

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

**Our Spire Volume 42 Number 5
June 2022**

When you're limping along:

What a now three-legged dog teaches us about persistence

Setbacks? *Oof*. We have all had them. Each of us has also had to figure out how to get along with much less than we did before and sometimes, no matter who we are, it's just hard to get motivated to move forward.

This is all true for our family dog, Newman. If his name sounds familiar, it's because he recently made our prayer chain. He is the Trooper who jumped out of our van in pursuit of a squirrel. As a result of his leap from the passenger seat on Tuesday, May 3, he had one of his hind legs amputated. I was driving. The kids were with me. We had just turned from Tingley Street to Nine Partners Road. Maybe we were 30-feet from the intersection of these two country dirt roads. The passenger's window was down. The squirrel just bounced along beside the van for a moment or two. This was all good. This was all ordinary. And then suddenly nothing would be the same.



Fortunately, I was able to get Newman to the vet very quickly. Thankfully, Newman, who is a twelve-year-old known for deep and long naps, was nearly asleep before he could be seen. In this time in the parking lot, I wondered, “Does he even need to see the vet?”

The news of his amputation shook my soul. The kids wept and wept—and wept. Those first hours with Newman home were new, weird, challenging, and awful. The cone around his collar didn't help. In fact, it made his new and troubled navigation even more challenging for him. There was no hiding the amputation. No bandage covered the surgery area. The sutures were mean looking, menacing.

And there we were. The new us. The new Newman. The new Newman didn't like being the new Newman. He hurt. It wasn't just physical pain. He didn't like what he'd been dealt. And he didn't understand it. **If we are honest, we don't like (or maybe even don't understand) our setbacks, either.**

I have been a dog person all of my life. What I am about to say to non-dog people will likely sound strange. I get it. Still (and honestly), I have to share that Newman did the grief work. You know the grief work. He didn't move. His eyes no longer lit. His formerly happy, wagging tail went limp. So much of what made him the dog he was had disappeared. Now he had to get around with loss—real, unavoidable loss. This was no strain or sprain. This was no, “Well, okay, this is going to be a downer for a few days.” He had to live with what he no longer had.

I share this because all of us can relate. To say that dogs are resilient is true. But I have to say what is also true: Newman's first week was nothing but uphill both ways, and both ways were hard. *Hard*. Everything hurt him—and me.

I had to live with regret. And guilt. From the driver's seat, I was the one who actually said, “Hey, look, squirrel!” And I had the window down completely. I had to adjust to the new image. My four-legged dog wasn't the same. He wouldn't be the same. Yes, weeks later, this still hurts. Both of us.

But rather than seeing what isn't, Newman can teach us all to see what IS. What is new for you? What has happened recently, or in the past, that was made you really look hard and deep at loss?

I invite you to look at this upcoming summer season around us. Everything is green and growing. From a winter where nothing bloomed, now everything blooms (or will bloom). Life is not over. Moments still matter. Hearts still sing with joy. Loving what is now isn't half as hard as we once thought it would be.

Having Covid took me out of the pulpit on May 15th. (How blessed we are that David Schulte could give a sermon on short notice!)

The lectionary text that Sunday included what I would have preached on, Revelation 21:1-6. This text from John speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. Here John writes of Jesus' second coming and the radical reform we will experience when Jesus is with us again. He shares his vision of what will be. A key verse we all remember from this passage is verse 4, which reads, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things will be gone forever (NLT)."

This text is futuristic. When I consider what Newman has experienced, I realized what we can all realize: this text is in the present tense, too. By no means am I challenging this text. Good things are coming! Death, sorrow, crying and pain will be no more. The great Christian hope is in Christ's return to earth and our home forever with Him in heaven.

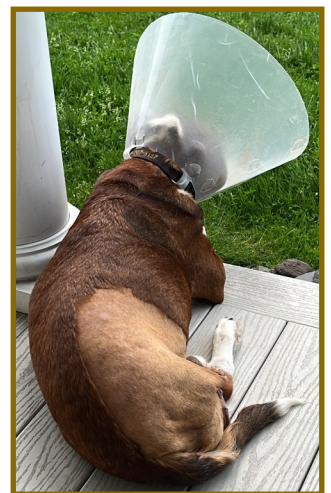
Where I get the present tense feeling happens not verse 4, but verse 5a. "And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making all things new.'"

