How do we begin? My response was that we begin with the most difficult conversations, the most challenging topics, and open our hearts, minds, and spirits to discuss these topics – to move into the most difficult places first.

So, again my question, where does the hate come from? Where is the violence birthed? It seems, we have forgotten how to talk together, how to wrestle topics together, how to listen to one another, rather than simply speak. We do not engage in dialogs. Rather we engage in diatribes. We shout at the top of our lungs the opinion that we hold – without acknowledging that someone else’s opinions might also be true and be deserving of our attention.

Hate comes from denying the humanity of another, the importance of another. Hate is the evil that permeates our world. Yet, our response to hate **can be** repentance, fear, pain, and sorrow. Feeling hate or anger doesn’t mean we have to be violent. Violence as a response injures us all – not just the 11,500 people who were killed through gun violence and their families; not just the 91,000 victims of domestic violence; not just the more than 618,000 children who suffered abuse. Violence injures us all. Our culture does not always encourage peace and reconciliation. Rather we respond with anger, frustration, avoidance, and even violence.

And we come to church, professing to be followers of Jesus, and not changing, not working to change or transform, and perhaps not even lamenting at the state of the community and the world. Jim Bear Jacobs, our presenter at the training I mentioned, reminded us that we need to encounter the lament and the pain and live into that lament. We do not get to feel innocent of the pain and the actions done on our behalf, in the name of the church, or in the name of Jesus. We do not get to forget our history, our inactions, or our ignorance. Once we have spent time in lament and the recognition of our failings and failures, we can then move into actions.

So, if we have not lamented the violence done in our midst, the hate expressed in our midst, we are not yet ready to act. But if we have lamented, if we have learned about violence, and if we have sought to understand the roots of the hate, we can begin to act. My friends, take this season of time to lament the actions which bring about violence and hate. And then **ACT**. Prayer and reflection are important, but they are not actions. I will reflect and lament. I hope you will join me in doing so. Then I hope we will be prepared to act.

Blessings, Bonnie Bates

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



Sun Rise Service



Christian Education Easter Story

Easter Egg Hunt

Judy Mitchell and Team (Chris, Coe, Richter, Clara, Dakota, Shane)



Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt



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.

Missionary Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the Fire Hall

7:00am to Sold Out

Need Bakers!!!! Sign up in the Gathering Room

Bulletin Board

Need Baked Goods Monday, May 15 at the church

Beginning Hand Bell Choir

Our beginner hand bell choir started February 26, 2023 and 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.



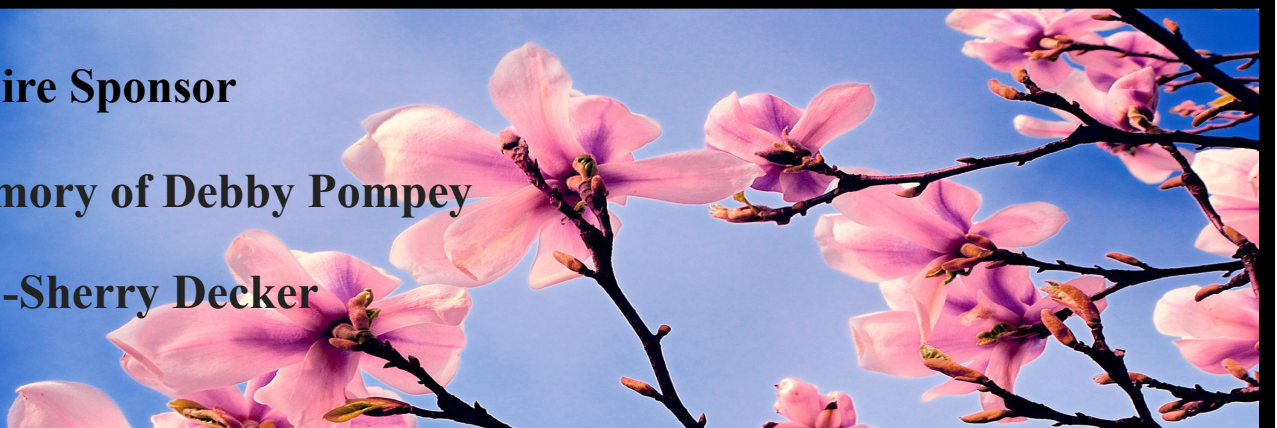
Please text or call Earl Cottrell for question or to let him know that you are interested at 701-405-3417.



