



**Our
Spire**

**Volume 42
Number 8
October
2022**

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

Pastor's Page:

MORE THAN CITIES, MORE THAN MINES, A 122-YEAR-OLD SERMON MAKES A POINT ON MAJESTY

I pulled the following from a sermon delivered here in June 1900 from a pastor from what historian Marion Benning called our Mother Church, that church being the one in Attleboro, Massachusetts.



Historian and prolific writer Marion Benning, a neighbor of mine when I was a boy, did not (or perhaps could not) share the pastor's name but the preacher at what is our historic pulpit said, **"It is true there has been no great city built here; there have been no rich mines opened here; but [this church has] produced majestic men (sic), and men (sic) are more than cities and more than mines."**

What a gift for me to find this snippet from this sermon delivered 122-years-ago this month. Its truth still resonates. No great city did rise from the town of Harford (yet?). No coal opened such as those in and around Scranton. But this church—specifically this two-hundred-year-old church building—with its founding being 222-years-old this year—is more—actually, it is far more—than cities or mines. This 222-year-old church with its 200-year-old building is a home of history. It is also a sanctuary, a safe place. When we think of the history of this nation and its storms, struggles and celebrations, one of this nation's gifts is this church. In 1790, when this congregation began with its Nine Partners and their families, our nation was still new. Gunpowder from the Revolutionary War may have somehow still lingered in the trees and glades. Certainly, stories of the war were worn on the hearts and on the sleeves of those who, with faith beyond their years, began the church that enables our faith to grow here in Harford.

This church has produced majestic people. None of these people, whether they are our direct ancestors or not, would have ever called themselves majestic. No, they were Christian.

The One who is Majesty was visited by far-traveling magi who bore to the King gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This King was born in lowly manger.

I won't start a Christmas sermon here, but it is interesting that God's one and only Son, the One who would die with a sign above His head that read, "King of the Jews," was born in such a humble place, if we consider Luke's account of Jesus' birth.

Harford is a humble place. It is certainly a humble place now if you look closely at the town itself. But this pastor from 1900, a preacher ironically with no name, called those he spoke to majestic. Why? Because they were Kingdom bound! An inheritance is promised us. It isn't some faraway gift. It's an in-the-now gift. Yes, we will spend eternity with Jesus, the King of our hearts, but this richness this pastor speaks of—this majesty—isn't ethereal. It is here. In us. Around us. It IS us.

This majesty is in us because Christ Jesus is in us. God is with us. Wait. Now this is sounding like a Christmas sermon! It's true though. And it needs to be shared not just in late December or on a significant church history day.

In Ephesians 1:11-14, Paul writes, "Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him."

People, we live this Holy Spirit life here in Harford. I see this daily. I experience this weekly behind the pulpit. Maybe you are catching each *Spire* (and maybe even the Spirit) from a distance. If so, close the distance. Do so by being involved through the gifts (the inheritance) God has given you to share. One of those gifts is simply by being a part of the congregation. Truly. Come. Sit. Worship. Participate. Be seen. Be greeted. Be loved.

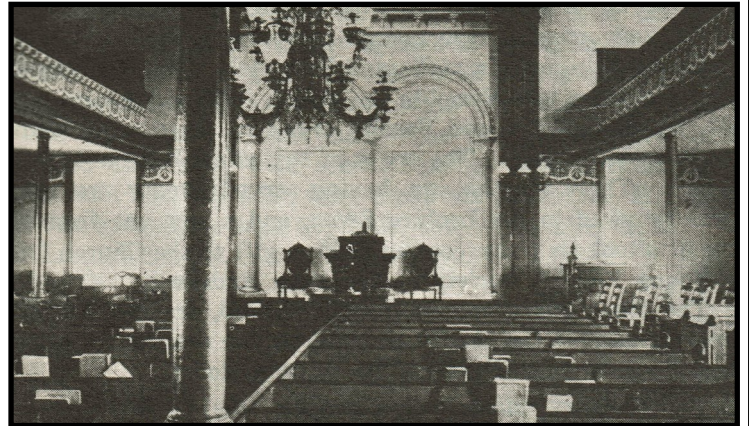
Majesty is a word that creates the image of gifts. You are a gift when you worship. You gift not only God but also those around you.

In Ephesians, Paul shares that the Good News is that God saves you. God saves us from ourselves.

One last thought on majestic people. How do you feel when you come to church and are greeted and loved in the name of Christ? Yes. It's such a good feeling, a full feeling, a blessed feeling. Majesty? Eh, humility rules in that we have a servant King. We who follow our servant King come to serve not to be served. But that feeling of gathering in worship? That feeling of being able to serve? These are two of the richest, most joyful sensations we have.

More than cities and more than mines, that feeling makes us feel majestic (or at least grand) because with joy we are in the company of the King Himself, Jesus Christ.

