

Our Spire

Volume

41

July

&

August

2021

Number

6



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

Pastor's Page:

SHOULD WE PRAY TO GOD WHEN ANGRY? **Y E S!**

Dear Congregation,

Here in the office this morning, I opened an email from Steve Brown at Key Life Connection. The email is titled, "The Problem with Prayer."

Steve's honesty strikes me. His candor impresses me. His relationship with God inspires me because, like Steve, there are times God gets an "ear full" from me.

Do you ever give God your heartbreak, your angst, and your anxiety? I hope you do. This is why God is here for us.

"Pretty prayers" are just that—pretty. In prayer, all we need to let God hear what hurts.

This is a part of what Steve shares (below).

Hey guys,

I told God today what he did wrong yesterday.

You what?

Yeah, sometimes I grade God. Sometimes I cuss, spit, rant and complain.

You're probably not saved! I always had my doubts.

Actually, I am saved and that's the reason I pray the way I do. I don't wear masks. In fact, prayer is about the only place where I can be honest, say what I think, and know I won't be kicked out. I don't tell God I love him when I don't, nor do I use religious phrases that aren't true. (It really isn't a good thing to lie to God because he knows exactly what we're thinking.) If it weren't for that honest time with my Father each morning, I'm not sure I would survive.

Let me tell you about prayer and why it's such a pain for many of us. You don't fool me. I've been doing this for a long time. I know me and I know people. We use spiritual words ("quiet time," "devotion," etc.) to mask the reality that we would rather do something religious to ameliorate our guilt than pray.

Pastor's Page Continued

Most of us don't like praying because:

- 1) We've listened to "testimonies" from others about prayer (they're generally lying, but you don't know that) and there is no way their experience comes close to matching our own.
- 2) We're really busy doing God's work and don't have time to pray.
- 3) We really don't believe that it does any good.
- 4) Frankly, we're not sure that God will show, and it's better to hope that he's around than to check and find out that it was all a fantasy and then have nothing.

Steve is more cynical than I am. He might say he's a bit jaded when it comes to how he sees those who are religious.

In his message here, Steve says most of us don't like praying. I disagree. I know some of you pray all the time. Literally. All the time. There may be a few 'amens' sprinkled throughout your day, but you're constantly in chatter with God. You are continually in communion with Him.

This is not all of us, but all of us can aspire to Paul who calls us to pray ceaselessly (1 Thessalonians 5:17). I share this because if or when you hurt in that deep, raw, angry, bitter way, vent to God. Gripe to God. Grumble to God. Growl to God.

And cry to God, or cry out to God. The real prayer. *YOUR* prayer. The you-to-God prayer. The one prayer God knows you have is the one prayer God wants you to share with Him.

If we keep God in a pristine box where on perfectly polished white marble floors He presides, He isn't assessable to us when we are slobbery, dirt-stained hot messes. Pray to God always. Even when—or especially when—you're upset or angry, He will hear You and help You.



One of our beloved Flower Ladies, Jean Bonham! Among her countless contributions through the years on many committees, the choir and our longstanding Spire editor, Jean is also one of our faithful flower ladies. This hand-crafted bouquet was dedicated to Fathers of yesterday and Fathers of today.

Thank you Jean!!

Treasurer's report-

To make expense every month in the general (example: electric, payroll, office and programs), we will need \$12,895.83 a month to meet our Budget for 2021.

Here is the Income and Expenses for May 2020 and 2021

May	2020	May	2021
Income	\$ 9,325.50	Income:	\$ 6,548.80
Expenses	<u>11,869.06</u>	Expenses	<u>9,202.19</u>
Total:	\$-2,543.56	Total	\$ -2,552.39

General year to Date for 2021

Income	\$55,257.83
Expense	<u>53,951.68</u>
Total	\$ 1,306.15

Christian Education Minutes - June 16, 2021

Present were Holli Chichester, Kay Gow and Will Hagenbuch.