It is new—now—with Newman (no pun!). The stump is new. The feel of the sutures as I carried him up and down the stairs is new. The cone. New. His immobility and now his compromised mobility. New. How he wobbles now. New. How he uses his tail to help him keep up with his fellow pack mates (we have three other dogs). New.

And God is here. Through His Son who saves IN THE NOW, God isn't just promising some far-off comfort through Revelation 21:1-6. God is saying, "And I am here with you. *I am here with you now*. Right now. In the mess, in the hurt, in the grief, in the guilt." This new heaven and new earth? It isn't as distant as some may think. The One who sent His Son, has His Son with us through every tear, every tumble, and every bad turn.

Are you hurting? Are you limping along? Are you going on three when you once had four? If so, I get it! I also get in the mud, mess and mayhem that God is not done with your story. He is not done loving you, teaching you, and guiding you more and more into what is both perfect and complete—and that's His love for you, and, in turn, your love for Him.

If you are limping along in any way, shape or form, please join us in worship. It's time. Continue to be a part of the faithful in the community of faith here—even (or especially) when you're not moving as you used to move. Scripture, hymns and our community will help you. We will hold you. We will surround you with the One who heals, Jesus Himself.





Our Senior Graduates



Jimi Bernoski: Graduating from MountainView and going on to study journalism at Penn State. Graduating with high honors, 8th in the class.

Travis Bridgeman: He plans on pursuing a degree in Musical Theater.



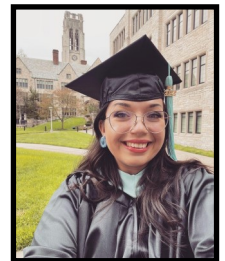
Alexy Callaway: Zeb Feduchak's girlfriend and neighbor of Sharon Decker. Alexy Callaway graduated from the Penn State School of Nursing on May 7th 2022. She has accepted a job at Moses Taylor Hospital in the GI Lab.

Emma Demark: Graduated with a Bachelor's in Veterinary and Biomedical Science from Penn State. She plans to continue onto Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine Saint Kitts Virgin Islands.



Kyle Derienzo: (Gary and Wendy Phillips Great Nephew) Graduating from Amity Regional. Going to the State Competition for Javelin. He is accepted to the Honors program at Quinnipiac University for Mechanical Engineering.

Laura Mosher-Masters from the University of Toledo. She plans on continuing her career in Higher Education at The University of Toledo where she is currently employed.



Owen Titus: Class of 2022 Owego Free Academy (OFA) Owen is the grandson of Joann and the late Phil Titus; son of Kent and Melanie Titus; nephew of Melissa Clarkson. Owen attends the welding program at Boces. He has attended state competitions for his skills in welding. In addition, he has numerous certifications in welding. Owen will pursue a full time position as a welder upon graduation.

Shannon Toolan: Shannon is graduating from Mountain View High School. Shannon also graduated from Lackawanna College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. She took additional courses during her junior and senior year from Lackawanna to obtain two degrees at once. She will be going on to Penn State, starting at Worthington Campus in Scranton/Dunmore area, then onto main campus.



Deacons 5-11-22

Attending: Gail Batzel, Nancy Burris, Holli Chichester, Kay Gow, Will Hagenbuch via zoom

Bible Presentation: One Bible was presented to Mikaela Stout. Bibles will be presented at the beginning of Sunday School in the fall to children having completed the third grade on up and at the end of the year to new students.

Altar Flower Sponsors: Flower sponsorships can be accomplished in one of two ways.

1. Fill out the Flower chart on the day you would like to sponsor the flowers and bring the flowers in yourself.
2. Use the pew envelope. Place \$20 in the envelope and put your name, the date of sponsorship and who the flowers honor or memorialize.

Bicentennial: This is the 200-year anniversary of the sanctuary ground breaking. June was initially considered but has since become too busy. The bicentennial will be postponed until the fall. Stewardship will be notified for their input.