-Will



Church Interior 1909



Interior of the Lecture Hall

Bicentennial Readings

9/25/22

Mrs. Vadakin

Read by Shirley Masters



Dear Diary, I would like to take this opportunity to recall event within the church that occurred during my younger years. Mr. Tiffany enclosed the building, but Lee Richardson and Austin Jones finished off the interior. This was the work of several years and even at the dedication, it was not complete. "I cannot date the dedication. It was a warm day. I should think in the Spring or early Summer of 1826 or 1827. The inside was not finished. There were no pews. The seats were boards placed on blocks. The house was full. I sat on the floor at Mother's feet to make room for an old lady. The Reverend Cyrus Gildersleeve, from Wilkes-Barre, preached the sermon.

10/2/22

Miss Chapman (6/15/1800)

Read by Charlene Martens

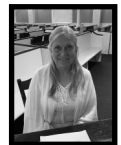


"Attended meeting at Mr. Tyler's and heard two very good sermons from Rev. Jedediah Chapman, a missionary from New Jersey." My name is Miss Chapman and I am visiting family in Nine Partners, PA. Today seven Christian souls took a leap of faith and founded a new congregation. The seven included Obadiah and Ama Carpenter, John and Mercy Tyler, Mercy Carpenter and John Thatcher and his sister Mary. All seven of them were formerly members of the Second Congregational Church in Attleborough, Massachusetts. The new church will be the first church in Nine Partners, Pennsylvania. Reverend Smith is a traveling minister of the Presbyterian faith. Reverend Smith challenged us with two sermons at our service of organization. I left Mr. Tyler's house thinking about what the future holds for this endeavor. I wish I could see into the future and discover the legacy that is born from today's service.

10/9/22

Mary R. Tyler

Read by Wendy Phillips



"In 1810, my father was installed as pastor for six months of the year. The other six months, he was commissioned by the Home Missionary Society to labor in the destitute places around. The church contained 105 members, but some of them were from Gibson, Ararat and Brooklyn. As there were no churches in those places, the people in Harford worshipped in a small house. A very large proportion of the congregation were singers, the Thatchers and Tylers without exception. The old meeting house resounded with the strong and sweet voices of many, we have reason to believe, are now singing their unending song in the temple above."

10/16/22

Clara Clarke (1822)

Read by Lynette Millard



"I was at the rising of the church, it was a great event. It is an event that I will remember always. Allow me to digress a little and explain how this momentous occasion was brought about. Hosea Tiffany donated the land. He had cleared the land himself. It was his most valuable property. Mr. Tiffany placed one condition on his gift. He stated that the church could not be changed from the Congregational order without the unanimous consent of its members. On the highest ground in his lot, Length 20 rods by 12 rods, the foundation was laid, 60 by 40 feet. Amos Tiffany was the master workman assisted by Tyler Carpenter and Olney Thatcher. The frame consisted of five bents, exclusive of the belfry. The timber was mostly pine. Mr. Tiffany selected the men for the rising, desiring no others. He was much annoyed when at the call of the fife and drum, several men, who were not invited made their appearance and proposed to help. Mr. Tiffany excluded them and that annoyed the men not chosen. His answer to them was that he had chosen men who would be careful and strictly obey orders. He further explained that this rising was a great event in town and must be properly executed. Fifty men participated. They were afterwards served dinner, provided by John Carpenter, in the old meeting house.

10/23/22

Clara Clarke 1840

Read by Ellen Holdredge



The pulpit of the new church was a half octagon supported by four cherry pillars, a winding staircase reaching it on either side. There were doors similar to pew doors. Behind the pulpit was a very large window which was curtained. The height of this pulpit permitted a thorough inspection of the unmarried men in the balcony as well as the lower floor. The seats for the singers extended the entire length of the balcony on both sides. In the early days of the church, these seats were always full. How they sang. "Aunt Nabby" Tyler was always in her place during church. She was not a natural singer but by constant training, her voice became an independent one. She, on the Sabbath, took the head of the singer's seats. My mother in her maiden days filled an important place in the soprano sitting. In the hall were winding stairs that led to the balcony. Above the hall was the beginning of the steeple. The belfry was open. The steeple is supported by eight pillars. The bell was placed here in 1836. The cost of the 830-pound bell was \$250. The cost of the church was \$2,700.



10/30/22

Melissa A, Tiffany 1852

Read by Kay Gow

In 1851 the Harford church was repaired and changed to become a modern house of worship. More pews were added to accommodate more parishioners. The high pulpit was taken down. A new pulpit was raised to half of the height of the old one.

New seating was placed in the balcony. The steeple was rebuilt. The front of the church received a new finish. The belfry was enclosed by blinds. The addition of the blinds means the bell can no longer be heard at a distance. The Spire above the belfry was built inside the belfry and drawn through the belfry and placed on top. It is secured by strong iron rods and bolts. The weather vane is 92 feet from the ground. Mr. Henry Spearbeck oversaw the repairs and the modernization. I am happy to report that we ladies played a role in the modernization and repairs. As secretary of the "Ladies of Benevolent Association" I kept the accounts of the ladies' contributions. Our expenses included rebuilding the pulpit, painting, trimmings, carpet, chairs, mats and spread for the table. Our total expenditure was \$100. The exact amounts can be found in the record books.

The church was rededicated January 29, 1852. Rev. Moses Thatcher, one of our own, preached the sermon. His text was taken from Matthew 13:31-32 concerning the faith of a mustard seed. The sermon was an emotional one for Mr. Thatcher who stated "You will please excuse my apparent weakness. The memories of childhood and youth spent here, and of a godly ancestry sleeping in the graveyard nearby, overwhelm my feelings". The sermon was an able sermon

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

Spire Sponsors

We **really, really 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

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Bicentennial



Sharon Decker, Missy Clarkson, Ed Tingley, Lynette Millard, Bailey Millard, Will Hagenbuch, Sharon Frantz, Larry Wright
 (Tiffany) (Titus) (Titus) (Tiffany) (Tiffany) (Carpenter) (Thatcher) (Carpenter)





Betsy Arnold
Will Hagenbuch
Lisa Baker



Operation Christmas Child



Missionary Group is kicking off our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. Boxes and lists of item suggestions will be available all through the month of October 2022. Completed boxes to be returned by October 30, 2022.



Missionary Yard Sale

Thank you all for donating, sorting, cleaning, helping and shopping!

We made over \$7500 to be used for missions in Harford, Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, the US and the world.



Income and Expenses

August 2021	August 2022	YTD 2022
Income: \$24,262.70	Income: \$13,061.80	Income: \$137,838.11
Expenses: \$11,315.76	Expenses: \$134,117.93	Expenses: \$85,032.43
Total: \$12,946.94	Total: -\$56.13	Total: \$52,805.68

Deacons— 9-18-22

September 25: Bicentennial- 4 ushers (2 in the back and 2 up front)

Guest book special for this day. All sign.

Video during Minute for Mission

Candle Lighters in robes

Wendy – Vessel Song

Lecture Hall with slide show and refreshments

Reenactment outside in the front

Vessel/Prayers to God

October 2: World Wide Communion (will keep with pre-packaged elements)

October 9: Baptism – Sawyer Feduchak. Linda Lindsey – Deacon Kay will get the rose

October 30: All Saints Day (will collect names and pictures of loved ones passed until October 23)

Digital pictures preferred but will scan real pictures.

Pictures will be shown during the special music

Names will be in the bulletin

Hymn Dedication: We will begin a hymn dedication (in honor or in memory of someone) for the first hymn of the service. People can sign the Hymn dedication sheet or place the request in the offering. Limit is one per service however.

Children's Hymn: We will try having a hymn for the children. We will use the music videos from Sunday School for the hymns. The videos have the words shown with the music. This will be the second hymn. It will be done once per month...first Sunday of the month.

Bulletins: It was felt that we could return to the traditional bulletins. Will is going to have the sermon points and the scripture on the insert along with the extras we normally have.

Lay Readers: The Lay Reader will now do the Welcome, Call to Worship, Scripture and the Words of Assurance.

November 27: Christmas Tree Lighting. Tree of Hope

All church groups and community groups (SLB, Interfaith, Fire Hall, Harford Twps. supervisors, Police local and state, County Commissioners, Newspaper, VFW, Masons, Eastern Star, Harford Fair Directors, Dairy Ambassadors, Cemetery Assoc, Historical Society, Harford Rod and Gun, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Other local Churches, School principals, board and supervisor) will receive an invitation, going out November 1, to come and place an ornament of Hope on the Tree. Kay will make Christmas cards and a letter of invitation will accompany it. Special ornaments will be purchased. The ornaments from last year will also be used.

Christian Education: The question was asked if the Deacons wished to have CE do a Christmas Pageant this year. Answer: yes

Council Rep: Linda Lindsey

Next Meeting: October 16.

Missionary— 9-20-22

Opened with Prayer

Reviewed August decisions: Sent \$200 to Interfaith back-to-school shoes program

Treasurer's Report: Opening Balance: \$1372.08

Closing Balance: \$8,322.74

Correspondence Out: 8 out

In: Stouts – Thank you, CareNet – Banquet

Japan: Do we want to still correspond with the two churches?

Japanese Sister Churches: We voted to continue the correspondence of encouragement.

Yard Sale: Lessons Learned: Get AA and AAA batteries to check items, Need better church history paper available, Times: 8:00-3:00 Friday and 9:00-2:00 Saturday. Voted to Present Gwenn Diaz with money and a thank you for the use of her garage for most of the year.

Daily Bread Devotional: Is paid in September. Kay will make an announcement to encourage people to take a copy.

Least Coin: Wendy reported that Least Moneys go to support programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South Pacific, South Africa and Canada.

She reported on a program in Northern Ireland targeting Caribbean and African refugees. This program is a Podcast dealing with Domestic Violence, Racial Prejudice and Obstacles to Opportunity.

Maureen will send in the Least Coin Money for this year later this week.

Representative to Council: September – Laurie Grant, October – Karen Jones, Nov/Dec – Sherry Decker

Operation Christmas Child: World Wide collection is November 15-22.

We will run our program October 2-30 (4 Sundays). This will end the collection before the cocoa and Christmas Tag programs starts. We will meet November 1, 2022 at 1:00 to check the boxes for shipment.

Laurie brought forward a program that makes shoes that can grow five sizes. The shoes cost \$20 each plus shipping. We voted to purchase 15 pairs of shoes-that-grow for 15 OCC boxes. The shoes will be primarily for the 5-9 age group.

We will have a table with sign-ups Oct 2—Priscilla Allen, Oct 9 – Sherry Decker, Oct 16 – Karen Jones Oct 23—Peg Empet, Oct 30—Priscilla Allen

Interfaith: Wendy reported that Interfaith has seen an increase from 1-2 per day requesting assistance to 5-10 per day. The main area of need is food, utilities and the Christmas program. We voted to give \$500 to Interfaith Montrose for the Assistance Program. Wendy will report back next month how the assistance is distributed.

Bake Sale: November 8, 2022 (Election Day)

We will have no meeting in November since we are checking the OCC boxes on the 1 of November and have the Bake Sale on the 8th.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2022

Trustee Meeting Minutes—September 12th, 2022

Old Business:

-Mark Page and Connor Freytag completed the Lecture Hall front porch rebuild and it looks very nice. They also replaced a clapboard on the side of the Lecture Hall.

-Survey was completed on the property line of the church and was confirmed. Pastor Will was going to check what if any issues there may be if any with Dustin Walker and his neighboring property. Trustee's will insert a durable pipe to delineate the line.

-Harry and Dave Oakley installed the security cameras.

New Business:

-The Men's room door of the lecture hall bathroom sticks and is difficult to open. It may be easily fixed with a grinder.

-Upper panel of a storm window on the Lecture Hall is missing. Gary will look in the basement to see if it may have ended up here.

-The North Side of the Church and Lecture Hall are starting to get mildew/moss. It may have to be cleaned next year or treated.

-The windows of the church still leak occasionally when it rains. Caulking may be the first step. There is also peeling paint on the wainscoting.

-There was discussion of putting reflectors along the parking area to visually alert drivers that they were nearing the edge of the parking lot in lieu of concrete parking bumpers.

-Harry will reach out to Connor Freytag and Mark Page about removing the first long pew at the bottom of the ramp in the church, painting, and some other small projects that need to be completed.

-Kandy has the carpet to replace sections when the pew is removed. She will need to find someone to install the carpet.

Other Council Minutes

Technology: Has been placed under Trustees. If the need arises, a tech committee can be formed.

Council approved having the Catholic Coral Society here March 26, 2023.

Clutter Upstairs: It was determined that we need Shelving in the attic for storage. Dave Schulte volunteered two shelves and Harry Gardner volunteered totes. Holli, Ellen and Kay will work on it.

ARC: Animal Resource Center. Dog and cat food are being distributed via Weinberg.

Christian Education: Sunday School has started up with class for children 2-18. We are using the curriculum "Simply Loved" from Group Publishing.

Choir: Practicing at 7:00 Tuesdays.

Church Cupboard: Serving 1 family

Cradle Roll: Seven Families will receive Cradle Roll Books this month.

Historian: Average of 54 persons attending per Sunday.

Pastor's Report:

Time with our congregation who are near (or who are now not so near) is deeply joyful. This is also true for those in the community. Yes, sometimes parts of the conversations we have are *not* joyful at all. For example, honest, deep-down conversations about loss of all kinds are painful, but even in the middle of tears, there is still a connection, still a bond, and there is always a presence of God and His divine love in and around us. I mention tears. There is also laughter! What I wish to share about visits is how meaningful they are, how good, how necessary, and sometimes how needed. I am blessed as a community-based pastor.

I decided to write out this church building bicentennial sermon rather than preach by way of the Holy Spirit, which has been my call for years now. I am doing this so that the document remains preserved in our history. My historical information comes from a well-remembered neighbor of mine, Marion Benning. Marion, who lived on the Benning farm just at the top of the hill from the home I grew up in (and live next door to today) compiled what she titled "Our Heritage" in September 1969. This booklet is rich with facts about our church's longstanding and impactful history.

To preach on the day that we celebrate our church's history on a day in September in the year 2022 is one of the most exciting opportunities and joys I have. I'm thrilled to be able to share how Godly people in our past speak directly to Godly people today. I pray this sermon is deeply inspiring and positively moving by way of the ever-present Holy Spirit.

