

# **Our Spire**

**Volume 43 Number 5**

**June 2023**



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

## Pastor's Page:

### Why it's a win: Recognizing 50-year members, new members and students receiving Bibles inspires not some but all

Think of the hymn, *Heaven Came Down*. The refrain of the hymn begins with a repeat of its title. *Heaven came down and glory filled my soul...*

This is what it felt like when we, the congregation, recognized 50-year members, new members and school students who received Bibles during worship on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. It was this huge win because heaven DID come down. Glory DID fill souls... AND we could all be a part of this!

Many, many positive comments were made during and after this portion of worship. This day mattered. This moment in the history book of this church mattered. We were able to see and set significant milestones in the lives of those God called into His care. **We celebrated not only God's commitment to us, but also the commitment, those we recognized, have made to God.**

I return to the lectionary text on May 7<sup>th</sup>, which was 1 Peter 2:2-10. As I share so regularly, I don't roam through scripture and choose our passages randomly. I stick to what the Holy Spirit decrees through the lectionary. When Peter speaks here, it's a divine fit. The message of the scripture and the significance of the day go hand in hand.

1 Peter 2:4 reads that Christ is the living cornerstone of His spiritual temple. The 50-year members we recognized have been living cornerstones to this spiritual temple, this spiritual home on a hill in Harford.

1 Peter 2:9 reads, "...You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." This verse was shared before the new members came forward to receive their certificates and keys to the church.

To those students who received Bibles, 1 Peter 2:2 speaks so clearly and specifically: "... that you grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."

These three verses from this singular text on this significant Sunday speak of dedication, devotion, and our delight in these milestones. Belonging to a congregation for 50-years is quite an accomplishment. For many of us, 50-years of being present to anything is cause for a celebration. To be a part of one church for this time? Well, I call this not just win for those called to the front of the sanctuary. I call this a win for us all because we get to sit with, experience, and learn from such devotion. These 50-year members are a testament not only to time in our congregation, but also to faith lived out through all sorts of triumphs and trials.

And what a win it was to be a part of the five new members who joined the church. The classes began after church beginning on March 26, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Except for Easter Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, we met with perfect attendance through April. It was just beautiful. To gather, sit, share a meal, explore, reflect, and learn from our denomination was a treasure. Each week, we had special guests from the congregation who brought their faith and their love for the UCC and this church to the table in my office. This time with these five new members inspired me. I pray their commitment to this church inspires us all.

And about those teens and kids. In the weeks leading into May 7 and this recognition, a lot of good thought went into how this day would go. No one could have predicted the joy and delight those teens and those third graders expressed when they came forward to receive from the church their Bibles. I can honestly say it was a win for them. And a win for them in God's word is a win for us all.

## Pastor's Page Continued.

The reception in the welcome room following the recognition was a way for us to catch a glimpse of what will someday be for us all who know Christ, and that's heaven with our Savior.

The history that was made on this day, in this historic church, is breathtaking. So many stories of faith and commitment entwined. For example, a grandfather was recognized as a 50-year member just moments before his grandson received his Bible. A grandson received his Bible moments after his grandmother posthumously received her 50-year pin. Neighbors became mentors to new members. Two cousins bonded even more because one is a mentor and the other is a new member.

Other membership classes were also mentioned from the pulpit that day. There are many, many more treasures from this "heaven came down" experience, but yes, I can share with the deepest smile on my face, a smile I hope you're experiencing as you read this. This day in the life of this church was a win indeed.

The following is a prayer to celebrate God in the lives of those who commit to Him.

*Dear God, our God in ages past and our hope for years to come, we thank You for Your presence in ages past and in the years to come. We also thank you for this recognition Sunday. We thank You for those who came forward and for those who continue to come forward in love, in devotion and in service to You.*

*We thank You for this church in Harford. We thank You for all who support it with faithfulness, devotion, loyalty, attention, gifts of all kinds, attendance, and kindness not just to those in the congregation but the world.*

*Lord, continue to inspire each of us as You call us to a life blessed by Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. By way of the Holy Spirit, may we experience this truth through You:*

*Heaven does come down. Your glory fills our souls. Amen.*

## 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.



**Notice: Please send all material for July/August to be included in the Spire to:**

**Firstchurchspire@gmail.com**

**by the 15th of June 2023!**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## Remembering Ginny Ahearn with love.

Ginny Ahearn passed away from a long and often times challenging journey with pancreatic cancer on April 29, 2023.

The word ‘journey’ is so appropriate for Ginny as she loved to travel with her loving husband, Charlie. The two would often pack their camper and set off for woodland and park adventures where they could sit joyfully and appreciatively with nature.



The two did love nature both in and around their camper and in their ideal log cabin. Their home, nestled atop a mountain that faces an immense rolling farm field, reflected who they were as individuals and as a couple. They found both God and a connection to His creation when they’d experience frolicking animals and joyful outdoor adventures of all kinds. Ginny was well-known as being both a hiker and a skier.

With friends, the two also journeyed on many other trips where they experienced great, diverse and interesting cultures. Ginny’s devotion to traveling showed in the sparkle of her eyes and the slight smile on her face each time she’d share where she had been.

Ginny was also faithful to her beloved book club. Occasionally this group would travel, too. Ginny did love her journeys.

Speaking of love, Ginny is love and loved. Her spirit, kindness, generosity, and mindfulness for social justice remains with us. Her care for all others should continue to inspire us. Ginny spent countless hours working in the Soup Kitchen in Scranton. Whenever a disaster or hardship happened in our world, whether near or far, Ginny was frontline in garnering help for those affected. In her years here, this friendly angel among us served on numerous committees including deacon and stewardship. She was tremendously faithful, insightful, professional and skillful as our treasurer for many, many years. Those on council turned to her and her experience and her heart countless times.

As treasurer, Ginny would regularly quote the treasurer who served the church ahead of her. This was Bob Klenk. At meetings of all kinds, including the Annual Meeting, Ginny balanced faithfulness and finance by saying what Bob instilled in her. God will provide. We may be tight here, or low there, but God works through us. God speaks to us. I remember so many council meetings when Ginny would say, “We’ll be okay.”

Ginny could be found in the Lecture Hall kitchen when a church meal was being made and served. She was also active and vital during soup making, fudge making, and of course, the days when the Welsh Cookies were being made for the fair.

Ginny was faithfully present to the fair on the day the church served its dinner in the dining hall. She also worked many, many, many hours in the Log Cabin.

Ginny was never at war with her cancer. She accepted it. Pragmatically, she knew she would one day die from it, and this, to her, was okay. No, she had no death wish. She just loved too much of life for this to be a loss.

Ginny knew her Savior. She knew where she was going. This leads me back to where this began, the journey. She just walked—and kept on walking—with Jesus.

What I will miss most of Ginny, who worked so closely on the pastoral relations team up to the point where she literally couldn’t be with us because of the cancer, is how she journeyed so gracefully with Jesus. She was what Jesus called us to be, a Good Samaritan. She stopped and touched and cared for those who were sick or hurting, regardless of who they were or where she was. Her compassion defined her. She loved beyond her means and was grateful to give wherever, whenever and however she could.

May we continue to hold Charlie and their daughter Robin and family in our prayers.

# Celebration Sunday

## Recognition of our 50-Year Members, our New Members and Youth and Children receiving their Bibles.

### 50-Year Members

**Ken Bennett**  
**Joanne Connolly**  
**Kay Gow**  
**Laurie Grant**  
**Liz Grant**



**Dorothy Hagenbuch (posthumously)**

**Lynnette Millard**  
**Kathy Oakley**

**Carl Oakley (posthumously)**

**Ivie Simons**  
**Ralph Simons**



### New Members

**Grace Allen** (sponsor Priscilla Allen)  
**Earl Cottrell** (sponsor Holli Chichester)  
**Chris Manley** (sponsor Holli Chichester)  
**Joe Metzler** (sponsor Judy Mitchell)  
**Marg Tator** (sponsor Kay Gow)

# Bibles

## Youth

- Clara Allen
- Damien Cook
- Caroline Symulesky
- Jonathan Symulesky
- Shane Toolan
- Tanner Stout

## Children

- Sylas Bennett
- Taven Hagenbuch
- Hunter O'Malley
- Landon Parsons



## Hymn Dedication



Dedicate the Offertory Hymn of any Sunday Service in Honor or in Memory of someone. There is a sign up sheet in the Hallway next to the Flower sign-up sheet or place a card in the collection plate with the hymn and the name of the individual to whom you wish to honor.



## Attic treasures

Attic Treasures for the “Log Cabin” at the fair may be put in the nursery after Vacation Bible School ends June 16, 2023.

Remember: items should be no bigger than a bread box. All larger items can be donated to the yard sale. Contact Holli at [hollischichester@gmail.com](mailto:hollischichester@gmail.com) or 301-643-1775.

## Beginning Hand Bell Choir

Our beginner hand bell choir will be held right after church every 2nd and 4th Sundays September to May.

No prior experience is necessary and the ability to read music helps but is also not necessary.

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



**Spire Sponsor**

**Walter Poxon**



**Happy Father's Day**

# Council Minutes

**April 2022**

**Income: \$34,947.28**

**Expense: \$ 9,794.26**

**Total: \$25,153.02**

**April 2023**

**Income: \$14,707.17**

**Expense: \$13,148.52**

**Total: \$1,558.65**

**YTD**

**Income: \$51,815.98**

**Expense: \$50,098.68**

**Total: \$1,717.30**

**Next Meeting:** June 26, 2023

**Choir:** practicing Sunday morning at 9:30

**Clerk:** 1 death, 5 new members

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

**Old Business:** Weinberg freezer is broken

**New Business:** Reactivate Tech Committee to investigate sound

## Christian Education



**Sunday School Teachers Honored**  
Paige Feduchak, Ashley Parsons, Abby Toolan, Becci Warren, Nancy Burris, Kandy Wellman and Ellen Holdredge.  
Not pictured: Adele Bennett, Karen Jones, Will Hagenbuch and Holli Chichester

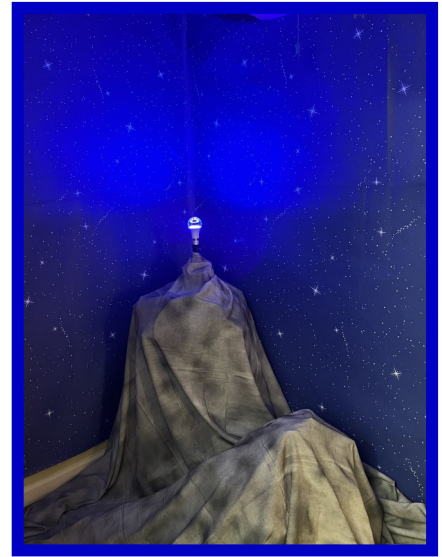


Children's Sunday School





# Christian Education



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

What can you do to help?

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

## Deacon Meeting- 5-21-23

**Attending:** Linda Lindsey, Wendy Phillips, Kay Gow, Sharon Frantz, Will Hagenbuch, Holli Chichester, Lisa Hahn, Dee Archer

**Opened with prayer** – Holli Chichester

**50-year member, new member and Bible distribution** went very well.

Most deacons were present and participated.

The 50-yr pins ceremony will be scheduled every 5 years (next May 14, 2028)

Need to plan for the picture. Someone to move people around so that everyone is in the shot.

Need to check the records: Linda Lindsey's joining date may be incorrect.

She wasn't on the main list at all.

**CPR/AED Class:** went very well. The certificates are in and will be distributed next week.

**Mass Shooter Class:** went very well. Still working on building changes. Passed to Trustees to implement.

**Senior Graduate Recognition:** Will be held June 25, 2023.

Deacons reviewed invitation letter. This letter will be sent out this week. Plan to add a section about the senior highlight in the June Spire. Seniors will be highlighted in the July/August 2023 Spire with a picture and future plans and recognized in the June 25, 2023 service. Each graduate will receive a "Prayer Map for Graduates". Pictures and future plans will not be on the screens during the Sunday worship to accommodate graduates that show up for the service but have not RSVPed. We currently have 17 seniors to contact. All available Deacons will participate.

Wendy will read the names. Linda will read a prayer.

Reception to follow the service in the gathering room. Kandy will be asked if she can do a cake for the reception. Maybe half vanilla and half chocolate.

**Council Representative:** Linda Lindsey

**Dates:** June 4 – Wellman Wedding

June 10 – Golf Tournament

June 11 – Jesse Corbin baptism (Kay – Deacon)

June 12-15 VBS

June 18: Father's Day - Candy Bars to all males

(Dee - front door and HVA, Sharon – organ door, Lisa – Choir door)

June 24: Gebo baptism – Charlene Batzel will be asked to Deacon on that day.

**New Business:**

Linda requested that the Lay Reader read both the "one" and the "many" so that the readings can be heard and understood online.

Microphone issues: sound is still a huge problem. We have a contact for sound and will connect this week.

Linda asked if the hand bells could be moved up front when they play. Maybe in the choir space during the summer. This will be taken to Earl Cottrell for consideration.

Katherine and Eric Doolittle added baptism June 25, 2023. (Jacquie Phillips will be asked to Deacon)

**Next Meeting: June 4, 2023**

## Missionary Minutes- 5-23-23

**Attending:** Priscilla Allen, Laurie Grant, Ellen Holdredge, Michelle Estabrook, Peg Empet, Holli Chichester

**Opened in Prayer:** Priscilla

**Minutes:** Read and accepted.

**Treasures report:** Information from Maureen and Sherry

Beginning Balance: \$3313.51

\$1000.00 Summer LunchBox Program Freezer

+ \$ 719.25 Election Day Bake Sale

+ \$ 515.00 Congregation input to Earthquake Relief

+ \$ 100.00 Congregation input to disaster kit program

Ending Balance: \$3647.76

With Maureen being out-of-commission for a while, Sherry called NBTBank to see who was listed on our Missionary account. It was determined that Mimi Klenk and Maureen were listed. Sherry will get a form, to have Maureen sign, to add Sherry to the account. When that is accomplished, Karen Jones will be added as third, just for back-up.

Holli will send in the remaining \$515 to Samaritan's Purse for earthquake relief in Turkey. Sherry will send in a check for \$256 for shipping the disaster kits to Church World Service (CWS).

**Werkheiser Fire Update:** The family asked for 3 large plastic drawer sets for the kid's clothes. Missionary purchased these drawers and they were delivered to the family along with several boxes and bags of food from the Weinberg distribution. Jeremy was asked what else was needed. At this point, he wasn't sure what they would need because they were housed in temporary housing in Dickson City. He or his wife Jenn will keep us apprised of their needs. He was told that First Church is collecting funds for his family. He requested that the funds be mailed to his PO box in Kingsley. After some discussion, missionary voted to donate \$500 to the family for starters and continue collecting through the church for a month. Sherry will write a check for the family and it will be mailed.

**Summer LunchBox Program Update:** Rick Masters and Bon Housel have agreed to let us utilize the old Masters Concrete office space. The space has been emptied and has been moderately cleaned. Rick has arranged for us to meet with an electrician for our increased electrical needs. He also brought in a plumber to get the water back on and has the front of the building cleared! We are so grateful for getting the use of such an awesome space and so centrally located.

Shelving, tables, chairs, chest freezers, commercial freezer and commercial refrigerators have been ordered. We are researching having the food delivered on site, but that may prove too expensive.

With the addition of a centralized permanent location, we have added Blue Ridge Schools to MountainView, Montrose (Interfaith and Choconut) and Elk Lake.

The distribution dates are June 10 and 24, July 8 and 22 and August 5. First Church is currently collecting peanut butter and jelly. Help is needed and appreciated.

**Council Rep** for May: Wendy

Missionary Continued.

**Yard Sale Update:** Date August 25-26. We are actively collecting items for our yard sale. Our storage facility is set up to begin selling furniture ASAP. We will sell furniture through the summer in hopes that most has sold and will not need to be moved to the church.

We will move all non-furniture items to the church on July 22 starting at 9:00am. We need trucks and people to help move the items. We will also need people and trucks to move the remaining items to Jessica Louderback's. We will borrow tables from Hop Bottom Church and the Masons and anyone else that will loan them to us.

After the items have been moved to the church, we will begin the sort and clean phase. See below for the schedule.

We plan to advertise at the "Log Cabin" and hope to put signs in the Colwell's yard and at the base of 547 and Fair Hill Road. We can use any help to get the word out.

**Yard Sale Schedule:**

- July 22 - 9am move items from Gwenn's to the church
- July 24 – sort and clean 12-3:00
- July 26 – sort and clean 12-3:00
- August 1 – sort and clean 12-3:00
- August 3 – sort and clean 9-12
- August 7 – sort and clean 12-3:00
- August 9 – sort and clean 9-12
- August 22 – sort and clean 9-3
- August 23 – set up 9-3
- August 24 – back up day if not done 9-3
- August 25 – yard Sale 8-3
- August 26 – Yard Sale 8-2 (2-4 Pack up and move to Jessica Louderback's)

**Correspondence:** Priscilla wrote thank you notes to the non-missionary participants in the bake sale. Received a thank you from Jean Bonham.

**Pastor's Report:**

I remain blessed to be your pastor. To newcomers, I describe our congregation/pastor relationship like this. "I was a member of this congregation long before I became its minister. In the years I was a member, we have kept pastors for less than half the time I have been blessed to be at the pulpit. As a direct descendent of John Carpenter, one of the Nine Partners, my love for this church is unmeasurable."

It has been a joy to reflect on the April 9th Easter Sunday we've had together. The three-part LOVE OPEN sermon series through the rest of April ended on May 7<sup>th</sup> when we recognized in church 50-year members, new members, and students who received Bibles with appropriate lectionary text. I cherish the photo that was taken of the three groups from the balcony. Unfortunately, the photo didn't include everyone. We all just didn't fit! Nevertheless, it was a moment in our history, and I pray we continue to thank God for the faithfulness of so many.

Speaking of history, Shirley Masters asked for the written sermon I gave on the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of church which we celebrated on September 25, 2022. Shirley wanted a copy so that it could be archived in our church's safe.

Holli Chichester and I delivered 50-year membership pins to a few who were unable to attend the May 7<sup>th</sup> service. It was a joy to spend time with some who have longstanding connections and care to this church.

## Pastor's Report Continued:

The following isn't a joy. My Sunday school class ended on May 7<sup>th</sup>. I will miss these thoughtful students dearly, and look forward to teaching, learning, and sharing together this fall.

I presided at the funeral of Barb Sloat on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Barb was always a treasure to visit. Barb was a fellow dog lover who, like me, valued family and farm life. We shared such great conversations over the years! In fact, I met Barb at a November Pet Blessing many years ago. I am grateful to Barb's daughter, Gail, for gifting the church with the angel collection Barb had had. One of my daughters has an angel, and she treasures it dearly. Another angel is in the office for many to appreciate.

Speaking of angels, I send love to all those who now mourn the loss of Ginny Ahearn. Ginny was always an asset to me, and, in turn, us because so often we thought differently. Ginny brought to the table a perspective that wasn't my own, and I always made sure to let her know how I sincerely appreciated where she was coming from. I will miss her warmth, her friendliness, and her advocacy for social justice in the care of others. I will miss the times we visited through the years, both in church and at her home. Ginny was an outstanding treasurer who knew how to balance faith and finance seamlessly.

I recently met with Wayne Wellman (Kandy Wellman's stepson) and his future wife, Lydia Kalina. Kandy joined us. It has been a joy to plan their Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> wedding here at the church. I ask that we pray for this couple and their marriage.

It's exciting to plan the Gebo family baptism. Brandy and Dave's three children, Trinity, Jaxon, and Ryder, will be baptized on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. After our past deacon's meeting, I spoke with grandmother, Linda Lindsey, about the special day. We shared a few ideas on how God will lead us to a meaningful baptism. I will meet with parents Brandy and David in the near future to discuss the baptism.

June is baptism month! Awesome! Scheduled for baptisms are David and Carly (Jesse) Corbin's son, Jesse on Sunday, June 11. Also scheduled is the baptism of Ellis Doolittle whose parents are Eric and Katherine (Masters) Doolittle. Ellis's baptism will be Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

My vacation will take place this August. Dave Schulte will be on call for any pastoral responsibilities. This includes the memorial service for Barbara Pease on Monday, August 21. I will be present to the fair dinner on August 19<sup>th</sup>. My responsibility that day will be as I have done in years past, which is use space in front of the dining hall with ministry for children passing by along with meeting the community.

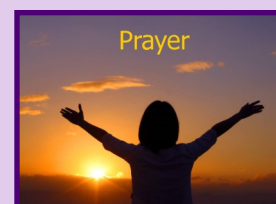
Let's all give thanks to the Missionary Society on another Election Day bake sale. The hardworking efforts of the art and design team who have been working to set up an amazing VBS also need mention.

We have had guests in worship this month. All report how welcomed they have felt here in Harford.

I will close with the continued heart and care so many show me through the loss of my mother. Your kindness is beyond touching.

Let's keep in touch with our shut ins and those who need to experience Christ's love through us. Amen

**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](mailto:firstch@nep.net)**

## Stewardship Minutes - May 17, 2023

The Stewardship Committee met on May 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Present for the meeting: Kay Gow, Michelle Estabrook, Judy Mitchell, Julia Gardner, Joe Metzler, Wendy Phillips, Shirley Masters and Ellen Holdredge.

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Financial Secretary's report was given by Judy Mitchell.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Julia Gardner. The remaining money from 2022 was transferred. \$50,000.00 went into an Equitrust account. \$23,404.25 went into a money market account marked "Emergency Only" which needs Council's permission to use.

Shirley Masters brought the box of items collected for the History Day to show us.

We discussed our 2023 Pledge Drive. The pledge money goes into the general account and is used for electric, heat and programs etc. The Capital Account is used for building maintenance. We would like someone from the Deacons and Trustees to speak during the drive and show what the money is being used for.

Shirley Masters had a question about ways of giving online – possibly a direct ACH from the person to our bank. We discussed that would not be the best option because of security. One option is to use Bill Pay from your bank and they send the money. We also talked about having an "app" that could be used on anyone's phone to send money.

We picked our verses for the pledge campaign.

Our next meeting will be June 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Respectfully submitted. Michelle Estabrook, Secretary

# Dinner Theater

## "The Wedding Party"

June 22, 23, 24 at 6:00

June 25 at 2:00

Cost \$30.00

Performed at Slanted Art—The Reimel Center in Montrose (old Lee's furniture store)  
Tickets purchased at the Slanted Arts or on line at Endless Mt. Theater Co.—



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talk-about-a-murder-murder-mystery-dinner-theatre-presented-by-emtc-tickets-588372356557>

## **Trustee Meeting Minutes**

**May 1, 2023**

Attending: Harry Gardner, Irv Needham, Randy Decker, James Batzel, Kandy Wellman and Rick Masters

### **Old Business:**

Spring Clean-up has been moved to the rain date of May 13<sup>th</sup>

Kandy is continuing to work on the indoor maintenance schedule/checklist for the Church and Lecture Hall.

Kandy will select a date to have the carpets cleaned in high traffic areas after vacation Bible school.

Continued discussion on the eventual need to replace the windows in the Lecture Hall

The need to paint the interior metal door frames was discussed. The discoloration of the paint is minor and not a big priority.

### **New Business:**

Discussion centered around the front doors of the Church Sanctuary. The doors can not be properly secured unless locked. Trustees discussed different option to replace the doors with modern doors that maintain the original look or have the existing doors reworked. Harry will contact Connor Freytag to start a discussion. The main interest is to provide safety and security as a priority followed by energy efficiency.

Harry will purchase 12 Fire Extinguisher signs to clearly mark all fire extinguishers throughout the building. He will also purchase 3 additional "EXIT" signs for doors not currently clearly marked.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Decker, seconded by Harry

Respectfully submitted, Rick Masters

## **Attention, Attention!!**

**The Lecture Hall will be unavailable for use:**

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

**July 22-August 27 (Due to Huge Yard Sale Prep)**

## Willing Workers

The quarterly meeting of the Willing Workers Big Group met on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:00PM in the Lecture Hall. There were 7 present: Holli Chichester, Sherry Decker, Kay Gow, Peg Empet, Kandy Wellman, Ivie Simons, Ellen Holdredge.

The JennAir stove in the kitchen has 2 burners that aren't working. Kandy to call JennAir to find a repairman so it will be ready for fudge making in the summer.

The wedding use form needs a change. It asks for the Susquehanna County marriage license number but should say Pennsylvania marriage license number as you may buy the license anywhere in Pennsylvania to get married in Susquehanna County.

The group voted to give the Summer Lunch Box program \$1,000 to help buy a freezer or other needed appliance. Also, voted to be a \$200 sponsor of the golf tournament.

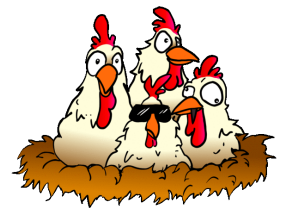
The roast beef fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 21. Price will be \$14 for adults and \$8 for children. When tickets are distributed to sell, members are asked to carefully keep track of sold and unsold tickets. Hoping to sell 350 tickets.

As always there was Harford Fair conversation. One key for the gun safe has gone missing and must be replaced. The sign over the front looks shabby and needs to be fixed up but this requires a ladder. Prices of fudge was discussed-considering \$10 a pound and Welsh cookies-either \$5 or \$6 a dozen. Rada knives have been priced for sale.

All of the groups helped or contributed in some way to refreshments at the Lenten Service, cookies for the Catholic Choral Society concert, and Dorothy Hagenbuch's luncheon.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:30PM in the Lecture Hall.  
Ellen Holdredge, Secretary

Clifford United Methodist Church  
Main Street, Clifford



## Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Chicken, Biscuit, Mashed

Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Harvard Beets & Dessert

Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

TAKE OUT ONLY – DRIVE THRU  
FROM 4:00 to 6:00 pm or until Sold out

Donation \$12



## Spring Clean Up



## June Birthdays and Anniversaries



|         |                            |         |                        |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| June 1  | Aaron Phillips             | June 18 | Bob DeLuca             |
| June 4  | Anna Hagenbuch             | June 19 | Ralph Simons           |
| June 5  | Bill and Dorothy Matthews  | June 20 | Jessica Miller         |
| June 8  | Christina (Zick) Dumitrov  | June 21 | Greta Schulte          |
| June 9  | Calvin Zick                | June 22 | Don and Linda Lindsey  |
|         | Marilyn Light              | June 23 | Lisa Hahn              |
| June 12 | Matthew Mitchell           |         | Ivie Simons            |
| June 13 | Rebecca Herbert            | June 24 | David Schulte          |
| June 17 | Sue Furney/Wayne Frederici | June 26 | Brad and Paula Millard |
|         | Connie Breese              | June 28 | Mikaela Stout          |
|         |                            | June 30 | Beth Ann Masters       |



Rebecca Gardner  
4553 Tingley Lake Road  
New Milford  
Pa. 18834

David and Brandy Gebo  
2 Silver Birch Ct.  
New Hartford  
NY 13413-3913

Correspondence

To Harford First Church,

Thank you for your support of WHDA and for allowing us to hold our Irish Dinner and Dance in the Lecture Hall, as well as for the use of the kitchen.

God Bless, With sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Miss Bobbie and the Windwood Hill Dance Academy Dancers

\*\*\*\*\*

Harford First Church,

Your caring support and thoughtfulness do not go unnoticed.

Thank you. Ilse

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear First Church Family,

Thank you for your kind acts of sympathy during the loss of my mom. Your love was overwhelming. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful church family!

The family of Barb Sloat

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Harford First Congregational Church Choir,

Thank you so much for your wonderful performance at the Paschal Lamb remembrance ceremony. Your gift of divinely inspired music moved all those in attendance!

The Officers and Brothers of the Valley of Scranton, Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction  
Valley of Scranton



**Spire Sponsor**  
**The**  
**Winemiller Family**

## Home Bound

Lynola Carey

John Zimmerman

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

JoAnn Titus

Norma Carey

Joanne Connolly

Vivian Rutherford



## Prayer Concerns

-We pray for our nation to be blessed and that our nation seeks its blessings

-We pray for our national and local leaders

-All school districts—All staff and students

-for those with medical issues large and small

-David and Brandy and family

-Those with Alzheimer's and their families

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addiction or cancer

-all those in nursing homes and their families

-Will's kids

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

-Sandy Zupanovich

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-law enforcement officers & EMS

-hospital workers and fire personnel

-George Lotter

-Truck drivers, farmers & Small businesses

-Patrick Simons

-All earthquake victims

-Bob Simons

-Mark Ezdebski

-Dave Casey

-Earl Gow

-Karen Doolittle

-Family of Joe Lillis

-Karen Jones relative

-Mike O'Malley

-Lynn Hernandez

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Family of Ginny Ahearn

-Andy Granick

-Margaret Frederick

-Frank Boyle

-Joanne Zick

-Baby Ruby

-war in Ukraine

-Millie Tingley

-Cheryl Augustine

-Phil (Schulte's son)

-Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)

-Norma and Lynola Carey

-Teddy Kasmierczak

-John Lesniak (Tammy's step-father)

-the Yearwood family (mother of Lisa Hahn's finance)

-Ron Phillips

-Richard Frederick (Ray's brother)

-Steve Holtzmaster

Maureen Warren

-graduates

-Colston (baby needing heart surgery)

-Leanne Colwell and family

-Jennica Drake

-Lynn and Laura (George Lotter's friends)

-Werkheiser family (fire)

-Carrie and Beth Martens

-Kristen Perez (Charleene Marten's sister)

-Joanne Decker

-VBS

-Carol Oakley -



## 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

June 13, 2023 at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.  
The second Tuesday of each month.



## The Website is up and running.

We have worked hard, but we realize that important things may not have been included. We are still adding and changing things so if you have suggestions, please email Holli Chichester at [hollischichester@gmail.com](mailto:hollischichester@gmail.com) or call 301-643-1775. Please check it out at

[www.firstchurchharford.com](http://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, June 23, 2023 from 4:30-5:30

July 21, 2023 , August 11, 2023

Any income can apply, complete the form online [firstchurchharford.com](http://firstchurchharford.com) or call Tammy @ 570-396-7081.

Day of Distribution please bring with you a photo ID and a current household bill with your current Susquehanna County address.

## Women's Lunch



3rd Monday of each month (not August)  
12:00 at Bingham's  
All Welcome! Bring a Friend



## June Greeters and Ushers

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

June 4 - Linda Robinson  
Loren Robinson

June 11-BettyLou Bennett  
Ken Bennett



June 18-Karen Jones and Taven  
Sharon Frantz

June 25-Judy Mitchell and Emma  
Kay Gow and Taven

## June Lay Readers

June 4 - Alice Archer  
11 - Wendy Phillips  
18 - Ellen Holdredge  
25 - Karen Jones



## 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**.

## 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.





## VBS

**Save the Date: June 12-15, 2023**

**10:00—12:30**

**Multi-Church Vacation Bible School**

**At Harford First Congregational Church**

Three ways to register your children:

1. Online: [www.firstchurchharford.com](http://www.firstchurchharford.com)

Click on the VBS Banner

2. Call: 301-643-1775 Holli

3. Pick Up/Drop off Forms at one of the following churches:

Harford First Congregational Church

Hop Bottom UMC

Gibson UMC

Great Bend UMC

New Milford UMC

South Gibson UMC

Universalist Church - Brooklyn





**Multi-Church Vacation Bible School**

**June 12-15, 2023**

**From 10:00-12:30**

**Online Registration: [www.firstchurchharford.com](http://www.firstchurchharford.com)**

**Click on the VBS Banner.**

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

**Parent's First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child Registration:**

**1. Child's First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Child's First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Child's First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Child's First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Child's First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergy:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 10, 2023 9am



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

Donuts and Coffee, Hot Dog, prizes and Steak Dinner

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

Holli Chichester: [hollischichester@gmail.com](mailto:hollischichester@gmail.com)  
301-643-1775

*\*To benefit First Congregational Church \**





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

**Saturday June 10, 2023 9:00am shotgun start**



**Golf Team Registration**

Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Team Players: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**\$100 per Golfer = \$400 per Team**

**Payable in Advance**



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

**Saturday June 10, 2023 9am shotgun start**



**Hole Sponsor/Memorial Level:**

GOLD-\$200

SILVER-\$100

BRONZE-\$50

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information for the Sign \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# June 2023

July 2023

June 2023

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

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

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| May 28   | 29   | 30  | 31  | Jun 1  | 2  | 3   |
|  |  |   |   | 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)                            | 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)  | Mt. View Graduation                             |
| 4  | 5  | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9  | 10  |
| 9:30am Fellowship<br>10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)<br>11:20am Deacons (PO)<br>2:00pm Wellman | 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)<br>7:00pm Trustees (PO)            | LH UNAVAILABLE----VBS   | LH UNAVAILABLE----VBS   | LH UNAVAILABLE----VBS  | LH UNAVAILABLE----VBS  | 9:00am GOLF TOURNAMENT (Tail Pines golf course) |
| 11   | 12   | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16   | 17  |
| 9:30am Fellowship<br>10:00am Corbin baptism<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Handbell         | NO Quarterback mtg<br>9:00am VBS                               | LH UNAVAILABLE----VBS<br>7:30am Men's Breakfast (Bingham's)<br>9:00am VBS | 9:00am VBS  | 9:00am VBS<br>10:00am Pastor in office (Office)              | 5:00pm Ice Cream Social until 6:30   |   |
| 18   | 19   | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23   | 24  |
| Ginny Ahearn's service (Green Gables)<br>9:30am Fellowship<br>10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  | 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)<br>12:00pm Ladies Lunch (Binghams) | 1:00pm Missionary mtg (LH)  | SPIRE DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST DUE<br>6:00pm Stewardship mtg (LH) | 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)<br>6:00pm Council mtg (LH) | 10:00am Wenberg bagging (Inside)<br>4:30pm Weinberg Distribution (Outside) | 12:00pm Gebo's children's baptisms (Sanctuary)  |
| 25   | 26   | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30   | Jul 1   |
| 9:30am Fellowship<br>10:00am<br>10:00am Graduate<br>10:00am Worship<br>11:15am Handbell    | 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)<br>10:00am Ch Ed mtg (LH)          | 9:00am Pastoral Relations mtg (PO)  | 9:00am Welsh Cookie making Day (LH)                               | 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)                            |  |   |

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Harford First Congregational Church –UCC  
5016 Creek Road  
PO Box217  
Harford, PA 18823  
Tel.570-434-2260  
Email: firstch@nep.net  
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com  
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com  
Live Worship:https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg

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

Isaiah 9:2

*Join Us Each Sunday!!*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MAIL**

**PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

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

Judy Mitchell –Sec

Hours: Monday 1:00-5:00  
Friday 1:00-5:00