Senior Graduation: The May Spire requested input from the congregation to identify seniors to be honored. The names received are: Jimi Bernoski, Emma Demark, Laura Moser, Shannon Toolan, Kyle Derienzo, Alexy Callaway, Travis Bridgeman and Owen Titus. These families will be asked for information and pictures and be invited to Senior Sunday June 26, 2022 where they will be honored and recognized. They are requested to RSVP by June 12, 2022.

Sunday School Start will be September 11, 2022. Cindy Beeman will be speaking in church.

Baptisms: June 18, 2022 Hagenbuch – Deacon – Gail Batzel

June 26, 2022 Zeshonski – Deacon – Nancy Burris

August 7, 2022 Lamberson/Ford – Deacon Teresa Lamberson

Memorial Day: Linda Lindsey will read a Memorial Day poem while Patriotic slides are shown.

Father's Day: Sandy Tingley will decorate the Altar. All Males will receive a treat.

Communion: The next Communion is June 19, July 17

None in August.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 11:20am.

Missionary Update - May 2022

Ukraine Conflict Response: Missionary along with Stewardship collected \$2,308 through Neighbors in Need. Missionary added \$725 collected for Ukraine along with an additional \$500 for a total of \$1225 from Missionary. \$198.70 was added from online giving and refugee account. The total given to Samaritan's Purse to help Ukraine is \$3,731.70. The money deposited into Samaritan's Purse online 4-27-2022.

Bake Sale: We made \$725.50 at the bake sale!! Great job to all that baked, bought or contributed!

Thank you!



Christian Education

Our 2022 Vacation Bible School theme is “Make Waves”. Our church has joined forces with six other local churches: Gibson UMC, New Milford UMC, South Gibson UMC, Great Bend UMC, Brooklyn Universalist and Hop Bottom UMC.

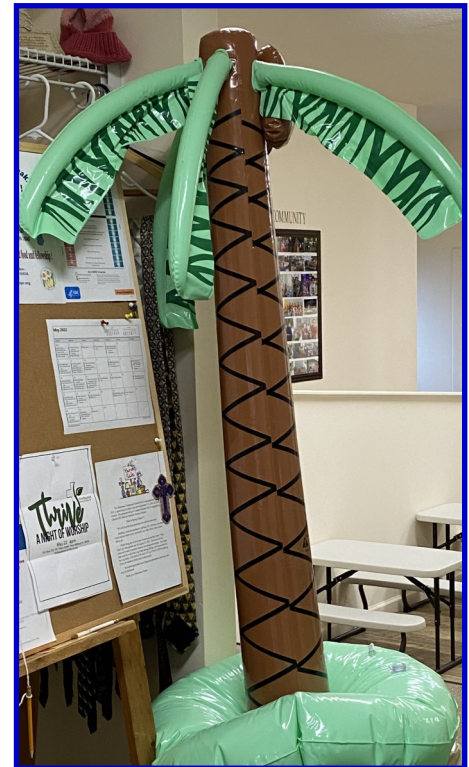
We currently have 36 volunteers from all the churches and the community! We are advertising in all the local schools and participating churches and hope to have many children participate.



The VBS will be free to all children so we need to get a little help! We are looking for sponsor fishermen to help us reel in all the little fish for Jesus. You can help by buying a little fish to add to our “school” for \$5. Send support to the church and mark the memo line “VBS”. All the churches are bringing in funds to help cover the costs of this exciting outreach.

Details of Make Waves VBS:

Pastor Laura Kincaid (New Milford UMC) and Tracy Weed (Great Bend UMC) will MC the opening large group with a Bible Story, music and fun. Some of our teens will help teach the songs, motions and help man the Technical portion of our show!



Christian Education Continued:

The children will be grouped by age: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 and have group leaders that will stay with the children through every activity rotation.

Karen Jones (Harford First Church) and Susan Green (South Gibson UMC) have marshalled their considerable talents to decorate the sanctuary and every room used for our VBS celebration as well as planning and prepping all the crafts.

Linda Lindsey (Harford First Church) and Cheri Thompson (South Gibson UMC) are coordinating the game time for all the children. South Gibson UMC has loaned the VBS their large outdoor tent for outdoor games.



Sue Schwalm (South Gibson UMC) and crew are manning the snack brigade, planning delicious and fun treats for every day.