The topics discussed were what the vision is for Christian Education. The vision is to have the children know God and grow a relationship with Him through conversation, outreach, Bible study, and interaction with the community.

The curriculum we choose should support an application to everyday life and support teachers in their teaching styles. Holli brought several samples of different curriculums we might want to use this fall. We took a look at two of them and decided we would take the samples home and at our next meeting we would make a decision on which one we would use.

Holli is going to contact some individuals to see if they might be interested in being teachers.

We also discussed having three classes. Young children 3-5 years, 6-9 years, and 10-12 years old.

The meeting ended in prayer. The next meeting is June 30, 2021 at 1:00PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Gow Secretary

Choir-Will suggested that we give Robert a pat on the back in appreciation of obtaining all the summer music.

Church Cupboard-Maureen report all the same.

Deacons: 6-13-2021

Attending: Will Hagenbuch, Tammy Stout, Teresa Lamberson, Linda Lindsey, Leanne Colwell, Lisa Hahn, Ginny Ahearn, Holli Chichester

Open in Prayer

New Member Class: Will start after Labor Day in September. Pastor will lead the classes. Class will be held after church. There will be four mandatory classes September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 with make up on October 10. Topics: History of UCC

History of Harford First Congregational

Structure and Operation of our church

Sacraments and Rituals

Embracing the Differences and Coming together in Love

Personal Faith Journey

Deacons will continue to fill out this outline over the next two months. Representatives from Stewardship, Deacons, Trustees, Missionary, Council and others will be asked to co-teach one class with Pastor.

Deacons will seek mentors for each new member and record classes for that have to miss a class.

Youth New Member Class: This class will be for 9-12th graders. The class will be based on the structure of the adult class but will include more about developing a relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Those interested will be questioned as to their availability for days and times. This class will begin after the end of the adult class (October 10) and be led by the pastor. More to come.

Confirmation class: This class will be offered to Junior High Students in the spring of 2022. Deacons will continue to work on the structure and content of this class over the summer.

Fellowship Time: Linda Lindsey suggested that we reinstate our time of gathering and fellowship. The COVID restrictions will be lifted after June 28. We will form a committee of people that would like to host or get others to host the fellowship time just prior to worship.

We will offer coffee (regular and decaf), tea, and juice as beverages. We will also offer cookies or the like and a healthier alternative. We will set up taller tables with a small centerpiece in the gathering room to set down cups for conversation. If desired the refreshments can be taken into worship. Any spills will be cleaned-up and treated.

Reminder: People matter more than objects. We can have a pristine, empty sanctuary or a sanctuary that invites people in and encourages interaction. We plan to use the Outreach funds for this endeavor.

We plan to have a table set up with cards for signing for those that are home-bound, ill, have experienced loss or just need a pick-me-up.

We also plan to have a screen displaying a loop of current events that may be of interest to those in attendance or those visiting our church.

Bible Study: We will discuss in-person and Zoom Bible study at the next meeting as we ran out of time.

Baptism: There are three baptisms planned in the near future. A rose with vase will be given after the service to the family of the baptized. A deacon will assist with each baptism.

Teresa Lamberson will be the Council Representative in June.

Finance committee—did not meet as a result of vacations. A finance committee meeting is to be set up before the next council meeting. This committee includes the following people: Nancy Burris, Connie Breese, Holli Chichester, Julia Gardner, David Schulte, and Maureen Warren. This meeting is to decide what to do with the growth from the Julia Hudson house of \$9,000 and the Tingley Lake property sale money. The minimum amount that can be invested with Nancy Burris' business is \$10,000. If the committee feels that the decision is an emergency of where to invest the money then an emergency council meeting will be called for after service before the next council meeting. If it is not felt to be a dire emergency then at the next council meeting we will vote on their proposition.

Historian-Average of 37 from May 30 to June 20.