Spire Sponsor

In Memory of Debby Pompey

-Sherry Decker



Our Choir at the Feast of the Pascal Lamb in Scranton on Palm Sunday.



The Catholic Choral Society sings
at
Harford First Church

The MountainView Chimmettes
play at
Harford First Church
led by Molly Love-Birosak



Council Minutes

March 2022	March 2023	YTD
Income: \$15,882.25	Income: \$13,562.20	Income: \$37,108.81
Expense: \$11,888.82	Expense: \$11,110.40	Expense: \$36,950.17
Total: \$3,993.43	Total: \$2,451.80	Total: \$158.64

Next Meeting: May 25, 6:00PM

Choir: One new member

Cradle Roll: One newborn added

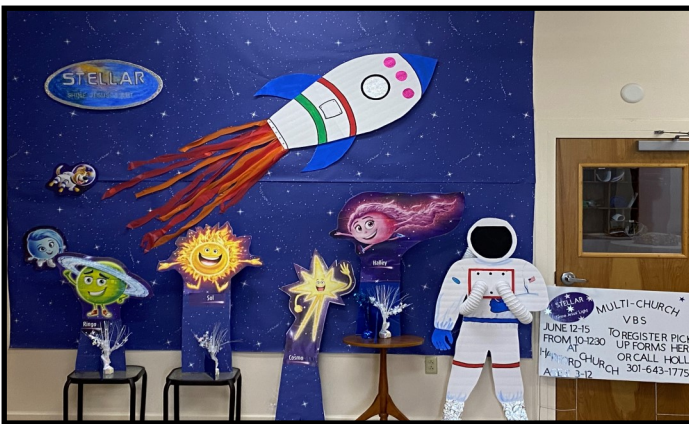
Willing Workers: Made cookies for the Catholic Choral Concert and supplied Dottie Hagenbuch luncheon. Meeting: May 3 at 7:00pm.

Pastor Relations: Pastor Will is on vacation in August. Dave Schulte will preach and two others will be asked to preach.

Christian Education



Opening Sunday School with song and motions with Miss Kandy.



Preparing for Our Multi-Church “**Stellar**” VBS on June 12-15 from 10:00– 12:30.

What can you do to help?

1. Volunteer to help during the VBS day
2. Loan or donate a plastic kiddie pool
3. Buy a Star in the Gathering Room to help “Spread the Light of Jesus” and support our VBS program. We are planning for 100 children.

On May 7, 2023 we have 4 Youth and 4 children receiving their **Bibles** during the 10:00 service. Refreshments by Kandy following the service. Come celebrate with us!!!

Did someone say CAMP!!!

We are sending our children 8-12 to Rock Mountain Bible camp this summer! Our Fair Dinner proceeds will go towards this project and other Children, Youth and Outreach projects.

Deacon Summary of Activities— 4-24-2023

50-year Recognition: Invitations have been sent. Awaiting RSVPs.

Lenten Schedule: Services were held during lent at different churches within the Rt 11 Ministerium. All pastors and churches participated.

Celebration Sunday: May 7, 2023

New Members joining the church with all mentors and deacons present.

50-year Members recognized and receive pins (Dee, Linda and Lisa)

New Members recognized (Receive key & certificate) (Kay, Sharon and Wendy)

Third Graders and up receive Bible. (Holli, Leanne and Nancy)

Group picture

Celebration in the lecture hall

Kay and Holli set up prior to Sunday School that morning. Kandy to make cake.

CPR/AED Class: The AED is in and ready for classes. Sandy Yushinsky has set up a CPR/AED class for the congregation on May 6, 2023 from 9-12. The cost is \$10.

Mass Shooting Security Class: The New Milford Rifle and Pistol Club offered an accredited class for the USCCA Countering the Mass Shoot Threat on April 22, 2023 9:00-2:00 at the church. Twenty people attended the class. Much was learned. The information will be taken to Council for the formation of a security task force.

Palm Sunday: The children handed out palms just before the last song.

Easter: Sunrise Service: 7:00 outside.