Pastor Kim and Anne Bode (Grace Lutheran Church) are planning and prepping the small group lesson and fun time for all the children.

Our daily themes are:

Day 1: Wave Maker - God made People with a Purpose

Day 2: Catch a Wave – Jesus invited People to Follow Him.

Day 3: Life Saver - You can Trust Jesus with your Life.

Day 4: Ripple Effect – God can Help you Change the World Around you.

Volunteers will help in all locations (27 more of them) to make 2022 Make Waves a super fun VBS!!



VBS 2022

Here We Come!!!!

Register your child today!!

Forms and Link next page.

Multi-Church Vacation Bible School



June 13-16, 2022

10:00 - 12:30

At Harford First Congregational Church

Three ways to register your children:

1. Online: www.firstchurchharford.com

Click on the VBS Banner

2. Call: 301-643-1775 Holli

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

Harford First Congregational Church

Hop Bottom UMC

Gibson UMC

Great Bend UMC

New Milford UMC

South Gibson UMC

Universalist Church - Brooklyn



Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

June 13-16

From 10:00-12:30

Online Registration: www.firstchurchharford.com

Click on the VBS Banner.

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

Parent's First Name: _____

Parent's Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Child Registration:

1. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

2. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

3. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

4. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

5. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____

INVITATION

You are invited to attend the baptism of Pastor Will's five children on Saturday, June 18th at 11 AM at our church. The luncheon that follows at noon at the Harford Fire Company's reception hall celebrates the adoption and the baptism of the children. (The adoption takes place in Lackawanna County on Friday, June 17th.) ALL are invited to the baptism and to the luncheon that follows! Join us! This is a celebration!

Since there will be a meal at the Fire Hall, please RSVP to Will to let him know that you'll be joining the family for the meal. You can contact him through text at 570-267-5137, email wrh@nep.net, or use his landline at 570-434-7729.

The family hopes you can attend this special day of love.

Gifts are not usually given at baptisms. If, however, you'd like to celebrate Will's children, our community, and the future of our congregation, gifts can be made in honor of the children. Checks (or online giving on our website) can be made to the General Fund for the future wellbeing of the church the children call home.

This IS the day the LORD has made! We will REJOICE and be glad in it!



TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES—MAY 9, 2022

Meeting held at 7PM with Harry Gardner, Irv Needham, Gary Housel and Bill Chichester in attendance. Kandy Wellman and Rick Masters were absent.

Gary contacted Benedict Construction and confirmed they will install the new concrete driveway before July 1st as concrete is expected to go up then-already up \$3000. from last year. Week of June 13-17 is out due to VBS.

Harry contacted Jim Fluck regarding camera system and he will look at it shortly.

Kandy contacted Matt Hawley regarding the LH porch floor. Hopefully he will come look at it shortly to estimate but is not available until fall.

Harry contacted Matt Woosman to seal and fix the lecture hall driveway. Bid of \$1288.96 to do the job. Council approved the work.

Spring cleanup completed 4/23/2022 with a small group of hard working women plus myself and Robbie Fisher.

Discussion was had regarding setup for tennis/volleyball court in new driveway.

Adjourned @7:50 PM

Gary Housel

Willing Workers Quarterly Meeting May 4, 2022

The big group of Willing Workers met in the Lecture Hall on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:00PM. Kay Gow called the meeting to order. Others present were Maureen Warren, Ivie Simons, Sherry Decker, Kandy Wellman, Ellen Holdredge, Holli Chichester.

The minutes were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. There was a discussion on roast beef dinner profit. Less than 2020 but better than we had hoped (more than in 2019).

Ticket sales-\$4178

Expenses-\$1370.19

Profit- \$2807.81

Treasurer's report accepted. Kelly Feduchak and Sharon Decker audited the treasurer's books for the years 2020 and 2021. They were found to be in perfect order. Report stated, "Sharon Kinney is to be commended for the outstanding job she does. Thank you, Sharon Kinney."

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Should we hold a roast beef dinner in the fall? And if so, when? Holli was consulted for available dates. She would be happy if someone else would take charge of the dinner but no one stepped forward. For that reason, we decided on October 22. Holli put out feelers to see when Brooklyn, New Milford, and Gibson hold their dinners so hopefully we don't interfere. Probably we will serve pumpkin pie for dessert.