Missionary Minutes—6-15-2021

Attending: Priscilla Allen, Karen Jones, Wendy Phillips, Sharon Decker, Maureen Warren, Holli Chichester

Opened in Prayer.

Minutes Read and Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Warren

Account Opened: \$474.70

Dues + \$5.00

Least Coin + \$5.00

Bake Sale + \$780.00

Ending Balance: \$1266.71

The Least Coin is sent in at the End of June.

Council NEWS discussed.

Correspondence: Sent a condolence card.

Giving and support of Local Organization was discussed. It was decided that we would send:

\$200 to The Women's Resource Center (offers shelter and support to women in need),

\$200 to CareNet (Support young families and strives to grow faith and Christian principles)

\$200 to Interfaith's Building Fund.

CHE (Community Health Evangelism) Newsletter was read and discussed (see summary below). We sent \$1500 earlier this year and plan to have a yard sale in September.

Operation Christmas Child: We plan to sponsor this mission again in the month of October. We spent \$116.61 on the Shoeboxes and \$23 on the extra postage.

Yard Sale: We plan to have yard sale work days 1 day/week in August. The items will be transferred from storage into the lecture hall for sorting. Tammy will be asked about this so that the Weinberg distribution isn't adversely impacted.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2021 at 1:00

Pastoral Relations-had a meeting and next one is July 13 at 9:30 after Men's Breakfast.

Pastor's report: For any who might have missed this when it happened, I want to share that my email address was hacked earlier this month. As soon as I was made aware of this, I sent an email from the office.

Please be careful of an email that seems like it's from me but actually is not. How can you tell if what you received is an authentic email? It doesn't ask you to do anything involving money. If anything seems a little fishy to you, please contact me by phone (570-434-7729 h or 570-267-5137 c) or email me at wrh@nep.net immediately.

This July, I'm introducing a new sermon series that will engage how all of us consider, engage and participate in Christian Education. If we think about it, Christian Education should be at the very root of what we do. Think about this with me. Has Christian Education been the significant base of Harford First Congregational-UCC? In tangible ways, our sermons educate us. This is true. This is also a joy of ours. Good news! Together, in this series we will look into how we intentionally educate ourselves as well as to those who are called to witness to and instruct the children. Good text and good lessons are coming for all of us!

What a blessing it was to attend the second of the two part wedding of Cody and Alyssa (Clarkson) Nolan on June 12th on a gentle, rolling mountaintop under a romantic tent that comfortably held those who could not attend their December 2020 wedding because of COVID restrictions. Congratulations Cody and Alyssa!

My home visits this month have been few but each has been significant. Each has been very, very private. One thing I can share is that in each visit you, as a congregation, have been raised and praised. Those I have met with have directly experienced your care and your prayers. You have been—and continue to be—blessings. Keep this up!

I continue to learn what it means to be two congregations—one being those who gather in person and the other being those who participate with online worship. So much more information needs to be gathered and then discerned. What I have been appreciative of is the feedback you provide. You bring to me your joys, concerns, laments, heartaches and questions. There is a grieving process taking place. Many who come to church miss the days that were. This is a real loss. This grief needs to be expressed and shared openly and with understanding.

My vacation will be the first four weeks in August. My first Sunday away is August 1. I return to the pulpit on Monday, August 23. Please contact David Schulte in my absence.

I submit this report with appreciation and blessings to each of you.



Baptism of

Benjamin Richard Doolittle

Parents: Katherine Masters Doolittle
and Eric Doolittle

Godparents: BethAnn and Rick
Masters

Stewardship Minutes - 6-17-2021

Present were Peg Empet, Ellen Holdredge, Nancy Burris, Michelle Estabrook, Will Hagenbuch and Kay Gow.