10:00 service: traditional communion

Next Meeting - May 21, 2023

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In Memory of Edward Kesten (father May 5 birthday)

Janice Estabrook (mother May 17 birthday)

Bruce Kesten (brother May 8 birthday)

-Julie Kesten and Sandy Kesten Zupanovich

Missionary Minutes—4-18-23

Attending: Ellen Holdredge, Priscilla Allen, Michelle Estabrook, Holli Chichester, Wendy Phillips, Kay Gow, Sherry Decker, Maureen Warren, Peg Empet, Karen Jones

Opened with Prayer: Priscilla Allen

Minutes: Read and Approved

Treasurer: Maureen Warren

Out: \$300 Gift Certificates for fire victims

\$100 Fire victim

\$12 Stamps

\$1000 Samaritan's Purse Earthquake Relief

\$165.30 Furniture

In: \$19 Dues

\$ 8 Least Coin

Balance: \$3390.91

Least Coin: Canada is very active in Least Coin. Eleven church denominations participate. One of the Canadian projects is a program to restore hope to women touched by injustice. Canada supported 22 projects world-wide and contributed \$6500 in 2022.

COVID had a large impact on the Least Coin programming because many groups did not meet.

Bake Sale: May 16 at the Fire Hall during the election. Work schedule was passed around for sign up times. A sign up for baked goods will go up Sunday.

Correspondence: Out: 1 Sympathy

In: Doctors Without Borders Thank you for \$300 donation

Women's Resource Center: Thank you for \$300 donation

Council Rep: April – Peg

May – Wendy

Soup Ministry: Took Soup to Batzel family

Earthquake Relief – Samaritan's Purse: Collected \$965 from the congregation plus \$500 from missionary for a total of \$1465. We have sent \$1000 so far and will send the remaining \$465 when the money is transferred from the church bank account to missionary.

Love in Motion: County wide task force to eliminate homelessness in Susquehanna County. Wendy Phillips and Holli Chichester to attend the seminar.

Missionary Continued:

Yard Sale: August 25-26 at the church. Items are being collected now. Holli will begin selling large items online via Facebook marketplace as soon as the weather warms up some. The smaller items will be moved from Gwenn Diaz's garage to the lecture hall after the July 21 Weinberg distribution. A schedule for sorting and cleaning the items will be done at the May meeting. All Attic Treasures from the fair will be brought to the lecture hall August 20. We will start setting up the yard sale through out the church after the Pease funeral August 21.

Summer LunchBox Program: We will begin collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly.

The Chicken BBQ for the Summer LunchBox is May 20. Dinners are \$12.

Golf Tournament: Missionary voted to sponsor a hole in the golf tournament for \$200.

Church World Service: Assembled 103 Hygiene Kits. The congregation did a great job donating kits and items. We also applied for and were awarded a \$250 grant from the United Church of Christ conference. We used this money to assemble 25 Women's Hygiene Kits. These kits will be taken to a CWS depot April 24-25 in Binghamton NY.



Next Meeting: May 23 at 1:00

More Council Minutes

Old Business: 3 cart were purchased for the Weinberg distribution using Outreach Money.

Judy called NEP and increased our internet speed from 25Mbps to 50 Mbps.

New Business: Larry Mack makes us the yard crosses. Council voted to give him a donation for supplies. Same amount as the time before. Julie will be consulted.

Mass Shooting Seminar: Report was given. We will begin modifications slowly. Trustees will be asked to hang exit and fire extinguisher signs and fix the front door. Dave Schulte is making 3 first Aid Kits.

The **Building Use Form** will be reviewed next Meeting.

Attention, Attention!!

The Lecture Hall will be unavailable for use:

June 5-16 (Due to Multi-Church VBS)

July 22-August 2 (Due to Huge Yard Sale Prep)

Pastor's Report:

It was both a joy and honor to be a part of 2023 services this Lenten season. My children and I were able to attend all five Wednesday night services. I preached in Great Bend on March 22nd and we concluded the series in New Milford on March 29th. The attendance during this Lenten time was very good each week. It was good for my soul to be present to the local pastors in the ministerium each week as we support each other in professional and personal ways.

I am so grateful to David Schulte for envisioning, organizing, preparing and “hosting” the Good Friday service that included 5-minute reflections from seven speakers on the seven last words of Jesus. This service happened the night before my mom’s memorial service, April 7, which is also my birthday. Family from British Columbia, England, Florida and Pittsburgh all gathered at my house that night. A kind and heartfelt donation of a meal with fruit was delivered from the church, and I am grateful for such kindness.

I wish to thank the congregation for your loving support leading into and through my mom’s memorial service which took place on April 8th, Holy Saturday. A number of women wore scarves in memory of my mother who almost always wore a scarf—even on cooler summer days. The service was livestreamed. Also, the screens were fully utilized during the service, including the eulogy. Not only was the order of worship on the screens, but also a few select photos were displayed there as well. For example, I spoke of the love between my mom and her dad (my grandfather) and at that time a picture of the twosome appeared on the screens. This brought a level of care and love to the service.

In March, I had asked the choir if they’d be interested in singing during the service. Easily and quickly, they said yes. The choir sang the prelude and a meaningful anthem.

The luncheon following the service in the Lecture Hall was provided by the Willing Workers. The meal, which included soup, sandwiches, and ice cream for dessert, was so well received by my family and my mom’s friends who live beyond our immediate community. Thank you to all who visited my sister, brother and I during the visitation time. Thanks, too, for those who were able to stay for the service and the meal.

It is always a joy to preside at the Easter Sunday rise service. This year, the morning sky was beautiful. The air was crisp and the Holy Spirit was among us. I brought in the Lenten sermon series for the first time since I’ve been preaching at these services. This anchored us in the Christ connections we all have. In the sermon, I mentioned those in scripture we traveled with this Lent including Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the man born blind, Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. The morning congregation unintentionally formed a half circle during the service. This arc was beautiful to preach to, as we connected face to face and eye to eye.

The 10 AM Easter service is always a thrill. The pulpit was off center so that the Easter lily cross can be seen fully. When I preach, I stand in front of the cross, not behind the pulpit. I find this space and connection to be vital. I believe the well-receiving congregation, which was impressive in number, connects to the meaning and fullness of Easter when nothing is between us, including a script. That Jesus is not only out of the tomb but also alive with us is an affirming, powerful and inspiring message we need to hear. What a gift it is to deliver this!

Pastor's Report Continued:

My Sunday school class is small in number but great in scholarship. If any of you remember your teen years (and of course you do!), you remember how challenging it can be to wake up and get out the door early in the morning, especially on a Sunday. Each week, we look at the lectionary scripture with great detail for our understanding and life application. Lately, I have been discussing the life lesson/s within the scripture before we actually read the text. This is the opposite of what I do for a sermon where scripture always comes first. The text to text connections we have made as the year rolls strengthens our faith.

I am grateful I could be with Barb Sloat during the last weeks of her life. Gail Batzel (Barb's daughter) would invite me during pivotal times toward the end of her mom's life. I am blessed I could be a pastor not only to Barb but also the family thanks to Gail reaching out.

I presided at Barb Sloat's funeral on Tuesday, April 25th. Gail had asked that one of her mom's favorites, *One Day At A Time*, be sung. It became a quartet performed by Kandy Wellman, Wendy and Gary Phillips and me. The meaningful song with its harmonies will be shared as the offertory on Sunday, April 30th in memory of Barb.

Our fifth and final membership class will take place this Sunday, April 30th after worship. This journey through the UCC and our congregation has been meaningful, informative, insightful and inspirational. We met weekly with the exception of Easter Sunday. We had lunch in my office and followed a five-week plan that covers the UCC and our congregation. It's been a wonderful experience getting to know the five who will be joining the church on May 7th: Grace Allen, Earl Cottrell, Chris Manley, Joe Metzler and Margie Tator. I am thankful we, as a class, had guests each week. Those who joined us included Kay Gow, David Schulte, Dee Archer, Lisa Hahn, Judy Mitchell, Michelle Estabrook, Holli Chichester and Nancy Burris. I ask for prayers for the five new members of our church as well as their mentors—Holli Chichester, Kay Gow, Judy Mitchell and Priscilla Allen. May those joining as members experience a great welcome (with blessings to come) as part of this living in the Spirit congregation.

The memorial service for Barbara Pease has been scheduled. It will take place on Monday, August 21st. The time of the service has not yet been set. More details will be coming when available.

Here is a reminder. Social media accounts get hacked regularly. Never respond to an odd sounding message that appears to come from me. Also, never, never give money through a message with my name attached to it. I never ask for funds in writing.

I send this with prayers to our shut ins, our seniors, those in need for whatever reason, those in worship, and those we miss sincerely and have not seen in a while.



Stewardship Minutes - April 19, 2023

The Stewardship Committee met on April 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Present for the meeting: Kay Gow, Michelle Estabrook, Joe Metzler, Julia Gardner, Dave Schulte and Peg Empet.

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Financial Secretary report was given by Julia Gardner.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Julia Gardner – highlights below – the report was approved. A motion was made by Joe Metzler and seconded by Peg Empet.

General Money from 2022 - \$73,404.45

\$50,000.00 went into a Equitrust fixed rate account

\$23,404.45 went into a money market – only for emergencies that requires council approval.

This left \$2,293.16 in our general account.

Joe Metzler had a suggestion on an addition to the campaign letter:

“Wouldn't it be nice to know if and when you needed a church for a service that there is one available.”

We will discuss the door and heart verses at our next meeting.

We would also like to see the giving sign placed in the front of the sanctuary again for the people viewing online to see. This was brought up in a quarterback session.

We discussed having missionary and other groups talk during the offering instead of singing. Some people thought we sing too much and others think it's not enough.

Our next meeting will be May 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Estabrook



Spring Clean Up

May 13, 2023 at 9:00-12:00



Trustee Meeting Minutes—April 3, 2023

Harry Gardner, Irv Needham, James Batzel, Kandy Wellman and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Old Business:

The annual Spring Clean-Up has been moved to May 13th. The Boy Scouts are once again invited to help participate in the clean-up. Kandy will find a new contact for the current scout master.

Kandy is in the process of making the indoor maintenance schedule/checklist for the Church and Lecture Hall.

Kandy will check into carpet cleaning in high traffic areas when the timing is appropriate

Emergency contact information for the fire monitoring system have been printed and installed.

New Business:

Trustees discussed the potential need to replace the windows in the Lecture Hall at some point in the future.

Trustees discussed painting the interior metal door frames in the new part of the church. The metal of the door frames appears to be “rusting” through the paint, however, it is not rust but a discoloration of the paint.

Motion to adjourn by Harry Gardner, seconded by Jim Batzel

Respectfully submitted, Rick Masters, Secretary

Correspondence

The Easter lily that was delivered to me is beautiful and very much appreciated Thank you so much.

Jean

Dear Ladies of the Missionary group of Harford First Congregational Church, Harford, Pa. I want to Thank you so very much for remembering me and your gift. Yes, I am doing well. My children are a wonderful help to me. I have my moments when I remember home. I know my time there was short, but I do think of you as My Church back Home. I know I always will. Please let all know I said Hello.

Jeff Kerr

Barbara's obituary



Barbara L. Sloat, 92, of Kingsley passed away Tuesday, April 18th at home. Her husband, George Sloat, passed away in 2000.

Born in Windsor, New York, this farm girl is the daughter of the late Albert and Ida Henry Canfield. She attended the Harford First Congregational Church-UCC and had been a member of the Rebecca's Lodge in New Milford. Barb loved flowers, birds and her puppies. She loved sitting in the sunshine. She was a beautiful soul and loved by many.

Barbara is survived by a son, G. Allan Sloat (Deb); three daughters, Virginia Aberant, Rebecca Henderson, and Gail Batzel (Jim); three brothers, George Canfield (Eloise), Dennis Canfield (Linda), and Richard Canfield; one sister, Lois Salansky; 12 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and a special friend Norma.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Carol Jennings; a brother, Doyle Canfield; and a grandson, Adam Sloat.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, April 25th at the Harford First Congregational Church-UCC with services by Pastor William Hagenbuch at 12 Noon. There will be a viewing at the church from 10am till service time.

The interment was held in the South Gibson Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Harford First Congregational Church-UCC. P.O. Box 217, Harford, PA 18823.



Spire Sponsor

**The
Winemiller Family**

Dear Congregation,

Harford First Congregational Church's oldest member, Barbara Pease, passed away comfortably a few days ago. Barbara's daughter, Jeanette, shared with me that Barbara was 105 *and a half* years old at the time she passed.



Barbara spent the majority of her active, community-minded life devoted to teaching at both the Harford school and our church's Sunday school. With her husband, Wesley, she lived in the modest home right beside the church. She and Wes, a postman, were literally steps from the church where they devoted so much of their lives in service to Christ.

Barbara will be lovingly remembered by those blessed to know her.

I had asked Jeannette about Barbara's final days. "You could still talk to her and she enjoyed having the paper read to her," Jeannette said when we spoke by phone late last night. She was like a child in ways, but did enjoy the paper being read to her. "I could talk to mom," she added.

Barbara was a senior who inspired me into faith formation. Like many of her peers here in church, she led by example. I cannot speak highly enough of this guide and mentor. Before moving to Hawaii to be closer to her daughter, Barbara was a faithful member of a Bible study held at the HVA, her home for a few years.

The two of us did enjoy time together in her HVA residence that faced the ballfield on the third floor. We marveled that the housing she had as a retired teacher at the HVA is situated over the very place where she taught school. What brought me smiles were the times we would pray together because Barbara reverently and easily spoke to God, her Father, using 'thou's and 'thee's.

A service for Barbara here at the church is being planned by her loving family, August 21, 2023 at 11:00.

Clerk:

Attendance: Mar 26th-47

Apr 2nd- 50

Apr 9th- 103

Apr 16th- 50

Apr 23rd- 60

310: 5= 62 Average attendance

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 2 Hollis Lewis
 May 4 Brian and Nancy Tyler
 May 5 Dena (Simons) Dew
 Chelsea Empet
 Nikki Bernosky
 May 6 Susan Major-Conklin
 May 7 Scott Mitchell
 May 9 Mason Mitchell
 May 10 Kevin and Diane Reuss
 Zeb Feduchak
 May 12 Richter Masters
 May 14 Mikey Hagenbuch
 Abby Toolan
 May 16 Hailey Miller
 May 17 Roger and Carol Robinson
 May 18 Ken Bennett



May 19 Kris Hiller
 Sereena Hagenbuch
 May 22 Dorothy Matthews
 May 23 Despina Mitchell
 May 24 Chad and Kara Batzel
 May 25 Gus Ferrara/George Lotter
 May 26 Elissa Mitchell
 May 27 Kailey Bridgeman
 Holli Chichester
 Dean Herbert
 Gary Housel
 George Weideman
 George & Barbara
 Weideman
 May 28 Breanne and Kris Hiller
 Gillian Marie Millard
 May 29 Missy Clarkson
 May 30 Jason Miller

In Memory of Dottie Hagenbuch
-Anita Millard

Spire Sponsor



Home Bound

Martha Jenkins

Norma Carey

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—All staff 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 or cancer

-all those in nursing homes and 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

-Truck drivers, farmers & Small businesses

-Patrick Simons

-All earthquake victims

-Bob Simons

-Mark Ezdebski

-Dave Casey

-Earl Gow

-Karen Doolittle

-Mike (Tammy Stout's step-brother)

-Little boy, Jagger (cancer)

-Joe Lillis

-Sal Armetta and family

-Karen Jones relative

-Mike O'Malley

-John Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Ginny and Charlie Ahearn

-Jeff Holgate

-Andy Granick

-Margaret Frederick

-Frank Boyle

-JoAnn Titus

-Joanne Zick

-War in Ukraine

-Marg Tator's friend Rudy

-Baby Ruby

-Vivian Rutherford

-Millie Tingley

-Cheryl Augustine

-Phil (Schulte's son)

-Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)

-Norma and Lynola Carey

-Teddy Kasmierczak

-John Lesniak (Tammy's step-father)

-the family of Olivia Zick

-Buzz Gulick

-Richard Frederick (Ray's brother)

-Family of Carl Oakley

-Laura (George Lotter's friend)

-Family of Mona Adams

-Family of Barbara Sloat

-Family of Ginny John

-Leanne Colwell and family

-Jennica Drake

-Gracie Palmiter

-Continued health for Charleene Marten's family member



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

May 9, 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, May 19, 2023 from 4:30-5:30

Friday, June 23, 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.

Women's Lunch

3rd Monday of each month

12:00 at Bingham's

All Welcome!

Bring a Friend



May Greeters and Ushers

If you would like to greet, usher or read during our worship services please contact the office.

May 7- Chris Manley
Karen Jones

May 21-Dee Archer
Karen Jones

May 14-Peg Empet
Karen Jones

May 28-Missy Clarkson
Alyssa Clarkson



May Lay Readers

May 7, 2023 Abby Toolan
14, 2023 Lisa Hahn
21, 2023 Sue Needham
28, 2023 Nancy Burris



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.



Attention!!

Our church is hosting a Multi-Church VBS this year June 12-15, 2023. We need space, star, galaxy, moon or astronaut related items to decorate the church. We also need several kiddie pools. If you have these items to loan us please text or call Holli that they are there so she can come get them.



301-643-1775



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

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of May 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.





VBS

Save the Date: June 12-15, 2023

10:00—12:30

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

Three ways to register your children:

1. Online: www.firstchurchharford.com
Click on the VBS Banner
2. Call: 301-643-1775 Holli
3. Pick Up/Drop off Forms at one of the following churches:
Harford First Congregational Church
Hop Bottom UMC
Gibson UMC
Great Bend UMC
New Milford UMC
South Gibson UMC
Universalist Church - Brooklyn





Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

June 12-15, 2023

From 10:00-12:30

Online Registration: www.firstchurchharford.com

Click on the VBS Banner.

Or fill out the form below and take to participating church:

Parent's First Name: _____

Parent's Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Child Registration:

1. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

2. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

3. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

4. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

5. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 10, 2023 9am



\$100/person- includes 18 holes with cart,

Donuts and Coffee, Hot Dog, prizes and Steak Dinner

Prizes: Closest to the pin, Longest drive, Closest to the Cooler, Basket Raffle, 50/50, Goodie Bag and more!!!

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

**To benefit First Congregational Church **



**13th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 10, 2023 9:00am shotgun start



Golf Team Registration

Team Captain _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Team Players: _____

****Make checks payable to First Congregational UCC**

Contact/Mail to: Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN

\$100 per Golfer = \$400 per Team

Payable in Advance



**12th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 10, 2023 9am shotgun start



Hole Sponsor/Memorial Level:

GOLD-\$200

SILVER-\$100

BRONZE-\$50

Your Name _____

Address _____

Information for the Sign _____

Email _____

Phone _____

****Make checks payable to First Congregational UCC**

Contact/Mail to: Holli Chichester
1814 Tingley Lake Rd
New Milford, PA 18834
301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM
AND JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN**

Summer LunchBox NEWS

The SLB Program has finally found a building to house operations for MountainView and Blue Ridge Schools. To set up operations SLB needs:

4 new large chest freezers	Industrial shelving	Cleaning supplies
8 Tables	Hand carts	large trash can
8 chairs	broom and dust pan	3 large industrial refrigerators

Chicken BBQ, Bake Sale & Basket Raffle

Chicken BBQ



Saturday, May 20, 2023

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

VFW Post 8488 Kingsley, PA

\$12.00 per Dinner

TAKE OUT ONLY

Benefits

Summer Lunch Box

For tickets call or text Holli at 301-643-1775 or call Judy in the office at 570-434-2260.

May 2023

June 2023

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	31

May 2023

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
Apr 30	May 1 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 7:00pm Trustees (PO) 7:30pm fair Mtg (LH)	2 7:00pm Choir (MR)	3 7:00pm Qtrly WW (LH)	4 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	5 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	6 9:00am CPR/AED class (LH)
7 7:30am Breakfast (Fire) 9:00am Last Ss 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Scouts (LH)	8 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (LH)	9 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Bingham's) 9:00am Pastoral Relations mtg 7:00pm Choir (MR)	10 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Bingham's) 9:00am Pastoral Relations mtg 7:00pm Choir (MR)	11 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	12 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	13 9:00am Clean-Up rain date (Outside)
14 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:15am Handbell 7:00pm Scouts (LH)	15 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies Lunch (Binghams)	16 8:00am Bake Sale (Fire hall-missionary) 7:00pm Choir (MR)	17 6:00pm Stewardship mtg (LH)	18 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	19 10:00am Weinberg (sorting/packing) 4:30pm Weinber (Pickup)	20
21 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:20am Deacons 7:00pm Scouts (LH)	22 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	23 7:00pm Choir (MR)	24	25 10:00am Pastor in office (Office) 6:00pm Council mtg (LH)	26 4:30pm Weinberg Distribution (Outside)	27
28 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:15am Handbell 7:00pm Scouts (LH)	29 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	30 7:00pm Choir (MR)	31	Jun 1	2	3

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Permit—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

Harford First Congregational Church –UCC
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
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: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12:00

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