The FAIR was next. It is August 14-20. Kandy will order fudge bags. Sherry, Priscilla, and Ellen will sign people up to work once Judy has the signup sheet done. Kandy ordered a new stamp to use to make tags for crafts. The picture on it looks like our church. The tags are in a small plastic bin above the mailboxes.

Sherry Decker offered to be the Willing Worker rep to Council at the July meeting.

Holli asked if we want a secondhand fridge from Gwenn? Do we have room? How old is it? Do we need it? Decision was made to leave it at Gwenn's until the fair.

GROUP REPORTS: all groups helped at roast beef dinner and Lenten service refreshments.

Harford-3 present.

North Harford- 2 present.

Kingsley-3 present. Held 3 meetings (priced knives, crafts, made tags for crafts). Paid pledge. Donated \$200 to golf tournament. Making Welsh cookies on June 22.

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 7:00PM in the Lecture Hall.

Finance Report:

To make expenses every month (electric, payroll, office, programs, etc.) we need \$12,968.75 in 2022.

	2021	2022	YTD
April Income:	\$11,174.25	\$34,972.28	\$52,067.13
Expense:	\$ 9,216.71	\$ 9,794.26	\$31,395.86
Total:	\$ 1,957.54	\$25,178.02	\$25,178.02

(includes one time donations of \$10,000 & \$18,000 donation)

Other Council Minutes

Choir: still practicing

Stewardship: The Bicentennial celebration was moved to September 25, 2022 to give more time to prepare.

- The fall campaign theme will be “Leap of Faith” and will begin September 25, 2022 on the day of the Bicentennial celebration.
- There was a discussion on when to replace the money borrowed from other categories last year to cover expenses. It was decided to wait until further in the year to see how finances are going.
- The Finance Committee recommendations will be implemented if and when they are needed to cover expenses. The first Equitrust investment interest and the gas royalty money will be used if needed.
- The luncheon for Bonnie Bated was planned and job divided. Kay set up the chairs on Saturday.
- The donation box for Interfaith will be relocated during VBS.

Reflections

On Sunday, May 22, Rev Dr Bonnie Bates joined a small group for a covered dish lunch following church. She had some interesting ideas dealing with increasing church attendance:

- Be more explanatory when we do community things. Wear our shirts so people know where we are from. Put handouts in Weinberg bags. Perhaps with pictures drawn by kids with info about the church.
- Maybe stickers on our peanut butter saying that it was donated by Harford Congregational Church.
- Find things that the church is passionate about and do them.
- Be open and affirming. Follow Jesus. Remember everyone is a child of God. Allow the Holy Spirit to move among us. Then act like it.
- She suggested that a running line on our website sermons say that “donations are what make this possible”.
- Rev. Bates talked about “Nones” and “Dones.” “Nones” have never been to church. “Dones” went but no more. Explaining why some folks aren’t worshipping in church.
- Legacy was a short discussion. There is a workbook called The Church Closure and Legacy Workbook. She recommended looking at the questions.
- Also suggested was Facing Your Uncertain Future.
- Another suggestion was a Local Church Profile (available from conference). Questions are: Who Are We?, Who Is Our Neighbor?, and Who is God Calling Us to Be?.

Last Day of Sunday School

Teacher Appreciation

Ashley Becci Karen Charleene Kay Adele Ellen Kandy Abby
Parsons Warren Jones Martens Gow Bennett Holdredge Wellman Toolan

Not Pictured: Aubrey Daniels, Paige Seymour, Nancy Burris, Will Hagenbuch





**Mother's
Day
Altar
Decorations!**

**Thank You
Sandy Tingley**

June Birthdays and Anniversaries



June 1	Aaron Phillips	June 22	Don and Linda Lindsey
June 4	Anna	June 23	Irene Deemer
June 5	Bill and Dorothy (62 years!!)		Lisa Hahn
June 8	Christina Zick Dumitrov		Ivie Simons
June 9	Calvin Zick	June 24	Eleanor Meyer
June 12	Matthew Mitchell		Dave Schulte, Jr.
June 13	Ginny Ahearn	June 26	Brad and Paula Millard
	Rebecca Herbert	June 28	Mikaela Stout
June 17	Sue Furney/Wayne Frederici	June 30	Beth Ann Masters
	Connie Breese		
June 18	Bob DeLuca		
June 19	Ralph Simons		
June 20	Jessica Miller		
June 21	Greta Schulte		

A Prayer for the Grieving

Their special snack for the last day of school still waits in the refrigerator. Their arrangement of their special toys still resides in a hallowed corner in their bedroom. Their plans for the summer, a handwriting project their teacher has done for years that has been planned to be returned to students on the last day of school, hasn't been passed out yet. Their end of the year gift from their teacher won't come home as it should.



Hear Genesis 50:20 before we pray. “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today (ESV).”

And now we pray.

Dear Lord God,

Evil against You exists. This evil happens each day, whether we hear about it on a national level or not. Help us remember this. What we do with this evil—how we respond to it, how we push back against it, how we hold those who have been hurt by it—exists each day, too.

Center our hearts on this school tragedy at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, dear Heavenly Father. Create moments for us to pause and simply ache. Hold us in these moments.

From these moments, stir us. Infuse us. Speak to us. We cannot rewrite this latest page, but with You we can write the next pages. Call us to rally. Call us to respond. Call us to renounce evil for what it is and proactively do something in Your holy and healing name. God, help us write new pages of love and care by doing more for the schools, the teachers, and the children we do have around the corners from where we live.

You are our God of action. Too often, we can be a people of inaction. Your name needs to be shared. Your love needs to be known. Your voice inside of us cannot be silenced, unless we do it ourselves. I pray we are not silent. I pray we stand up to evil of all kinds (including the sins inside us all) by standing together, and, far more importantly, by standing with You.

But let's not just stand. Let's move. This is not an end completely. This is our call to hear You and love through You. Bring us to action. Keep us alive in Your name as we bless our nation, a specific community, and all who grieve.

Amen.



Directory Update

Zebin** Feduchak and Alexy Callaway
757 Sherwood Hill Road
New Milford
PA 18834



Altar 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 Altar flower sign-up sheet in the Gathering room.

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

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.



Memorial Day has come to mean the beginning of summer, a time for picnics and barbecues, and a holiday to gather around the family. That happiness and freedom, however, is a product of the real cause for the holiday: the sacrifice made by men and women who have fought and died for the freedoms and liberties Americans hold dear. Memorial Day is a time to remember that the American way of life is not cheap but rather has been purchased by the lives and blood of so many who have sacrificed for us to live free and happily now.

They sacrificed their lives, entered the gates of hell,
Onward they stumbled, while all around them fell,
War weary, ragged, faces dirt encrusted, black.
Impatient for the whistle, ready for attack.

In their hearts burned everlasting hope,
Carrying love letters and handwritten notes,
Tiny mementos and gifts tucked into pockets,
As shells blasted like exploding rockets!

They died as all good soldiers die,
Hoping for a better world for you and I,
Wanting to set the world free,
But many would shudder if they could see

The selfish world we live in today.
Would they be pleased with its uncaring ways?
Because "for our today, they gave their tomorrow,"
So let us be grateful, not wallow in sorrow.

Let us make their sacrifice worthwhile,
And help each other with willingness and a smile,
For at our darkest hour, our country they did save,
With their lives, which they so bravely gave....

Written by Laura J. Sanders

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/1914-1918-war>



Correspondence

Thank you for the wonderful job you do for Our Spire! I wish you the best!

Mari Catania

From Phil and Betty Lou Tompkins,

Phil, the kids and I would like to thank the church for the beautiful sympathy card that was sent when Phil's mom passed away. Truly appreciate it.

Yard Sale



We are collecting yard sale items for
our huge yard sale
fund raiser

September 2-3, 2022.

We take household items, kitchen
items, books, craft items, holiday
decoration, linens, home décor,
electronics and so much more.

We do not take clothes, exercise equipment and large appliances.
Bring items to the church fellowship hall or call or text
Holli at 301-643-1775 for pick up.

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**.

In Loving Memory of:

Luce Oliver Poxon
Dottie and Al Northrup
Jean and Ken Round

Walter Poxon



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-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>



Men's Breakfast

June 14, 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, June 24, 2022 rom 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
- Craig Stout and Family
- 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
- those experiencing financial pressures
- those fighting addiction
- Lois Gibson and all those in nursing homes along with their families
- Will's five foster kids & upcoming adoption
- Evan Clarkson, Andrew Kazmierczak, Robert Schulte and all those faithfully serving in the military
- Sandy Zupanovich
- health or loss of family pets
- Connie Schulte's son Phil
- Gregg Symuleski and family
- Nancy Marr
- law enforcement officers
- emergency volunteers
- hospital workers
- fire personnel
- Linda and Mike Berol
- Richard Frederick (Ray's brother)
- Dorothy Hagenbuch
- Small businesses struggling
- Patrick Simons
- Linda Lindsey
- Sal Armetta and family
- Steve Holtsmaster
- Karen Jones relative
- Lola and John Zimmerman
- Lynn Hernandez
- Braxton MacDowell
- Karen Doolittle
- Earl Gow
- Gia Fanelli, Wendy Phillip's daughter-in-law
- Paula Adams
- Chris (Paula Smith's brother)
- Ginny and Charlie Ahearn
- Gift of Life Program (Organ Donation)
- Andy Granick
- Mark Gregory
- Brooklyn Universalist Church
- Judy Strohl
- Margaret Frederick
- Willard & Millie Tingley
- Robert Hagenbuch
- JoAnn Titus
- Buffalo shooting victims and families
- Uvalde, Texas shooting victims and families
- Lynn Butler
- Sue Mc Bride
- Partaga Family
- War in Ukraine



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

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/August to be included in the Spire to:
Firstchurchspire@gmail.com
by the 15th of June 2022!**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Memorial Plaque Information

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

Cost---\$25.00

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



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

Thank you.

Women's Lunch

3rd Monday of each month except August

12:00 at Bingham's

All Welcome!



June Greeters and Ushers

June 5 - Karen Jones Greeter
Bill Chichester Usher

June 12-Betty Lou Bennett Greeter
Ken Bennett Usher

June 19-Nancy Burris Greeter
Joe Metzler Usher

June 26-Sue Needham Greeter
Irv Needham Usher

You may access the Harford First Congregational Church—UCC 2021 Annual Report using this link:

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

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.

Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2022 9am



\$95/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





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

Saturday June 11, 2022 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



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

Saturday June 11, 2022 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

570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND

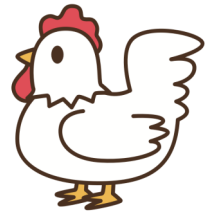
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN

\$95 per Golfer = \$380 per Team

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament



Clifford United
Methodist Church



Main Street, Clifford

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Chicken, Biscuit, Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans,
Harvard Beets & Dessert

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

TAKE OUT ONLY

DRIVE THRU

FROM 4:00 to 6:00 pm or until
Sold out

Donation \$12

June 2022

June 2022
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 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

July 2022
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29	30	31	Jun 1 6:00pm Finance Committee (LH)	2 10:00am Pastor in office	3	4
5 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 11:15am Deacons (PO) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	6 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	7 9:00am Pastoral relations mtg (PO)	8 9:00am VBS	9 10:00am Pastor in office 11:00am Helen Foster Funeral service 12:30pm Funeral 6:30pm Harford	10 Adoption of will's Children	11 9:00am Golf tournament (Tall Pines) 9:00am Book Sale (Orphan School)
12 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	13 12:00am NO Quarterback mtg 10:00am VBS 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	14 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 10:00am VBS	15 10:00am VBS 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)	16 10:00am VBS 10:00am Pastor in office	17 Adoption of will's Children	18 11:00am Baptism (Sanctuary) 12:00pm Baptism reception (Fire hall)
19 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	20 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch (Binghams)	21 1:00pm NO Missionary	22 1:00pm Blood Drive (Fire hall)	23 10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	24 4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	25
26 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Graduation 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	27 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	28	29	30 10:00am Pastor in office	Jul 1	2



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: Tuesday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00