Under old business we discussed how much money from the sale of the Tingley Lake property and Julia Hudson Fund the church wanted to invest in an annuity similar to the one we currently have. Nancy said all she needs to know is how much and she can do the paperwork. The minimum is \$10,000 that can be invested. Peg is going to talk to David Schulte to get his input and then let Nancy know by email and she will begin the paperwork.

The memorial fund donations as written in last month's minutes are to be used for things which enhance worship services or add to the sanctuary.

Youth and Outreach have been separated into two areas. Youth was given \$3,000 and Outreach was given the remaining \$5,823.03. We hope this clears up any confusion that has been in the past.

Under the topic of a "Care Network" to connect with the congregation and community; Michelle mentioned Peg Smith had spoken with her and said the HVA is currently at full capacity and it might be nice to have a representative from Stewardship go to the HVA and see what the residents might need (Ex: Grocery shopping, rides to Dr's appt's and any other things they would require). We decided to have an Ice Cream Social on July 16th or 17th with the Susquehanna County Dairy Program providing the ice cream and have a Dairy Princess or Maid serve the ice cream. The final date and time will be set at the next meeting. A flyer will be made up and placed in the HVA to let the residents know about this event.

We also discussed getting other groups involved in doing things at the HVA. Ideas for this were Game-On, Choir, and Ugly Quilts. Also, we were thinking of having a game day where we would play games such as; bingo or perhaps putting puzzles together. Another idea was having a picnic or a reading. At the times we as Stewardship Committee have an event at the HVA it was suggested we might pass out a note card with the times church services are held.

A date of 13 March 2022 was set for a Commemoration Service to remember those we loved and lost during the COVID pandemic.

Under new business Peg said Shirley had mentioned perhaps having a Bereavement Group where Barton-Myer Funeral Home would come and talk to those who have lost someone and help them deal with all they are feeling.

There will be no meeting in August, but our next meeting is 15 July @ 6:30.

Respectively submitted, Kay Gow, Secretary

Tech committee.

There will be enough money from the golf tournament to cover the costs of the new technical equipment that will make it better to view and easier for the operators to use. David commented that we learned how to do things in the future regarding any further project. We must be fully funded before the project is started and we need a contract with the time of start, cost, etc.

David will draw up a resolution up front to decide where financial is coming from for any future project, we should have a contract with the start date and when to pay what. David will bring to the next council meeting. He will send the information to Judy so that she may send it out to the council members

Tech Committee continued: Judy asked about a wedding party paying if they desired to have the wedding sent to You Tube. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Ellen to add a live stream recording fee to wedding charges if this service is desired at a wedding. All in favor. Motion carried. Judy will add this information to the wedding information that is sent to engaged couples requesting to be married in our church.

Teresa had a question about live streaming baptisms that a child would be on You Tube. Judy to add the following to a baptism information sheet: Please be aware that our services are lived streamed on You Tube. If one is uncomfortable with this service being on YouTube please notify the pastor or office and the camera will be directed elsewhere.

Betty Lou suggested for Will to look at the camera to ask for anyone not present to come join in worship.

David mentioned that a few are carrying much by those not being present.

Michelle suggested a little script to run beforehand mentioning church information.

Betty Lou thought that a third screen hung on the balcony would be helpful for Will to look at and not have to turn around to look at the screen behind him. Betty Lou said that she is willing to pay for a third screen.

Will continues to ask for repeated feedback on the worship services.

Judy asked about returning to passing the offering plates. We are no longer wearing masks so no one is worried and we could resume passing the offering plate. Deacons will discuss this matter at their next meeting.

Trustee Meeting Minutes - June 14, 2021

Gary Housel, Rich Masters and Bill Chichester were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Gary Housel

Old Business:

Fire Alarm in Sanctuary behind the new monitor was moved by the alarm service to a lower location to be visible to everyone.

New electric circuit and outlet installed by Spectrum Electric near the piano to reduce the many extension cords and devices hooked to the outlet in front of the pulpit.