Speaking of work, I find such satisfaction in my weekly writing routine that draws us closer to God and closer to each other. There are exceptions sometimes, but I typically send out my newspaper column on Mondays. I do this because often the column is a different way of entry into the sermon I preached the day before. On Tuesdays, I send out the sermon intro. On Wednesdays, I send out the Midweek Meditation. On Thursdays, I send out the vlog. On Friday, I send out the Sermon Prep. On Saturday, I send the bulletin and a worship invitation, and I now send out the week in review (which includes the Sunday prayer chain info) on Monday in addition to the column I mentioned a moment ago. I do all of this so that we engage the text fully, and consider how the Word of God is astonishing, guiding, fulfilling and amazing each and every week.

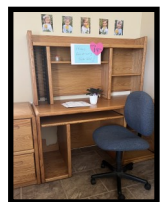


I will officiate the wedding of Jenny Ross and Robert Ralston this coming Saturday, September 24th. The wedding will take place at their home.

I had the joy of officiating the Feduchak wedding. I have known Paige Seymour and Zach Feduchak since both were in grade school. They are both dear to me. Their summer wedding was beautiful, meaningful, and truly joyful. Congrats, Mr. and Mrs. Feduchak!

I had a great time just outside the Harford Fair Dining Hall. On the day our church did the dinner there (Saturday), I enjoyed being partnered with helpers throughout the day. Together, we helped children do sand art that they could take with them. This project was totally free and family friendly on a budget. I want to thank Nancy, Travis, Sharon and Sarah for your one-on-one time with me and the kids we talked to about faith.

I would also like to report the fun and the faith-building I have with my junior and senior high Sunday school students. We meet in my office each Sunday before worship and we engage fully the text of the day in ways that are applicable to where they are in life.



Workspace in the church's workroom has been carved out for me. Since I have returned from August vacation, I have a handsome oak desk and my very own computer. I LOVE this. Thank you, congregation!

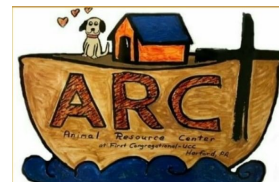
I want to close this report with the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. This year we are honoring our church's significant history. This campaign wasn't easy to create but so many hands and hearts made this homespun campaign called "A Leap Of Faith" what I pray will be respectful, insightful, and inspiring. For what may now be 10 years, the Stewardship Committee creates its own campaign. We do not use a prepackaged one from the UCC. Instead, we go specific! We reach into where we are and how we are. This year's video clips from portions of our church's history will capture the giving Spirit not only of our God but also of our people. This church does give. This church does rally. This church does the work of Christ in and around the community. To be a pastor of this body of Christians is far more than a pleasure. It is a sincere joy. -Will

Pet Blessing

Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

November 5, 2022

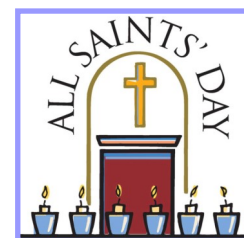
9:00-11:00 am in the church parking lot



All Saints Sunday—October 30

If you would like to share a picture of your departed loved one during church on October 30, please send a digital picture to firstchurchspire@gmail.com. If you have a picture that needs to be scanned. Please get it to Judy in the office. If you wish to have your loved ones name listed, please get this information to Judy at the office.

All names and pictures must be in by October 23, 2022



October Birthdays and Anniversaries



		October 13	Laura Jane Moser
		October 16	Buddy and Susan Green
		October 20	Sharon Kinney
October 2	Ken and Betty Lou Bennett		Michelle Masters
	Brandon Zick		Kelly Feduchak
October 4	Cathy Anderson		
	Wayne and Kandy Wellman		Rev. Ghulam Nasrani (94) 31 Federal
October 7	Matt and Elissa Mitchell		Hill Road, Oxford, MA 01540-1301
	Dale Ferger	October 23	Rebecca Gardner
	Gary Phillips	October 26	Chad Batzel
	Gary and Wendy Phillips	October 27	Laurie Grant
October 10	Bridget and Ben Sherring	October 28	Joyce Berish
October 11	Paula Millard	October 30	Maureen Warren
	Kurt and Tatiana MacDowall		



Flower Sponsorship

Here's a new way to serve in your congregation and add beauty to our worship experience!

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

Other Council Minutes

Stewardship: Met to stuff envelopes for the pledge campaign.

Willing Workers: It was reported that we made over \$10,000 at the HARford Fair, but that number hasn't been adjusted for costs and expenses.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ARC-Animal Resource Center



ARC is a help to those who may not be able to properly care for their animals. ARC had been supplying cat and dog food to people who pick up Weinberg food.

They purchase between 25-30 pounds of food each month and divide it up between three families who receive Weinberg. They were originally providing cat and dog food however the families who received dog food no longer come to Weinberg.

Lauri Demark has been working with one of the Weinberg families to try to get their feral cat population under control. She has made two visits to Kindred Spirits to get cats spayed/neutered. She plans to continue to work with this family and take more cats each month. Kindred Spirits charged for the first visit and ARC also sent a small donation. The second visit was covered by donations.

ARC gladly will accept any donations. Put your money in the collection plate (marked for ARC) or send a donation to the office. These donations will be greatly welcomed.

Thank you. Harford First Congregational Church-UCC
PO Box 217
Harford, PA 18823

Problems or Issues regarding Harford First Congregational Church—UCC?

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

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



Tel.570-434-2260 Email: firstch@nep.net

Summer Lunch Box - 2022 RECAP

At the high Point there were 576 Children enrolled.

					<u>Totals</u>
Groceries	\$7,855.18	\$8,795.36	\$9,481.37	\$13,147.42	<u>\$39,279.33</u>
Milk	\$1,140.45	\$1,475.10	\$1,712.70	\$2,014.65	<u>\$6,342.90</u>
	Chocnut Neumann Cntr	Elk Lake	Montrose Interfaith	Mountain View HB Fire Hall	<u>\$45,622.23</u>
Item					Total
Cheese	286	330	393	465	1474
Eggs	286	330	393	465	1474
Hot Dogs	259	306	376	451	1392
Margarine	197	241	223	348	1009
Granola Bars	1144	920	1104	1264	4432
Fruit (Cans)	572	660	786	934	2952
Cereal	286	330	393	467	1476
Soup (Cans)	572	660	786	934	2952
Peanut Butter	197	241	270	279	987
Jelly EO	127	198	270	279	874
Mac N Cheese	572	660	886	934	3052
Mayo EO	110	184	253	269	816
Pancake Mix EO	110	184	253	269	816
Syrup EO	110	184	253	269	816
Pasta Sauce	572	660	786	934	2952
Pasta	572	660	786	934	2952
Ravioli (Cans)	572	660	786	934	2952
Tuna	572	660	786	934	2952
Veggies (Cans)	572	660	786	934	2952
Pudding (4 Pk)	286	330	393	467	1476
Bread	286	330	393	467	1476
Milk	286	297	348	407	1338
Fresh Fruit	197	237	270	348	1052

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.

Hymn Dedication

Dedicate the first 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.



“Fun in the Sun” Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 30 from 2:00-3:00 Church’s parking lot

To make this event for the children successful and a happy time, we would like at least 15 cars to participate in this event.

Please let Holli know if you will be able to be part of this fun event. One may call or message Holli at 1-301-643-1775. We would ask that you arrive at 1:30 with your trunk decorated and with handouts for the children.



To make the event even more exciting one could come and hand out your items **while in costume**. We do ask that one avoids scary or gory themes.



August 27, 2022

Elizabeth Schulte’s Baptism
Parents: Jackie and
Dave Schulte III
Dave Schulte Jr. Officiated

Celebrate the joys in life!

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

Contact Tammy at 570-396-7081



Correspondence

Dear Congregation,

I think the word is out that I am a foster father to my children's baby brother who was born on April 19, 2022. We call our gift Craiger after one of my dearest and lasting God-given gifts, Craig Stout. Craig's funeral was on August 24. Craiger arrived on August 26.



I am writing to THANK the Missionary Society for this baby blanket. It was given to us in person by Jean Bonham. The detail and love that went into the blanket is overwhelming. That it came from Jean makes this gift something we will not only treasure but also pass down among my children (in a way I have not figured out yet!). I am touched beyond words by this gift. God bless the Missionary Society and all the babies the society has blessed with blankets over the years!

-Will

PS. Here Craiger is wearing a onesie from Uncle Craig's favorite football team, the Seattle Seahawks.

To Our Church Family,

Where do we begin and how do we begin to thank you, our church family for all that you have done for our family during and after Craig's cancer journey. Your love and prayers are what got Craig as far as he got. He (as well as we) appreciated each, and every prayer, card, note, visit, meal, call, and the many other ways you all reached out during the past two years. Craig loved each of you!! He loved God!! He loved this church!!

Our family thanks you for the continued love and support you have shown since Craig's passing. No words will ever be enough. Thank you, Love, The Family of Craig Stout

Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank you for all the cards, calls and visits that have continued since my diagnosis. I am actually doing pretty well this past week and feeling better. Treatment will hopefully continue tomorrow, depending on bloodwork results. I appreciate the prayers and all the gestures of love that I have received. Thanks again. George Lotter

Mr./Mrs. Glenn/Margaret Smith
48 Decker Court
Harford
PA 18823

Norma Carey
Turnpike Terrace
Susquehanna
PA 18847

Monna Adams
512 Oak Street Apt 222
Taylor
PA 18517

Irene Deemer
2925 Tack Road
Newark
NY 14513



You may access the Harford First Congregational Church—UCC 2021

Annual Report using this link:

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

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

October 11, 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, October 28, 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

-the Craig Stout Family

-for those with medical issues large and small

-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 kids

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

-Sandy Zupanovich

-Connie Schulte's son Phil

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-law enforcement officers

-emergency volunteers

-hospital workers and fire personnel

-Linda and Mike Berol

-Tim Gardner

-George Lotter

-Lori Masters Yashino

-Rita

-Carol Lyman Biondo

-Ken Walsh

-Block Party for Youth in Hallstead

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Ruth Ann Batzel

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-Lola and John Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-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

-Robert Hagenbuch

-JoAnn Titus

-Joanne Zick

-Sue Mc Bride

-War in Ukraine

-Dorothy Greene

-Tricia Deacon

-Don Drewitt

-Tim Gardner

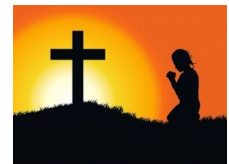
-Mr. and Mrs. Yushinsky

-Amy Kittle

-Trisha Harvey Deacon

-Meals-on-Wheels Program

-Millie Tingley



Women's Lunch

3rd Monday of each month

12:00 at Bingham's

All Welcome!

Bring a Friend



Greeters and Ushers

October 2 - Betty Lou Bennett (greeter/usher)

Ken Bennett (usher)

October 9 - Leanne Colwell (greeter/usher)

Kay Gow (usher)

October 16- Sue Needham (greeter/usher)

Irv Needham (usher)

October 23- Missy Clarkson (greeter/usher)

Alyssa Clarkson (usher)

October 30- Sherry Decker (greeter/usher)

Dee Archer (greeter/usher)



October Lay Readers

2nd- Linda Lindsey
9th- Karen Jones
16th- Abby Toolan
23rd- Wendy Phillips
30th- Kay Gow



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.



1800

September 21, 2022

Dear Congregation,

Leaps of faith have accomplished many things in our church's illustrious and often time turbulent history.

As our fall campaign gets underway our theme will be "Our Leaps of Faith". We, the Stewardship Committee, will share every week a look at what our founders' leaps of faith did for them and the church and how it has made our church the beacon of faith it is today and will continue to be for those in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

The Stewardship Committee

Harford First Congregational Church-UCC
Reverend Doctor William Hagenbuch
PO Box 217, 5016 Creek Road, Harford, PA 18823
Office: (570) 434-2260, Lecture Hall: (570) 434-2137, Pastor's home (570) 434-7729
E-mail-church---firstch@nep.net E-mail-Pastor---wrb@nep.net
Web site ---www.firstchurchharford.com
Facebook---Harford First Congregational Church-UCC



Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

2023
Commitment Card

“But when he saw the wind, (Peter) was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.-Matthew 14:30-32, ESV

In the next calendar year (2023) the church will receive a contribution of

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

Please apply the pledge above as follows:

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

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this side to the financial secretary, or mail to the office, or deposit in the collection plate by November 6, 2022

Thank you very much.

Do you desire a box of pledge envelopes for each Sunday? - Yes/No



Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

2023
Commitment Card

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\$ _____ for Capital Fund (Property & Large Maintenance & Improvement)
\$ _____ Other _____
\$ _____ Other _____
\$ _____ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please detach and retain this copy for your records

2023-Time and Talents**Christian Education**

Candle Lighting _____

Sunday School Helper _____

Church Program

9:30 Monday meeting _____

Committee-serve

Deacons (member only) _____

Stewardship(anyone) _____

Trustee (Member only) _____

Deacons

Altar Flowers Provide _____

Bible Study _____

Coffee Hour Help _____

Greeter at doors _____

Read on Sundays _____

Usher _____

Visit shut-ins _____

Missionary

Donate to Disaster Kits _____

Donate to Shoe Box _____

Soup Ministry _____

Music

Bell Choir _____

Choir _____

Outreach

Cocoa-donate _____

Drive folks-appointments _____

Golf Tournament _____

Peanut Butter-donate _____

Pick up folks for service _____

Spire Sponsor _____

Ugly Quilts-help _____

Weinberg-Help _____

Trustees

Church up-keep _____

Memorial Garden _____

Repairs/maintenance _____

Yard Clean-up _____

Willing Workers

Attend Meetings _____

Attic Treasures _____

Funeral Dinners _____

Log Cabin help _____

Youth

Fair Dinner Help _____

Yard clean-up _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE RETURN BY**NOVEMBER 7, 2022****THANK YOU****2023-Time and Talents****Christian Education**

Candle Lighting _____

Sunday School Helper _____

Church Program

9:30 Monday meeting _____

Committee-serve

Deacons (member only) _____

Stewardship(anyone) _____

Trustee (Member only) _____

Deacons

Altar Flowers Provide _____

Bible Study _____

Coffee Hour Help _____

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Attend Meetings _____

Attic Treasures _____

Funeral Dinners _____

Log Cabin help _____

Youth

Fair Dinner Help _____

Yard clean-up _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE RETURN BY**NOVEMBER 7, 2022****THANK YOU**

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Children's Ministry

Fall Sunday School

Every Sunday

9:00 - 9:45

Fellowship and Refreshment 9:30-10:00

Worship 10:00-11:00 All Welcome!!!

Ages Two thru Pre-K

*Let the Children
Come to Me*



Kindergarten—grade 2

God's Promise



3rd Grade— 6th grade

*The Beauty
of
God's Creation*



Middle-High School

With Pastor Will



Harford First Congregational Church - UCC
Sunday School Registration Form
2022-2023

Please Use one Form per Child

Child's Name: _____

Name of Parent (s) or Guardian (s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

(Most Communication will be via email)

Grade: _____ Age of Child: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Allergies: _____

Information Regarding Your Child We Should Know: _____

Child's Interests: _____

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Information

(Check if Willing to Help)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Pageant Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute for Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Events Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Helper |

Harford First Congregational Church's Sunday School periodically uses photographs of students to publicize this church and events. Please sign below to indicate that you agree that a photo of your child may be utilized in this manner (Closed Facebook, Website, Flyers). I agree to allow Harford First Congregational Church to use my child _____'s photograph for publicity purposes as described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Harford First Congregational Church

Willing Workers

Harford, PA

ROAST BEEF DINNER

October 22, 2022



Roast Beef and Gravy

Green Beans

Mashed Potatoes

Cole Slaw

Roll

Pumpkin Pie



Presale/Take out only

Order by October 16, 2022

Drive by pick up from 3-5:30 pm

**Call Holli at 570-851-5109 or
text 301-643-1775 to order tickets.**

Make checks payable to "Willing Workers"

Adults: \$14.00

Children under 12: \$7.00



**Fun in the
Sun
Trunk or
Treat**

October 30, 2022

Sunday from 2:00-3:00

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Parking Lot

5016 Creek Rd. Harford PA

All Welcome!!

Family Friendly

Not Scary

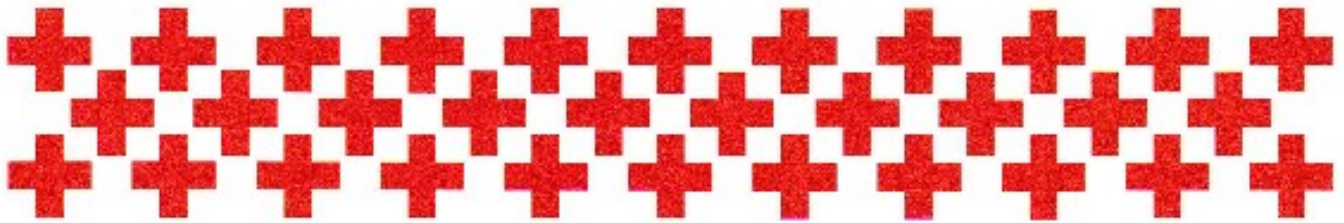
Treats and Fun!

To ask questions or to help call or text Holli at

301-643-1775

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Harford Community Blood Drive
Proudly Sponsored by the
Harford Volunteer Fire Company
In the Multi Purpose Room - 142 Fair Hill Rd.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org
to make your lifesaving appointment today!

We've got a treat for you this month! Come to give in October and get a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Enjoy some buttery popcorn or a refreshing drink with your next movie screening on us. Terms apply, see redcross.org/boo

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2022 by American Red Cross

PHOTO: © GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

October 2022

October 2022							November 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
30	31						29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
2 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship	3 9:30am Quarter back 9:30 mtg (Pastor's office)	4 9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	5 1:00pm Blood Drive (Firehall) 7:00pm Roast beef dinner mtg	6 10:00am Pastor in office	7 10:00am Pastor in office	8 9:00am Book Sale-Orphan School
9 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship	10 9:30am Quarter back 9:30 mtg (Pastor's office) 7:00pm Trustees	11 7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Pastoral 9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	12	13 10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Harford Historical mtg (Log Cabin)	14	15
16 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 11:20am Deacons	17 9:30am Quarter back 9:30 mtg (Pastor's office) 12:00pm Ladies Lunch	18 9:30am Ugly Quilts 1:00pm Missionary 7:00pm Choir	19 6:00pm Stewardship	20 10:00am Pastor in office	21	22 3:00pm Roast Beef dinner
23 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship	24 9:30am Quarter back 9:30 mtg (Pastor's office)	25 9:30am Ugly Quilts 7:00pm Choir	26	27 10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council mtg	28 4:30pm Weinberg	29 8:00am Fire Co Trunk or Treat
30 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Trunk or Treat	31 9:30am Quarter back 9:30 mtg (Pastor's office)	Nov 1	2	3	4	5



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

.....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