

Our Spire

Volume 41

June 2021

Number 5

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

PASTOR'S PAGE: Honor our history. Yes! In an era of dying churches everywhere, by the grace of God Harford First Congregational Church-UCC has made it this far. As COVID restrictions begin to lift, here I wonder if we jump back to what was, or does a clean slate hold info we need to consider?

Are we who we were, or is God inviting a fresh start?

A tremendous amount of learning and discerning is available to us now. Never in our lifetimes has the church at large experienced a complete close for such a painful and prolonged duration. The impossible happened. Houses of worship completely shut their doors when the Corona Virus hit in mid-March, 2020. The immediate scramble was fueled by a tremendous fear for the safety of all. How would we worship? How could we possibly gather when we weren't able to meet in person at all?

It's truly amazing what we have been through. Think about it. No one could have predicted that a worldwide pandemic would completely derail the living presence of weekly worship. Yet it happened. To toss the information we have had to face willingly and unwillingly would be a great mistake.

Let's start at the beginning. How would we begin anew? And what about communion? Without a paper bulletin, what could be done? Would there be enough hand sanitizer in those first weeks of rationing? Would we (could we?) stay socially distant, or, as church family, would we hug and squeeze in, when, as directed, we should literally stay apart? How would we do Easter Sunday, 2020? Then, we began to settle. Adjust. Would people get too comfortable with online worship? Would we, in fact, actually make it through this tremendous plight? What about our outreach? Our fundraising? Our ability to stay afloat? Egad, we lost the fair. The November Roast Beef dinner was—and then again wasn't—what we knew, counted on, and enjoyed.

Later, we had to face *that* Christmas Eve—the movie version of worship in the oldest sanctuary in the county.

The psychology of religion is a whole other topic—and it should be gaining a great deal of information now and into the immediate future. We could shop in grocery stores (somewhat comfortably or in all-out fear) but most of us stayed far, far away from worship even when we re-established safety protocols that included mandatory face mask wearing, no hymnal use, and designated pews for sitting safely.

I write this with forecasts that the COVID restrictions we began to experience last spring are beginning to lessen. Who knows? A second round of the virus could push us back to where we were, but in the big picture, I think we can agree that there will be a day when this painful experience is past.

So, what then? Business as usual?

I don't want to jump back, and hope you don't either. While I have (and will continue) to appreciate all the information we have had when things in the past were "normal," I hold closely to—and am deeply inspired by—Isaiah 43:18-19. The ESV reads, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

God *is* doing a new thing. Are we going to ignore this?

I'm not suggesting a radical reform, but I do invite us to think deeply and pray considerably for our return. What will it be? Same old? No, the gospel message has not and will not change, but are we, as part of the global church, going to keep trying to push a circle through a square? Are we going to hope for new life when we only practice what we did?

Here is a fact I invite you to consider. As we live in a post-9/11 era, we will be living in a post Corona virus era. What will this mean?

If I am too newfangled for you, if I sound progressive, modern, or just too far out there, I am reminded of what we are called to do, and that is go and make disciples in the world (Matthew 28:19). If we think that old measures will be the miracle for new generations of worshippers, we all know this won't work—at least completely.

Again, I value our past and our history. None of this is lost. None of this will be lost, tossed or ignored. The value of what we have done and where we have been is literally tremendous! I get the history and the rose-colored lenses we all see through (or want to see through). For so many of this, the decades of church that were, still (and will always), remain cherished, important, valuable, and, above all, God-leading. What we had, worked. Why change?

I don't think we are changing. I think we are "being." I turn to Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 to explain what I mean. Paul speaks of each new day, each new opportunity, each new discovery, and each new insight on our faith journeys which, in the living presence of the Holy Spirit, do not circle, loop, or remain stagnant. In the NLT, Paul writes, "**This** means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

What is '**this**,' Paul? '**This**' is being a Christian today and tomorrow. '**This**' is loving our neighbor so much that we meet them where we have *always* met our neighbors, which is where they are. Where are our neighbors? Who are we called to serve? There is consistency in these two questions. There is history here. Then, too, with God being God, there is something new. Something exciting. Something fresh. Something exciting. Each time. Every time.

I don't hold answers to what, where, and how God is shaping His bride, the church, in the year—and the years—to come. But with you, I do hold the questions and the future with reverence and appreciation for the very God who continues to astound and assure, protect and provide, and love and light us.

Boundaries? There really aren't any—at least not online, anyway.

As part of my ongoing education requirements, I took a two-part Advanced Boundary Training session over two consecutive Fridays, May 14 and May 21. The topic was what and where pastors should (and should not) post personal information and photos online. I didn't count heads, but about 15 pastors from the Penn Northeast Conference met online for this training. We learned—or were reminded that—anything posted anywhere at anytime can be instantly brought back up and shared not only by the pastor, but also by anyone who has access to it. Our open space internet is accessible to all at all times.

This information did not surprise us, but when we had breakout sessions (we were posited into small groups), we discussed our personal lives and experiences we had posting personal information, such as weddings we attended (or officiated), children, vacations, graduations, and just day-to-day “life.”

My group realized pastors always pastor. Every event—large or small—can (and should!) be a moment to minister the living gospel of the living Christ within us. This did not strike us as daunting. On the contrary, we found it inspiring! Other professionals experience the very same criteria of never fully being “off” and, similarly, other professions, such as attorneys, can give the profession—as a whole—a positive or negative connotation not only of the job they have, but also how they contribute directly and indirectly to society and local culture in particular.

Within my group, I mentioned my concern with pastors I see online who post political party favoritism. I find this polarizing to congregations, and likely very damaging because divisiveness is running rampant in our country. It does not need to continue in the local church.

This is tricky for some pastors. After all, Jesus saw injustice in the temple and called out the wrongdoers. I am referencing Matthew 21 where Jesus is clearly outspoken and angry at the moneychangers. Then, too, in Matthew 23 Jesus calls those in violation “snakes” and a “brood of vipers.” If Jesus can denounce shortcomings, then aren't pastors (as well as all of us) who reflect on and live by the teachings of our Savior and our teacher called to do the same? Do we have a justice-seeking God, or not? Are we to stand by and watch dehumanization, racism, sexism, and the exploration of the voiceless, powerless and marginalized? Are we not to care for widows and orphans? What does this care entail beyond direct nurturing and physical, emotional and spiritual shelter for those who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, and naked (Matthew 25:35-45)? Do we speak up or do we shut up?

My concern about politics broadcast from or near the pulpit or on a pastor's private social media outlets produced interesting conversation within my group. The consensus felt as I do, that politics and the church are two different grounds. Injustice, however, will always need to be spoken to, rallied behind, and implemented **BY THE CHURCH**. Injustice doesn't have a political flavor. **Here I nod to our congregational heritage when I say what we in and around Harford have done and will do: our political affiliations do not and cannot stand in the way of being the hands and the feet of Jesus today. As we see the hungry, we feed them. As we see the thirsty, we give them a drink. As we see the oppressed, we offer unconditional love.**

I invite you to please take this training to your heart *and* your own social media posts and conversations! We are given a *tremendous* opportunity to share the living Gospel of a living Savior by way of an ever-present Holy Spirit. **Each day, we have the opportunity to be the voices of love, justice, mercy, grace and peace.** It is true that none of us are perfect in our pursuit of Christlikeness because sanctification (the place of being set apart for holy use) is an ongoing, lifelong practice. Each of us, however, can be persistent in serving Christ, the Lord, who is our servant model and prime example.

The gist of this? Watch what you say. Watch what you post because our world is watching. Our world is also waiting for us through Jesus to be light into darkness. I am grateful for this boundary training. Why? When it comes to Christianity, there are no boundaries for you or for me!



Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated with lovely "Sundae-Like" gifts that included a scrubby, a goblet and the option of chocolate. 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.

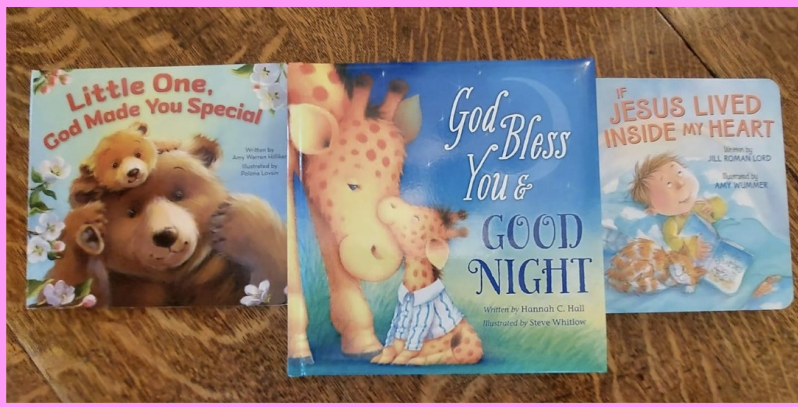
If you are interested in facilitating a Bible study, please indicate your willingness.

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net

CRADLE ROLL

The Cradle Roll is a part of Christian Education that sends a letter, inviting new parents into our fellowship and a Hand-Made Blanket for the newborn. Each year, on their birthday, the child receives a letter and a Christian Book. This continues every year through the child's third year, when they are old enough to enter Sunday School.



This month the Cradle Roll welcomed 3 new babies into the world, with hand-made blankets. We celebrated one 2-yr-old and welcomed five 3-year-olds into Sunday School age with letters and Christian books.

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-Xr01E5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>

Senior Graduation from MountainView High School

The Deacons designed a Picture Frame with the Bible verse Isaiah 40:31. The fact that the verse was from the Bible could not be mentioned, but the spirit was there. The frame was identified as a gift with love from Harford First Congregational Church. The Frame was placed in a gift bag with hard candies and chocolates.



Congratulations Seniors!

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.



Council Minutes

5-27-2021

Treasurer's Report:

April 2020		April 2021	
Income:	\$27,286.17	Income:	\$11,174.25
Expense:	\$ 8,505.54	Expense:	\$ 7,376.58
Total:	\$18,780.63	Total:	\$ 3,797.67
General Year to Date:	Income:	\$48,609.03	
	Expense:	\$44,750.49	
	Total:	+\$3,858.54	

Christian Ed : Met on May 7th and 25th at 4:00 P.M. Present were Holli Chichester, Kandy Wellman, Charlene Martens, Tammy Stout, Will Hagenbuch, and Kay Gow. The meetings opened in prayer.

Topics discussed: Having Game-On begin on Friday, June 11th from 5-6:00. It will be every other week and someone from CE will attend and do a brief lesson, song, or craft.

The CE team discussed the main topics they felt were the most import for Sunday School. CE plans to have a curriculum that is Jesus based with stories from the Old and New Testaments. Holli volunteered to look for curriculum for the fall and provide the team with copies so we can decide which one we would like to use.

It was decided to have two classes for the children who are attending SS. The younger class would be from 3-5 years old, while the older class would be those children who are 6-12 years old. Both Kandy and Kay are willing to be assistants for someone or to be the main teacher with assistance from someone. Charlene will teach the High School teens and she will tailor the lesson to the teens she has whether it be young men or women or a mixture of both. Charlene volunteered to coach anyone who may not have been a teacher on how they may teach a Sunday School lesson. CE plans to develop the curriculum for next year and then present the plan to the congregation and seek Sunday School teachers.

Confirmation class was also discussed and it was decided to put that on hold for the moment and then review it at a later date. Deacons will be conducting a youth membership and adult membership class this fall at a date to be announced.

SS will begin again on September 12th. The next meeting is June 16th @ 10:00 in the Pastor's Office.

Respectively submitted, Kay Gow, Secretary

Choir: Practicing and plan on continuing through-out the summer.

Church Cupboard: Serving one family

Cradle Roll: Served three Newborns, one 2-yr-old, and five 3-yr-old this month.

Historian: An average of 38 persons attending each Sunday

Nominating: Linda Lindsey added to the Deacons in the position vacated by Bonnie Colwell.

Tech: Purchased two copies of Proresenter for the text presentation during the service, The money will be taken from the Outreach Fund.

The monitors have been installed and we plan to begin using them this Sunday, May 30, 2021. This is a work in progress.

Deacons Minutes - 5-16-2021

Attending: Tammy Stout, Linda Lindsey, Ginny Ahearn, Holli Chichester Teresa Lamberson (via zoom), Will Hagenbugh

Senior Gift: Tammy Reports that the Photo frame will be complete by the end of May. She will check with the principal to see if the gift can be distributed at graduation. We plan to fill the goody bags after church May 30, 2021. We will purchase gift bags and assorted candy to go in the bags. We will need 57.

Installation of Committees: The installation was skipped due to COVID and it was thought that the window has closed on installation for this year.

Confirmation: The current group of teens have missed the normal window for confirmation. It was determined that they may be more interested in a youth membership class. The format and content of this class will be discussed at the next meeting. Planned for September.

A confirmation for younger children grades 6-8 will be passed to Christian Education.

Communion: We will have Communion Sunday, May 23, 2021. We have purchased individual communion cups with bread to be picked up on entering the sanctuary. Ginny will greet and encourage each person to select the elements. We have gluten-free elements if so desired. We will ask each person to take the used cup and trash to a trash dispenser as they exit the sanctuary.

Pastor Relations requested more Communion Sundays. We currently were scheduling 4/year but COVID impacted that schedule. We will increase Communion to every other month and see how that is received.

Future Schedule: July 25, October 3 (World Wide Communion), November 28 (first Sunday of Advent).

New Member Class: We will plan the new member class to begin in September. Will would like to do the class. We will review the topics that should be covered and determine how many classes would be necessary.

Father's Day: Sandy Tingley offered to decorate the pulpit and to arrange the Male gift for that day. All males will receive a gift. There was a suggestion to show pictures of Fathers during worship but since we did not do that on Mother's Day, we will pick up that suggestion next year.

Bible Study: We will review "Meeting the Spirit" a 10-week study and "Wholeness for a Broken World" an eleven-week study at the next meeting. We plan to offer a zoom Bible Study and an in-person Bible study. We will ask for persons interested in facilitating these Bible studies.

Cards: We sent a card to Ellen Holdredge and Walter Poxon.

COVID Restrictions: Deacons encourage the use of facial masks during worship however, if a person feels they must lower the mask during the service, we ask that they wear the mask while walking through the sanctuary for the safety of others.

Bibles and Hymnals may be utilized if desired but the text will continue to be displayed.

There are no restrictions on how many may attend worship however, we ask that participants continue to sit every other pew if possible.

These recommendations will be taken to council for discussion.

Stewardship Minutes: Stewardship met on May 20th @ 6:30 in the lecture hall. Present were Peg Empet, Ellen Holdredge, Michelle Estabrook, Shirley Masters, Julia Gardner, Will Hagenbuch and Kay Gow. The meeting opened in prayer. Minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and accepted.

Under old business the Julia Hudson Fund was discussed and we know \$7,000 must be left untouched. Currently there is over \$16,000 in the fund so we will be looking for ways to use the interest in the account.

Ellen reported she had taken the first collection of items to Barnes-Kasson SNF for the residents to enjoy and they were happy to receive them. She will take another batch of items when she visits again.

Will confirmed that Cindy Beeman from Interfaith will come on September 12th and speak to the congregation.

Those present at the meeting agreed the mission statement for the committee should be the sentence at the beginning of the Stewardship responsibilities. "The Stewardship Committee shall, under the direction of the church council, promote and cultivate Christian stewardship and administer the financial program of the church. "

New business discussed was the Memorial Fund and how to use the money donated by individuals and families in memory of someone. It was felt that unless the money is specified for a specific project it should be used for things which are going to add to the sanctuary or enhance worship services.

Also, we talked about how the money from the sale of the property at Tingley Lake might be used. We felt the Financial Committee which was originally formed should get back together and bring any ideas they have to Council, so the money will be used in the most advantageous way for the church and congregation.

We, as a committee also felt that the current Youth and Outreach category should be separated so there won't be so much confusion about what is being used by the Youth and what is being used by Outreach events. **This was discussed and the two accounts were separated. We now have a Youth Account under Christian Education and an Outreach Fund.**

Another topic of discussion was how to get more people to come back to church. Also giving on the web-site was down and perhaps some people are leery of using the web-site to give money to the church. Julia said no bills are paid from the Capital fund only the General fund.

We discussed some ideas for goals for this year. Among them was cultivating a care network for seniors, the home-bound, and those in the community who are under stress. From this came ideas such as: perhaps picking up groceries, lawn care, and phone calls. Another goal was how to get people who are watching worship to begin participating in worship.

A discussion was had about perhaps having a celebration of some kind to acknowledge those people who have lost friends, loved ones, and significant others during the pandemic. Some ideas for the celebration were a bonfire or a picnic. No date was set for this event.

The last topic discussed was in an upcoming Stewardship moment in worship the congregation will be presented with a challenge which doesn't involve a financial commitment. More to come on this when the challenge is given.

The meeting ended in prayer. The next meeting is June 17th @ 6:30.

Respectively submitted,
Kay Gow, Secretary

First Congregational Church, UCC

Trustee Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2021

Gary Housel, Kandy Wellman, Bill Chichester, Rich Masters, Irv Needham, and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Gary Housel.

Old Business:

- Spectrum Electrical has completed installing the new lampposts in front of the church as well as a new spotlight on the steeple.
- No updates on the driveway concrete project from Benedict Construction
- Spring clean-up day was successful
- Trustees will use a section of carpet remnant to cover the floor in the vestibule and see how it works
- Trustees will wait another year to consider re-sealing the current blacktop driveway

New Business:

- Craig Stout asked the trustees to look into moving the fire alarm in the sanctuary so that it wasn't blocked by the monitors that are being installed. He also asked about installing additional outlets on the wall behind the alter and near the piano for monitors and other equipment in the Sanctuary.
 - The fire alarm service would have to be contacted as to whether or not the fire alarm can be moved and if they could do it
 - Spectrum Electric would have to be contacted to add outlets at the front of the Sanctuary as well as near the piano.

Rich Masters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Irv Needham

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Masters

Secretary

Trustee: It was discussed that we need to add poles for volley ball and basketball when the driveways are redone.

Pastor's Report: Did one funeral and one wedding. Has one wedding in the future.

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.



Willing Worker Big Group May 5, 2021

The big group of Willing Workers met in the Lecture Hall on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:00PM. Kay Gow called the meeting to order. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Due to the fact that the treasurer wasn't notified about our pledge change to \$3000, the first

quarterly payment was over paid. It was suggested that she make the next payment in the third quarter in August. Due to no fair last year, our treasury is lower than usual. That is something to be aware of, in case Lecture Hall expenses occur.

OLD BUSINESS: Kandy hasn't heard anything from the fair. She will email them again. If no response then we will continue on. We would still like a bigger space. So much uncertainty led to more questions than answers. Areas discussed: 3 should work at a time (1-candy & cookies, 1-knives, 1-cash register). Presale tickets are \$8 (means ticket holders get to ride the rides) but that is higher than the last fair so will be an added cost for us. Perhaps we can save money by working longer shifts. Sign up sheets will wait for later.

Kandy, Holli, Wendy will go to the fair grounds and have another look at our space. They want to try putting the fridge, narrow table, and whatever looks like it would work in the space to see what is needed to display things. The rest that we stored in Rick Master's space will need to be disposed of. It may be necessary to buy shelving, tables, pegboard, fish net, etc. Holli suggested asking if people had things that we could use. Not sure if we know what we need yet.

Yard/attic treasure sale was discussed. Fliers might be handed out at the fair to advertise it. The missionary/willing worker event will be September 3 & 4, Friday and Saturday of Labor Day weekend. A spirited discussion on profits was held resulting in a 50/50 split in the profits for the two groups. Much help from both groups will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS: The roast beef dinner will be held on November 20, 2021. It will be all take out as that seemed to work really well. We were reminded to keep monitoring portion size so that it is plentiful.

Kandy asked if we may go back to having refreshments. Devotions and prayer would be a good addition too. We will start again at the August meeting. But who will do it?

The groups had not met since the last big group. Harford-3 present, North Harford-3 present, Kingsley-4 present and did a funeral lunch.

The next meeting will be July 7 at 1:00PM in the Lecture Hall. We will firm up Harford Fair stuff at that time.

PS. Kandy and Holli went to the fairgrounds the other day and spoke with Cindy Warren, the person in charge of vendor spaces. We now have two spaces in the Carriage House at the far end near the cattle barn. The two spaces are across from each other. The two spaces are 8' x 23'. The Willing Workers will now collect and sell small Attic Treasures (no bigger than a Bread Box). These items can be brought to the Church Nursery beginning in June. Other larger items will be sold at the Labor Day Yard Sale. Take these items to the Lecture Hall.

Communion!

-The Deacons have been asked to increase the number of Communion Sundays from 4 per year (quarterly) to every other month. We had our first communion of this year May 23, 2021. Below is the schedule of Communion Sundays through the end of 2021.

-The Communion Elements are pre-packaged and are picked-up upon entering the sanctuary. We have regular and gluten-free available.

-The Regular Elements have a cellophane top covering the bread. To open, lift the cellophane portion of the tab. This covers the bread only. After the bread has been consumed, pull the remaining cover off to open the juice.

-The gluten-free has the bread on the bottom of the container. Open the bottom tab to release the bread. When the bread has been consumed, pull the tab over the juice.

-If you are home bound and would like Communion, please call the office and a time will be set up for you to receive Communion.

Dates for Communion:

July 25

October 3 (World Wide Communion)

November 28 (first Sunday of Advent)



Directory Update



Olivia Zick
1165 Nature Run Drive
Batavia
OH 45103

Kathy Brown
PO Box 958
Hallstead
PA 18822

Mr./Mrs. Bogdan/Christina**(Zick) Dumitrov
292 Brown Street
Hartford
CT 06114



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.

The exact days and times of the classes will be announced as September draws near.

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



**Spire Sponsor
Lois Gibson**

Home Bound

The Carey Family

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joan Benson



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 and all those faithfully serving in the military
- MaryJane Genneken
- Sandy Zupanovich
- UCC churches in Japan
- Greg Symuleski and family
- Mark Gregory
- health or loss of family pets
- Dot Simons
- Connie Schulte's son Phil
- baby Thomas
- Nina Ruedemann
- Ruth Zablotsky

- The Holdredge family
- Nancy Marr
- Walter Poxon
- Kandy's friend Mary Keihl (ALS)
- Small businesses struggling
- Patrick Simons
- George Zack
- Joe Megivern
- Paula Adams
- mother of Sandy Green
- Katherine Masters Doolittle 's mother-in-law, Karen Doolittle
- Justice Vietri
- Joe Vietri Sr. and daughter Luann on the loss of her husband
- Makel Silfee and family
- David Schulte's son, Bob—military
- Ferger's grandson, Tanner –RN grad
- Wendy Phillip's sister's family on the passing of her niece
- Middle East
- Andrew Genneken
- Sal Armetta and family
- Andrew Kazmierczak
- Bill Cook
- All Graduates





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 distribution June 18, 2021 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.

Spring Clothing Drive

All spring and summer clothing, lightly worn, is being collected by Stewardship. These clothes will be transported to Interfaith.

The Collection container is in the Gathering Room.



Thank you Jean Bonham for the beautiful Pulpit flowers!



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 June 8, 2021

at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.

The second Tuesday of each month.



Memorial Garden

Thank you Sharon Kinney and Twila Williams for the beautiful flowers blooming in the Memorial Garden.

It is a thing of beauty!



Ugly Quilts

On vacation for the summer

We will begin meeting

Tuesday September 14 at 9:30

Looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you, Judy



June

June 01 Aaron Phillips

June 05 Bill and Dorothy Matthews

June 08 Christina Zick

Tim Higgins

June 09 Calvin Zick

June 12 Matthew Mitchell

June 13 Ginny Ahearn

Rebecca Herbert

June 17 Connie Breese

Sue Furney/Wayne Frederici

June 18 Bob DeLuca

June 19 Ralph Simons

June 20 Jessica Miller

June 21 Greta Schulte

June 22 Don and Linda Lindsey

June 23 Irene Deemer

Lisa Hahn

Ivie Simons



June 24 Eleanor Meyer

David Schulte

June 26 Brand and Paula Millard

June 28 Mikaela Stout

June 30 Beth Ann Masters

(If I do not have your birthday or anniversary listed here, please let the office know when your birthday or anniversary day happens. Thank you very much. Judy)

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



National Day of Prayer

Thursday , May 6, 2021 at the
Harford Fire Department at noon.
Lily Thomas organized the event.

The event was well attended and many
local churches participated.

Pastor Will spoke as well.

It was wonderful to gather as Christians and
pray for our nation.



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 July and August to be included in the Spire

to: Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of June 2021!

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Summer FULL OF LIFE

Harford Community Blood Drive
Proudly Sponsored by the
Harford Volunteer Fire Company

In the Multipurpose Room - Fair Hill Road

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
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!

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give June 14-30, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together.

Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | Call 1-800-RED CROSS

HARFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th, 2021

from 8:00-11:00 am

ALL YOU CAN EAT

BREAKFAST BUFFET

ADULTS - \$9.00

KIDS - \$5.00

UNDER 5 - FREE



GAME ON

All ages welcome!

Is Back!!

Friday, June 11th

5-6 pm

weather permitting

NEW TIME!
NEW FRIENDS!
NEW FUN!

*Due to Covid-19 we will not be serving food during
Game On

**Spire
Sponsor**

N. Edward Ayers, II



**Harford First Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday, June 12, 2021 9am



**\$90/person- includes 18 holes with cart,
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

570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775

To benefit First Congregational Church

Business Sponsor



May 25, 2021

Dear Friend,

The First Congregational Church of Harford is hosting our 11th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 9:00am at the Tall Pines Players Club in Friendsville, PA. All money raised will benefit First Congregational Church. Your generous donations have made our church projects (such as Food Bank, Community Dinners, Gift Cards for Teachers and Staff, Christmas Tree Lighting, Coaches against Cancer, Online Worship) possible in the past. Your donation is tax deductible and our tax-exempt number is 75139758.

You can help by:

Sponsoring a golf hole (\$200, \$100, \$50) a sign will be placed on a green at the tournament advertising your business. See enclosed sponsorship form.

Prizes - any items that we could give away to golfers who have the longest drive, closest to the pin, general door prizes, etc. Your business name will be announced during the prize giveaways. Gift certificates from area businesses make great prizes and generate traffic back to you.

Putting a team together to golf in the tournament.

Posting our Golf Tournament advertisement in your place of business.

Thank you for your time and consideration! Please contact me anytime with any questions, etc.

Contact / Mail to:

Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

570-851-5109 or

301-643-1775

hollischichester@gmail.com

Memorial or Honor Sponsor



May 25, 2021

Dear Friend,

The First Congregational Church of Harford is hosting our 11th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 9:00am at the Tall Pines Players Club in Friendsville, PA. All money raised will benefit First Congregational Church. Your generous donations have made our church projects (such as Food Bank, Community Dinners, Gift Cards for Teachers and Staff, Christmas Tree Lighting, Coaches against Cancer, Online Worship) possible in the past. Your donation is tax deductible and our tax-exempt number is 75139758.

You can help by:

Sponsoring a golf hole (\$200, \$100, \$50) a sign will be placed on a green at the tournament in honor or memory of your loved one. See enclosed sponsorship form.

Putting a team together to golf in the tournament. See enclosed Team Form.

Thank you for your time and consideration! Please contact me anytime with any questions, etc.

Contact / Mail to:

Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

570-851-5109 or

301-643-1775

hollischichester@gmail.com



**11th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 12, 2021 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
570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

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



**11th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 12, 2021 9am 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
570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN
\$90 per Golfer = \$360 per Team

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament



June 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 30	31	Jun 1	2	3 10:00am Pastor in office	4	5
6 Paula smith to speak 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	7 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	8 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams)	9	10 10:00am Pastor in office	11 5:00pm GAME ON (Outside)	12 9:00am Golf Tournament (Tail Pines)
13 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 11:15am Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	14 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	15 1:00pm Missionary (LH)	16	17 10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)	18 4:30pm Weinberg pick up	19
20 7:00am Father's Day Breakfast (Firehall) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	21 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch (Binghams)	22	23 1:00pm Blood Drive (Fire Hall)	24 10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	25	26
27 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	28 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	29	30	Jul 1	2	3



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

PERMIT—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC
5016 Creek Road
PO Box 217
Harford, PA 18823
Tel. 570-434-2260
Email: firstch@nep.net
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com

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

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MAIL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Rev. Dr. William Hagenbuch—Pastor
Home Phone: 570-434-7729
Email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12:00

Judy Mitchell—Sec
Hours: Tuesday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00