New Business: No New Business.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Masters

Willing Workers-

Ellen shared that Holli, Kandy, and Louise Banks are fixing up the new Willing Worker space at the fair ground. She, Sherry and Priscilla have the list of workers all filled. The Willing Workers will be in a new location in the Carriage House. The Kingsley Willing Worker group will be rolling, frying and packing Welsh cookies on Monday, June 28 starting at 9:00 to cook and 10:30 to bag and count.



Father's Day

The gifts and the pulpit were created and decorated by Sandy Tingley and sponsored by your Deacons.

Thank you Sandy!



Bible Study

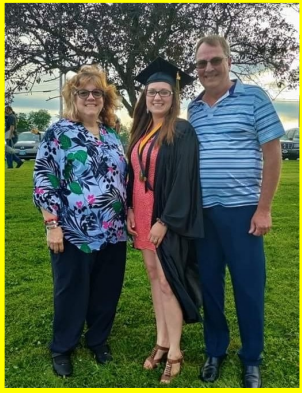
Coming in September!

If you are interested in studying God's word and having fellowship with other Christians, please call or email the office so that we can add you to our Bible Study list. We plan to have an in-person study and a Zoom Bible Study.

If you are interested in facilitating a Bible study, please indicate your willingness.

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



Congratulations

Becci Warren



graduating Valedictorian of her class
and a Diploma of Practical Nursing!!!

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 \$.75 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 appreciated if you could let the office be aware of where you will be living.

Thanks ever so much, Judy

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!!! We ask that people wear masks to walk around in the sanctuary but the masks may be removed if desired while seated.

Hymnals and Bibles may be utilized but all text will 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>



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 12, 2021. The day was a huge success, thanks in part to your generosity and participation. Our business sponsors really came through for us. We have listed our sponsors on the following page. 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, 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, Barbara Sloat, and the Winemiller Family.

Our total Business and Memorial Sponsorship was \$6690. We received \$1889 from golfers and \$2311 from Baskets, mulligans, 50/50, Putting Competition, Pot O'Gold and donations by Jan Vandenhengel and Brett Dew.

Adam Diaz, owner of Tall Pines Players Club, made a very generous \$1000 donation to the church.

The baskets were awesome. Thank you: Charlie and Ginny Ahearn, Louise Baker, Charlene Batzel, Holli Chichester, Peg Empet, Kathi Ferger, Kay Gow, Missy Heller, George Lotter, Karen Jones and Wendy Phillips, Ellen Holdredge, Linda Lindsey, Shirley Masters, Judy Mitchell, Missionary Group, Sue Needham, Ron Phillips Family, Dave and Connie Schulte, Paula Smith, Debbi and Bill Strong, Dustin Walker, Kandy Wellman and Linda Whitney.

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, Peg Empet, Julia Gardner, Kay Gow, Ellen Holdredge, Karen Jones, Sue Needham, Gary and Wendy Phillips and Abby Toolan.

Thank you to our workers during the Golf Tournament: Gwenn Diaz, Dottie Hagenbuch, Ellen Holdredge, Karen Jones, Linda Robinson. A huge Thank You to Kandy Wellman for making all of our sponsor signs!

We made a grand total of approximately \$11,000 after costs.

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

Holli & Bill Chichester, Kathi and Dale Ferger, Gary Housel, Judy Mitchell, Sue and Irv Needham, Wendy & Gary Phillips



Our 2021 Golf Tournament Sponsors

Please patronize these businesses to show our appreciation!!

Ace-Robbins

Adams Cable

Andre and Son Arendt's

Armetta's

Bartron-Myer Funeral

B.K. Bennington

Chaz Ross Services

Collins Beauty Academy

Concrete Texturing

Eastern Star Prosperity Chapter

Estabrook Excavating

Evans Chiropractic

Frank Payne Excavating

Harford Township

Harford-Warren Masonic Lodge

Honesdale National Bank

Jenny Leigh's

Kavetski Construction

Keating Masonry

Kilmer Flagstone

Kingsley Willing Workers

Lenox Pharmacy

Lenox Propane

Lindsey Oil

Master's Concrete

NBT Bank

NEP

New Milford Hardware

Nicholson Tire

Peoples Security

Ready Mix Concrete

Ross Feeds

Serbin's Golf Shop

Shaw's Barber

Sherwood Groves

Sherwood Motors

State Farm Tim Carpenter

Sterling Wealth Management

Stone's Garage

Stones Trustworthy Hardware

Town & Country Vet

Van Cott's Nursery



Correspondence:

To The Harford Church Family,

Thank you for your kindness and for everything you do

To make God's world

A brighter place

By simply being you.

The Carey Family would like you to know that they appreciate your help and caring and are donating peanut butter and jelly for the program per Norma Carey.

Lillie Thomas

To Harford First Church,

Hey it's Ben.

I was surprised to see how nice of a picture frame you guys gave to us seniors.

Thank you very much!

Ben DeMark

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.





Kingsley Willing
Workers and friends
getting ready for the
fair!
Welsh Cookies!!!
168 Dozen



Getting Ready for the Fair.

Willing Workers!

Our new location in the Carriage House



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.

Directory Update

Aaron Phillips
3875 State Route 547
Harford, PA 18823



Spire Sponsor Wanda Schmidt



Game On is Back!!

Beautiful weather and a night of smiles and
laughter.....

Oh How we've missed that!



Spire Sponsor

Walter Poxon



New Members Class

A New Members Class is starting up in September.

All are welcome to attend and become more knowledgeable about

**Harford First Congregational Church
and our beliefs.**

Please contact Judy in the office to sign-up for the classes and let us know that you are interested.

Will start after Labor Day in September. Pastor will lead the classes. Class will be held after church. There will be four mandatory classes September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 with make up on October 10.

Topics: History of UCC

History of Harford First Congregational

Structure and Operation of our church

Sacraments and Rituals

Embracing the Differences and Coming together in Love

Personal Faith Journey



**Spire Sponsor
Lois Gibson**

Home Bound



The Carey Family

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joan Benson

Helen Foster

Joanne Connolly

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

-Craig Stout and Family

-We pray for David Schulte's brother Bob

-for those with medical issues large and small

-for those affected in anyway by the COVID virus

-David and Brandy and family

-Those with Alzheimer's and their families

-Gary and Wendy Phillips

-the Carey family

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addiction

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

-Will's five foster kids

-Evan Clarkson, Bob Schulte and all those faithfully serving in the military

-MaryJane Genneken

-Sandy Zupanovich

-Mark Gregory

- health or loss of family pets

- Connie Schulte's son Phil

-Benjamin Doolittle on his baptism

- Kevin O'Neil

- Makel Silfee

-Nancy Marr

-Walter Poxon

-Kandy's friend Mary Keihl (ALS)

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Harry Gardner

-Paula Adams

-Buddy Green

- Katherine Masters Doolittle 's mother-in-law, Karen Doolittle

- Middle East

-Sal Armetta and family

- Andrew Kazmierczak

- All Graduates

-Andrew Granick

-Kay Holtsmaster and family

-Kurt and Sarah on their wedding

-Teresa Lamberson's brother Anthony

-Sammy

-Farrah Benedict

-Karen Jones relative

-Mae Dunbar





Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church
The 4th Friday of each month



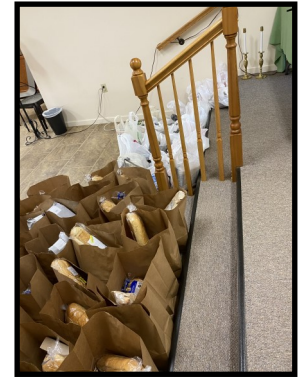
Please contact Tammy if you have registered but do not plan to pick up.

Next distributions July 23, 2021 from 4:30-5:30

August 27, 2021

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.



A big Thank you to
Michelle Estabrook and
our two teens on the tech
crew, Mikaela and
Shane!
Great Job!!



Thank you to Sharon
Kinney for beautifying
our church with lovely
planters.

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.



Men's Breakfast

Starting back up July 13, 2021

at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.

The second Tuesday of each month.



Spire Sponsor

In Loving Memory
of
Steven Carl Oakley

The Oakeys



Birthdays and Anniversaries



July 1	Kandy Wellman	August 2	Julia Gardner
July 2	Pat Gallan	August 3	Craig Stout
July 4	Michelle Estabrook	August 4	Nancy Marr
July 5	Bruce and Eleanor Meyer	August 6	Jean Bonham
	Heidi Millard		Patrick and Kate Simons
	Connie and David Schulte	August 7	Ellen Holdredge
July 10	Brandy Gebo		Bristol and Diana Zick
July 11	Kathy Brown	August 8	Joe Metzler
	Marianne Kraft	August 9	Ilse Lohrey
	John Zimmerman		Connie Schulte
July 14	Corinne Chichester		Tanner Stout
July 15	Gail Batzel	August 10	Beck and Brendan Herbert
July 16	Eli Titus	August 12	Lynn Butler
July 17	Dale and Peggy Empet	August 13	Caitlin Mitchell
July 18	Patrick Lamberson	August 16	Mark Lewis
July 20	Jim Batzel	August 21	Nancy Tyler
July 24	Kara Batzel	August 22	Ray Frederick
	Elizabeth Masters		Sarah Gardner Key
July 27	Scott and Dusti Mitchell	August 23	Jeri Watson
July 28	Bruce Meyer	August 25	Charles Ahearn
July 31	Bill and Holli Chichester		Dottie Hagenbuch
		August 27	Barbara Pease (104 years old)
			Brandon and Erin Zick

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





Summer Lunch Box

School is ending and Summer Lunch Box is starting up to help fill the additional food need when children are home from school. Our church has traditionally collected Peanut Butter. We added jelly to this collection last year.

The Summer Lunch Box Program needs 1000 jars of Peanut Butter and 1000 jars of jelly!

Let's help them meet this need!

The Collection barrel is in the Gathering Room now through out the summer.

Memorial Plaque Information

Are you interested in having a plaque attached to the memorial stone in the memorial garden? One may have a plaque ordered by doing the following:

Cost---\$25.00

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

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





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

It's Time to Spring Clean!!!!

The Missionary Group and the Willing Workers are sponsoring a yard sale, September 3 and 4th.

We will be collecting anything to be sold in a yard sale:

Bedding, electrical appliances, lighting, TVs, furniture, household items, kitchen items, tools, yard stuff, toys, baby items, bikes, decorations etc.

Please bring any items to the lecture hall and label them "Yard Sale".

If you would like a pick up, please call or text Holli at 301-643-1775 or 570-851-5109 or email at hollischichester@gmail.com.

Thank you, Missionary Group



Huge Yard Sale
Friday and Saturday,
September 3-4
from 8:00-4:00



at Harford First Congregational Church
5016 Creek Road
Harford, PA 18823



\$10 Pulled Pork Dinner
Pre-Sale Only
Pulled Pork Sandwich
Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw
Bar Cookie

Call the office for tickets or see a Willing
Worker or Missionary Member

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 2021!

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Children (0-17) _____
 Adults _____
 Seniors (60 and up) _____

Bureau of Food Distribution

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

"Self Declaration of Need"

Effective July 1, 2021 to Jun 30, 2022

 Recipient Name

 Agency Representative Signature Date

 Street Address

 Distribution Site Name Number

 City State Zip

 Distribution Site Location


The Emergency Food Assistance Program is operated in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Eligibility is based upon the income guidelines listed below. The recipient circles the entire line that applies to their Household Size, understanding they must be at, or below, the income level indicated to be eligible for program benefits.

Total Household Income (based on 150% of Poverty)					
Household Size					
Circle One	Annual	Monthly	Weekly		
1	\$ 19,320	\$ 1,610	\$ 372		
2	\$ 26,130	\$ 2,178	\$ 503		
3	\$ 32,940	\$ 2,745	\$ 633		
4	\$ 39,750	\$ 3,313	\$ 764		
5	\$ 46,560	\$ 3,880	\$ 895		
6	\$ 53,370	\$ 4,448	\$ 1,026		
7	\$ 60,180	\$ 5,015	\$ 1,157		
8	\$ 66,990	\$ 5,583	\$ 1,288		
<i>For each additional family member add:</i>	\$ 6,810	\$ 567	\$ 131		

I understand the household income limitations and hereby certify that my household size and income make me eligible for participation in the program. I also certify that, as of today, my household lives in the area served by Pennsylvania in The Emergency Food Assistance Program. This certification form is being completed in connection with the receipt of Federal assistance.

I UNDERSTAND THAT MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT MAY RESULT IN MY HAVING TO PAY FOR THE VALUE OF THE FOOD IMPROPERLY ISSUED TO ME AND MAY SUBJECT ME TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

 Recipient Signature Date

 Return completed form to your designated county agency. If you are unsure of the correct agency, please call the Bureau at 1-800-468-2433.

THIS FORM IS NOT TO BE ALTERED OR CHANGED IN ANY WAY.

PLEASE REFER TO THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR AN IMPORTANT USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202)690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program Pennsylvania TEFAP Proxy Form	
	Date _____
I _____ hereby authorize _____ to pick up my TEFAP Food Package and deliver it to me.	
Client Signature _____	Proxy Signature _____
Pantry Representative _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Proxy ID Verified

July 2021

July 2021							August 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
				10:00am Pastor in office		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INDEPENDENCE DAY 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	Independence day celebrated 9:30am NO Quarterback mtg		1:00pm WW (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office	5:00pm GAME ON (LH)	9:00am Book Sale (Orphan School)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Service (sanctuary) 11:15am Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:30am Pastoral relations (PO)		10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:00am Ed Camp 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch (Binghams)	9:00am Ed Camp	9:00am Ed Camp 4:00pm Clifford Methodist chicken/biscuit	9:00am Ed Camp 10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	9:00am Ed Camp	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)			10:00am Pastor in office	4:30pm Weinberg food pick-up 5:30pm GAME ON (LH)	

August 2021

August 2021							September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 1 7:00am Pastor-vacation 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	2 7:00am Pastor-vacation	3 7:00am Pastor-vacation	4 7:00am Pastor-vacation 8:00am HWW (Candy-LH) 7:30pm WW-Qtrly (LH)	5 7:00am Pastor-vacation	6 7:00am Pastor-vacation	7 7:00am Pastor-vacation
8 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 11:15am Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9 Pastor Will vacation 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	10 Pastor Will vacation 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams)	11 Pastor Will vacation	12 Pastor Will vacation	13 Pastor Will vacation 5:00pm GAME ON (LH)	14 Pastor Will vacation 9:00am Book Sale (Orphan School)
15 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	16 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair 12:00pm NO Ladies lunch	17 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair	18 Clifford Meth. Chicken/Biscuit dinner 4:00-6:00 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair	19 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair 6:30pm NO Stewardship	20 Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair	21 Jack Allen wedding Pastor Will vacation 10:00am Harford Fair
22 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	23 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	24	25	26 10:00am Pastor in Office 6:00pm Council (LH)	27 4:30pm Weinberg-pick up 5:00pm GAME ON	28
29 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	30 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	31	Sep 1	2	3	4



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



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

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

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 PERMIT—#20
 Montrose, PA 18801

DATED MAIL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY