



Our Spire
Volume 38
September 2019
Number 8

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

Pastor's Corner

DON'T silence your phones in church



We all been seated in an auditorium for one reason or another. Before the program, event or show begins, someone from backstage stands in front of the crowd and, after you hear a welcome and perfunctory remarks, you know what's coming next. "And please silence your cell phones at this time."

I don't want you to silence your phone in church. Instead, I want you to use it. Evangelism in this increasingly churchless age has never been more needed because there are now generations (plural) out there who misunderstand the basic tenants of the Christian faith, including the shared thought that Jesus is just a good guy, not the Son of God; so if you can share on social media a picture of your camping trip or an adventure with your family, why not share where you are on Sunday morning? More so, why don't you share what you heard in church, or what you're experiencing in church?

I understand that the thought of using a cell phone *during* worship will shock some of us. After all, this is not how church is done!

If you have not been in church over the past few weeks, what I'm suggesting may surprise you. Then again, when you consider how the missing age groups in the church communicate these days, even the most senior of us knows that the cell phone is used often by nearly all people under the age of fifty nearly all the time. This communication style is a way of life. Perhaps we could go so far as to say this communication style is *the* way of life for many today.

If so many churchless people are on their phones so often, doesn't it make sense to "fish for people" where the people actually are? Rather than waiting for lost generations to rush into worship on a Sunday morning, why don't we hear Jesus who calls us to go and make disciples in all of the nations (Matthew 28:19)?

For the past several Sundays, I have invited the use of cell phones particularly during and after the sermon. Inspired by Brandon Cox in *Rewired*, one the books I'm using in my dissertation, I invite the congregation to text me. I suggest this because thoughts, musings, questions or comments may come up during the sermon that you may want to ask and wouldn't do so otherwise. If you have thought or something to share, perhaps someone else is thinking the same thought, or all in worship will benefit from your addition. I never share who is texting me, and I have received messages that I have not addressed in church but later that day.

There is a short time where I answer questions in worship. This happens after the hymn that follows the sermon. The questions I have received from the congregation have been germane, important, thought-provoking, and real. I see this honoring our Congregational history, which values each individual.

If technology is enabling us to communicate more easily over distances, let's use technology to bridge the gap in the distances that are out there. The Gospel of Jesus Christ can be shared in incredible ways now in just seconds. Plus, as the sermon ruminates, you can text me throughout the week.

Some may not be in favor of cell phone use during worship. I think we can all understand this. I also think we understand that none of us are in favor of those who are missing church all together. Texting me and texting those in your communication circles about what you're learning and experiencing during or shortly after worship may be one of the best ways the Gospel can reach those who, at least for now, are not coming to church.



We've all entered a room in the house and wondered, "Why I am here?"

Here's another question. Why do you serve the LORD the way you do in an active, mission-based church? Can you answer beyond a sentence? If yes, is your answer going to make a non-believing listener hear something in your answer that will inspire their walk with Christ?

I continue to be inspired by the hardworking congregation I serve with, and when tasked in the 2019 GO FOR THE GOALS of bringing this congregation a Bible study, I knew something exciting needed to happen. Something new. Something bold. Something big.

Jesus is in the business of changing lives. And so am I. And so are you. To make this happen, over the four Sundays in October, four distinct, relevant churchwide Bible studies will happen—all at the same time! In four different locations at the same time, a 30-minute Bible study will follow worship. First though, we will have a quick, simple lunch in the Lecture Hall. (The food will be provided.)

My goal is to introduce more of us Bible studies. Let me say this more accurately. My goal is to introduce you to the THRILL of Bible studies. Singles, couples, family members, and dear friends, it's time to get deeper into the Word so we can reach deeper into our faith and find why we do what we do not for ourselves but for Savior—and with our Savior.

Four teachers will lead these direct, pertinent studies—Christian Character, Miracles, Decisions, and Waiting for God. No prior knowledge is needed. No homework is assigned. The teachers will move to a different study each week. So can you! You can stay with the same study or hop around each week.

I pray at least one of these relevant topics speaks to you—and, speaking of speaking—I also pray this gets great conversations going for more conversation and future study.

Each week in worship beginning on September 8th you will hear more about these four studies. Check next month's Spire for any details you may have missed.

Let me repeat. Jesus is in the business of changing lives. And so am I. And so are you. These mini studies can lead to major studies and major life changes can happen for you and those you love because you'll understand more fully "Why you are here."



The Golf Tournament Team would like express our sincere thanks for your support of our 10th annual Golf Tournament held at Conklin Players Club on June 30th. The day was a huge success, thanks in part to your generosity and participation. Our business sponsors really came through for us. We have given a list of our sponsors on the back. Please keep them in mind when you are looking for goods or services.

Thank you for all that you did as a congregation!

It meant so much to see your support through the signs you requested in Honor or in Memorial of loved ones. Thank you: Gail Batzel, Kathy and Marty Brown, Bill and Holli Chichester, Bonnie Love-Colwell, Sue Furney, Kay Gow, Dottie and Will Hagenbuch, Jud and Ellen Holdredge, Gary Housel, Merle and Betsy Jones, Kingsley Willing Workers, The Klenk Family, Dorothy Matthews, Bill McDonald, Anita Millard. Brad and Lynnette Millard, Judy Mitchell, Irv and Sue Needham, Wanda Schmidt, Barbara Sloat, The Winemiller Family.

Our total Sponsorship was \$5,155, \$1,600 from golfers, \$240 from mulligans, \$215 from the 50/50, \$285 from Skins donations by Adam Diaz, Nelson Jesse, and Brian Tyler.

The baskets were awesome and brought in \$650. Thank you: Betty Lou Bennett, Holli Chichester, Katherine Doolittle, Kay Gow, Karen Jones, Ellen Holdredge, Sharon Kinney, Shirley Masters, Judy Mitchell, Dave and Connie Schulte.

Everyone raved about the goody bags and our awesome cookies and all the extras we put in them thanks to you all!!! Thank you: Priscilla Allen, Betty Lou Bennett, Jean Bonham, Julia Gardner, Kay Gow, Dottie Hagenbuch, Karen Jones, Sharon Kinney, Lynnette Millard, Sue Needham, Gary and Wendy Phillips.

Thank you to our workers during the Golf Tournament: Kay Gow, Dottie Hagenbuch, Karen Jones, Anita Millard. Linda Robinson, Debbie Strong.

A huge Thank You to Kandy Wellman for making all of our sponsor signs!

We made a grand total of \$7,412.46.00 after costs.

May God bless you! Holli & Bill Chichester, Gary Housel, Judy Mitchell, Wendy & Gary Phillips

The First Church Golf Tournament Committee Harford, PA



Our 2019 Golf Tournament Sponsors

Please patronize these businesses to show our appreciation!!

Adams Cable

Armetta's Pizzeria & Pub

Bennett's Spring Shop

Bingham's Restaurant

Dale Payne Excavating

Estabrook Excavation

Honesdale National Bank

Keystone Propane

Kinney Welding

Liberty – Burger King

Master Concrete Products

Montrose Beverage

NEP

Nicholson Tire Services

Old Mill Village

Ross Feeds Kingsley & Hop Bottom

State Farm – Tim Carpenter

Susquehanna Beverage

Town & Country Veterinary Services

Andre and Son, Inc

Barton Myer Funeral Home

BK Bennington & Son

Buzzi Unicem USA

Drake Well Drilling

Harford Garage

Kavetski Construction

Kingdom Product Premium Restoration Material

Lenox Pharmacy

Liberty Petroleum Distributors

Master's RMC

NBT Bank

New Milford Hardware

Nicholson Lumber

Peoples Security

Sherwood Chevrolet Buick GMC

Stephen W. Kielceski, DMD

Tall Pines Stoves and Fireplaces



Council Minutes

July 25, 2019

Pastor Will began the meeting at 6:33PM with a scripture reading (Colossians 2:6) and a prayer before the meeting.

Vice-President Maureen Warren called the meeting to order.

Financial Secretary, Dorothy Hagenbuch - June General Fund donations were down, however, the year to date amount was good. The freight and down payment on the sign have been sent to the sign company. The Golf committee would like to use up to \$4,000 of the Golf Tournament profit to cover what is needed for the sign installation, with the balance to go to General Fund.

Treasurer report-Connie Breese-The Money Market has a balance of \$3,419.51. \$16,467 was taken out for the sign which left \$30,696.24 in the other account. Half of the cost of the sign had to be made with the order. The payment of \$13,250 will be transferred to the sign company (Clayton Brumby). Julia and Connie will go to the bank to have help with transferring the money. There was a question about the money used to pay for the bell refurbishing; \$1,700 was to come out of the music fund and the rest out of the memorial fund. Profit and loss still shows the money we are still owed from the insurance company.

Christian Education-Kay Gow reported they did not have a meeting.

Choir-no report.

Church Cupboard-Maureen Warren reported that all is the same.

Clerk-Betty Lou had nothing to report.

Cradle Roll-Holli has added one new child to the list.

Deacons- Kay informed us that grandparents' day has been changed to October 13 and not in September.

GAME ON-the ARC fundraiser at the rest stop on Route 81 went well and they realized a profit of \$550. Thanks to everyone who baked for the fundraiser.

Historian-Kay had the numbers: June 30-55; July 7-56; July 14-78; July 21-41. Average 58.

Missionary-no report as they don't meet in July or August. Dottie did report that Will had sent a letter to Area Aging regarding our displeasure in the reduction of Meals on Wheels from 5 times a week to 3 times a week. Connie shared that she had read somewhere where the Area Aging is now not supplying napkins, etc. with the meals.

Nominating-Jacquie Phillips reported that they will meet in August.

Stewardship-Kay Gow reported that they have finalized the Stewardship Committee jobs. Maureen Warren reminded us that everything should come to council so that it can be approved and recorded. The sign is to be delivered the end of August. Judy will make copies of the committee's jobs for the next council meeting. They are working on the theme for the fall campaign - "Because He First Loved Us". Jen Housel's program is to find out one's strengths. The cost is \$20 per person per test and there are two tests. Stewardships suggestion to not pursue this project.

Trustees-parking lot and driveway repaving is on hold for a while. Talked about new carpet or flooring for the hallway in the addition. We should think about it being slippery when wet. Liberty gave them an estimate of \$10,000-\$12,000. Perhaps it should just be left as is and have it cleaned once a year. More than one quote should be collected. Connie suggested that while the electrician is here for the sign that he does the new dusk to dawn light behind the church. Will made a motion that the trustees proceed with installing a new dusk to dawn light in the rear of the church - motion carried. Gary Housel has removed the bird's nest that was located in the kitchen fan.

Willing Workers-will be meeting August 7, 2019, in the lecture hall at 7:00PM. The Attic Treasure ladies are working diligently on pricing the attic treasures. August 3 is the attic treasure deadline for bringing in items.

Pastor's report-I presided over the funeral of Jan Tator; had a great time at the ARC fundraiser at the Lenoxville Rest Area off I-81; have been tutored twice on how to enter my pastor's material to the church's new website; purchased and am designing (with a lot of help!) my own website for my dissertation project which begins September 8th two teens and I started our ice cream sandwich ministry. You could be visited next! Have finished reading all 27 library books that belong to the Lancaster Theological Seminary library; had my major project consultation at Lancaster Theological Seminary on July 10th. My project was approved. Graduation target date is May 9, 2020. Baptized Harper Lee Meshach; have been meeting by phone with Rev. Dr. David Popham, associate conference minister with the UCC conference in NJ. David is guiding me through my "ministry metaphor," a way to frame how ministry speaks to me and the congregation; was glad to see so many church folk at the benefit for Sandy Zupanovich. He reminded us that God called him to work for his doctorate degree while on a bus in New York City.

Golf Tournament: David asked if thank you letters had been sent. Judy and Dottie both said yes. The golf tournament will be at Tall Pines Golf Course in 2020. It will be held on a Saturday at 9:00AM on June 13, 2020. David asked about the final profit of the golf tournament. He also was requested to ask if there could be a handicap for golfers 65years young instead of 70 years. A good suggestion David had for 2020 was to include the amount of profit in the thank you letters and to also include the date, place and time of the next year tournament. He has been asked about next years' tournament and didn't have an answer. Some of the golfer participant will mark their calendar a year in advance if they like to golf on a certain course.

Pastor will closed the meeting with prayer at 7:33PM.

Next meeting is August 29. A week later than usual because of the Harford Fair.

From the Route 11 Ministerium:

Service of Praise and Thanksgiving

Saturday, September 28, 2019

A Service of Disaster Recovery

Liberty Park Pavilion

11 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Service from 11 a.m. till Noon

Service will be first, then we will eat together.

Lunch Menu: Hot Dogs, Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, Salads, Cookies, Drinks, Chips.

Please invite your congregations to attend this event to celebrate recovery from the rains of last summer.



Council Minutes

8-29-19

Financial Secretary and Treasurer: We are approximately \$7000 below budget for the General Fund.

Christian Education: Sunday School is starting on September 15th in conjunction with the Fall Festival. The focus for our children will be the many wonderful stories the Bible has.

A pageant for Christmas was also discussed.

A letter will be sent to all the children informing them of when Sunday School will start.

The next meeting is September 5th at 6:00 P.M. at AnaCapri's.

Choir: Will begin after Labor Day

Church Cupboard: Serving 3 families and 2 individuals

Cradle Roll: Three letter and blankets were sent to newborns and 3 letters and Christian books were sent to children three years old and under on their birthday.

Deacons (July): Cards to those in need are signed and sent. Books for the engaged couples have been ordered. It was suggested that a label be made for the inside cover that states that the book is a gift for the couple from our church.

Upcoming Baptism- Harper, daughter of Aubrey Daniels and Donald Meshach, Jr, was scheduled for this Sunday, July 14th.

The question was raised who decides who decides who is baptized in our church? What is the protocol? Is there a baptism record? It is believed that the church clerk records this.

Communion- is now July 21st. Kay, Leanne, Katherine will serve.

New Business: Confirmation and membership. There has not been a confirmation class or new members that joined the church in several years. Are there teens who would want to be in a confirmation class? Are there adults who would like to become a member?

Deacons(August): Books for the engaged couples-one book is no longer being published (Now That You're Engaged), so we picked a new book Preparing for Marriage by David Boehi, Brent Nelson, Jeff Schulte, and Lloyd Shadrach.

Baptism of Harper Meshach did happen of July 14th. Next Communion will be on October 6, 2019 for World Wide Communion. Each serving Deacon that day will read a passage during communion to be a part of the service.

Grandparents Day-is now October 13th. The Sunday School children will send invitations from grandchildren to grandparents to join them in church. It was decided to do a small lunch with group trivia for all ages. Also invite all of the members that may not have grandchildren.

Should we plan another Hymn singing at the HVA? It seemed to go over well and we would like to include the people that live there more.

Confirmation and new membership-There are some adults that would like to join the church. Pastor Will has been in contact with these adults.

Next Meeting will be September 9, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Pastor's Office.

Game On: Thank you to all whom helped with the Fair Dinner. We will have a Fall Festival for the entire community on September 15, 2019. There will be Food, two Bounce houses, music and games.

Historian: Average of 54 people per Sunday through August

Missionary: Next Meeting – September 17, 2019.

Nominating: Working to fill positions

Pastor Relations: Next Meeting - September 23 at 8:00am

Stewardship: Next Meeting - September 19th

Trustee(July): Council did not act on the quote from Benedict Construction to concrete the existing blacktop driveway and additional parking areas.

Terry Kavetski believes the leaking widow is actually the result of a leak in the flashing around the spire. Harry contacted BSR to ask them to look at the leak.

The current style of laminate floor in the lecture hall is outdated. Liberty Carpet measured to replace the carpet in the new section of the church and estimated it to cost between \$10- \$12,000.

Chaz Ross Services completed repairing the light switches and updating the lighting in the lecture hall

New Business: We should add a dusk to dawn street light on the parking lot to deter people from parking behind the church late at night.

Gary Housel will change the filter for the Air Conditioning/Furnace.

Council approved the new gutters from Seamless Gutter and Supply Company

Trustee(August): Gutter installation will start on August 21st

Gary changed the air filter for the furnace

Harry tried to contact Precision Glass about Lexan for the offering table but was unable to reach them.

BSR is not returning phone calls about leak in church roof.

Craig Stout and Bill Chichester will adjust the flood light on the church.

New Business: There is still a bit of a mess behind the lecture hall to clean up.

Confirm and approve the heating oil contract from Lindsey Oil

Check on Propane needs for the upcoming heating season.

Rich will check on John's Painting Services schedule to see if he will still get to the church this year.

Willing Workers: The big group of Willing Workers met on August 7 at 7:00PM in the Lecture Hall.

The roast beef dinner will be on Saturday, November 23 so mark your calendar.

The group, with the help of both Willing and Unwilling Workers, did well at the old log cabin during fair week. All the fudge and Welsh cookies were sold along with many crafts, knives, and attic treasures. During the week, the group took in \$9692, an increase of \$1359 from last year. From the money taken in, we pay for the knives, dishcloths, building rental, fair book ad, fudge bags, taxes on taxable items, etc. We also give a pledge of \$6000 to the church's General Fund and \$700m to OCWM.

The group wishes to thank everyone who helped by cooking, buying, crafting, working or just stopping in to look around.

The next meeting of the big group will be Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00PM. Kingsley group will be hostess. The Willing Workers want to thank everyone who helped by cooking, buying, crafting, working or just stopping in to look around.

Pastor's Report: We completed our August sermon series "The Resurrected Life" with mega themes about how we live our lives forward in hope because we know how our story ends as we know our eternal home with God in heaven.

I have loaded the pastor's portion of our upcoming website with great thanks to Holli this past July. I am excited that with just a few clicks you'll be able to track all of my weekly posts—the sermon intro, Hump Day Help, my weekly newspaper column, the vlog (which is called the sermon sneak peak) and the sermon prep.

I continue to work on my own website as part of my dissertation project. I feel behind on this, so prayers are welcome!

I've enjoyed Ice Cream ministry this summer with Mikaela Stout and Hailey Miller. Those girls and their willingness to be present through Christ to our community is heartwarming, inspiring, and I pray its contagious.

Three cheers to the ladies in the Log Cabin at the fair this year, and I was grateful for the dining hall crew at the fair. My role of being outdoors on the walk in front of the hall gives me a great opportunity to meet new and familiar people, and thank those who helped us out by purchasing a meal at the fair.

I met with Jacquie Phillips to discuss the nominating committee's ideas. Jacquie is an amazing soul, and our time together was fruitful.

I officiated the funeral of Louise Allen on August 21st. Louise is David Allen's mother (Grace Allen's mother-in-law).

I met and counseled with Tatiana Lamberson and Kurt MacDowell. Their wedding is October 11, 2019.

I have met and will continue planning the wedding of Allen Phelps and Kaylee Parker. Their wedding is September 21st.

I'm grateful to Kay Gow and all the planning, behind the scenes work, and pulpit works she shares with us. Her writing, her heart, and her presence is a gift. I'm grateful for time with Craig Stout as we plan with the Stewardship Committee the upcoming fall drive and other important ministries.

The Monday meeting quarterback meetings are very important to the flow of our church, and I wish to thank all who make it to these meetings. So much happens in our giving church and when we miss a week, we can be behind a step!

I'm grateful for the conversations Tammy Stout and I have about GAME ON and youth outreach that includes some great plans for the fall festival and other youth activities.

I've had four hour-long sessions with Rev. Dr. David Popham, a Lancaster Theological Seminary graduate who finished the program a year ahead of me, on my metaphor in ministry. Metaphors in ministry was David's dissertation and he was helpful in helping me discern my vocation and future here in Harford.

I met with the Ministerium for our monthly meeting where I met the new minister at the Great Bend Methodist charge. As pastors, we also had our yearly party.

New Business: We will be updating our Picture Directory in November – More information to come.

-The Sign is coming but JHA has requested engineering designs before they will grant a permit. The engineering designs have been ordered and are in process.

Welcome Harper Lee Meshach

Baptized July 14, 2019

Parents: Aubrey Daniels and Donald Meshack

Godparents: Ashley Meshack and Michael Daniels



Recognition of three Important church groups who are doing the works the Lord has placed on their hearts.

The **Food Pantry** began 13 years ago as an idea Patricia White, the current pastor. Assisting her in this was Marcia Housel. The program provides individuals and families with food stuffs to help stretch their monthly groceries. It makes their lives a little less stressful by not having to worry about what they are going to have for a meal. Today Maureen Warren, Sharon Decker, and Dorothy Matthews ensure these needs are met.

Game -On came about five years ago because Melissa Heller, Craig and Tammy Stout wanted a place for their children and those in the community to have somewhere to go to have fun, play games, do crafts, have a nutritious snack and learn about Jesus and what He did and continues to do for them and us.

The **Missionary Group** is the oldest of these groups and has been a part of our historic church almost from its beginning. Books, clothing, and monetary donations have gone to many worthy causes (Heifer Project, Interfaith, Disaster Relief, Women's Resource Center and many others). The latest project in this long line is the support of two in-country missionaries in Nicaragua through the Child Health Evangelism organization, or CHE. They do this by having two rummage sales a year. CHE has many ministries among them are they teach women in the community a skill which helps provide extra income to their families. The women then teach the skill to others in their community. The children also benefit from a ministry that teaches them about Jesus and they then tell other children about Jesus. The latest way CHE is helping is by assisting communities get a drinkable water source. They are doing this by helping well to be dug for the community.

Recognition groups Willing Workers and Ugly Quilts

The Log cabin at the 2019 Harford Fair will once again be run by the three **Willing Worker** groups. The three Willing Worker groups: Harford, North Harford, and Kingsley provide the cabin with lots of Welsh cookies, fudge, and handmade items which are sold. Every year we have many repeat customers who come for the scrumptious Welsh cookies and delicious fudge in many flavors.

The Willing Workers are a dedicated and hard-working group of ladies. The Willing Workers began as a Ladies Guild in 1922. As you can see this group has faithfully served our church for many years. Each group has meetings throughout the year. The three groups meet quarterly where many topics are discussed such as; what each group has done and what they are planning to do. Often a dinner is requested by families when a loved one passes. The women work together to provide the meal and ensure the families are happy with the meal.

Ugly Quilts began in 2003, with Judy Mitchell spearheading our Ugly Quilts group. Helping her with this project were Eloise Masters, Dorothy Greene, and Jean Bonham. Others have taken their place. Most everything is donated; which is a blessing in and of itself. The ladies who do the quilts make about 25 a year. This is a wonderful way we show how to help those who have little or nothing at all.



ARC held a Community Service/Fundraiser at the Southbound Lenoxville Rest Area July 6-7. They earned \$550 to help support the ARC ministry. Thank you to all that donated fruits and baked goods!





The Community, Harford First Congregational and our Township Supervisors came together to hold a Community Softball game between local teens and our State Troopers. We thank our State Troopers and our Veterans for their dedication and their protection! Local teens got to know the State Troopers that protect us. Fun was had by all!



Teens and Troopers Community Softball Game

Monday July 29th @ 5pm
 (rain date July 30th)
 Harford Ballfield



Fun for all ages!
 Activities with the Troopers in between innings for younger kids



Stay tuned to our Church FB page or the Harford Community Event Page for more details.



Preparation for the 2019 Harford Fair

Kingsley Willing Workers make Welsh Cookies



Harford Willing Workers make Fudge

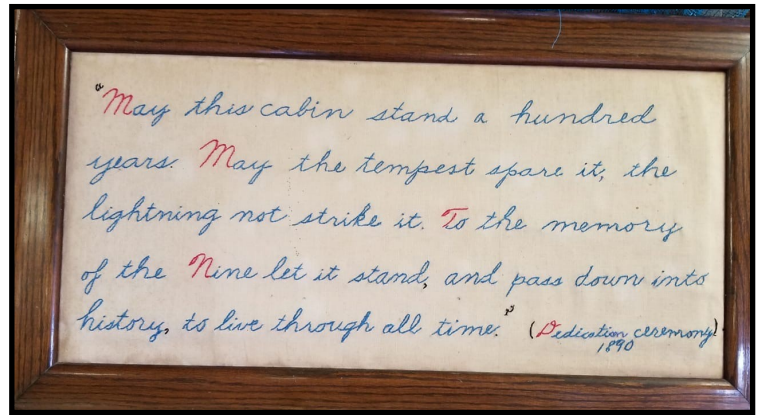


North Harford Willing Workers make Fudge

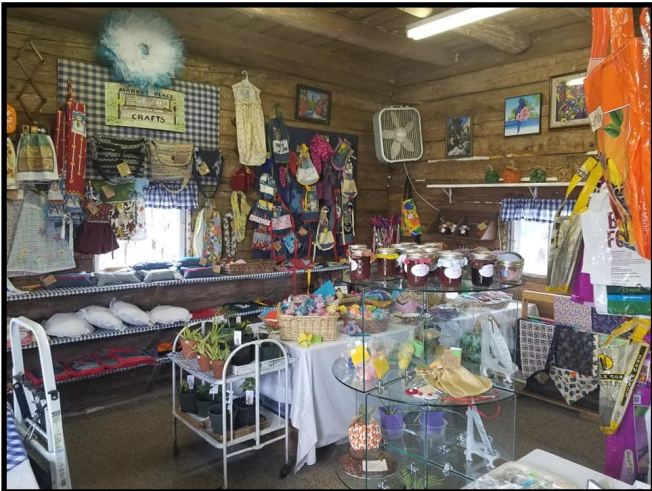


Old Log Cabin

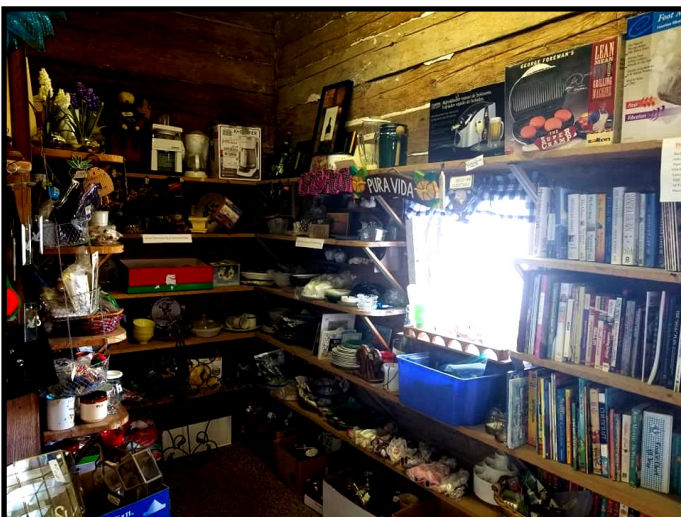
2019 Harford Fair



"May this cabin stand a hundred years. May the tempest spare it, the lightning not strike it. To the memory of the Nine let it stand, and pass down into history, to live through all time." (Dedication ceremony) 1890



The Willing Workers want to thank everyone who helped by cooking, buying, crafting, working or just stopping in to look around. We took in \$9692, an increase of \$1359 from last year. From the money taken in, we pay for the knives, dishcloths, building rental, fair book ad, fudge bags, taxes on taxable items, etc. We also give a pledge of \$6000 to the church's General Fund and \$700m to OCWM.



The 2019 Harford Fair Dinner



All funds will go to support our Youth and Outreach Projects. We made \$485 on our Basket Raffle and \$3288 on the Dinner. This totals \$3773! Thanks to all that worked at the dinner and prep, donated to the dinner and baskets and came to the Dinner.



Ice Cream Ministry

Reaching out to the Community in Love

Mikaela Stout and Hailey Miller



ICE CREAM MINISTRY: NO ONE SAYS NO TO ICE CREAM SANDWICHES WHEN WE SHOW UP ON THEIR LAWN

We are blessed as a church to have many outreach programs that enable our neighbors to experience God among us all. One of the ministries that directly reaches people in our local community is ice cream ministry. This ministry was started last summer by then pre-teen Mikaela Stout, who, with me in a car, heard God and wondered, “What if we just passed out ice cream to people around town?”

Her question started ice cream sandwich ministry which is now in its second year. Hailey Miller joined us this year and the girls really have taken to the joy of simply being present to people with a simple gift from the church. There are no strings to this ice cream. We do not ask for—and do NOT accept—money of any kind. This is just a simple gesture to let people know God is present where they are, and that we care about them here at the church.

We take ice cream ministry on the road. With the cooler packed with ice and the sandwiches wrapped, we set off in different directions. Ice cream melts, so we don’t stay very long with the people we find. In fact,, our only challenge in passing out our God gift is finding people at home. More than once, the command to “Look for people!” has come with a smile.

We hope more people in our area catch on to our summer ministry because for many, we really surprise them when we pull into the driveway and jump out with the cooler and meet in them in their yards or knock on their door.

EIGHT GREAT GOD THINGS WE’VE LEARNED PASSING OUT LOVE IN THIS TOTALLY INEXPENSIVE, SIMPLE AND TASTY GIFT:

1. **No one** says no to ice cream sandwiches. (If someone does have a dairy or sugar issue, we invite them to keep the sandwiches in the freezer for a loved one to enjoy later.)
2. One of the best responses was from a man painting his house who said, “Thank you, God.”
3. The Reuss family has an e n o r m o u s rabbit.
4. After time in the backyard swimming pool, little kids really go for ice cream sandwiches.
5. In fact, kids just go for ice cream sandwiches. (No surprise there, right?)
6. Miller looks splendid wearing a hat made out of an empty ice cream sandwich box.
7. The construction crew working on the 547 bridge toward Gibson love not only ice cream sandwiches but also us. (Those sandwiches were GONE in seconds!)
8. People have bad days, or feel sad. Ice cream delivered makes a difference.

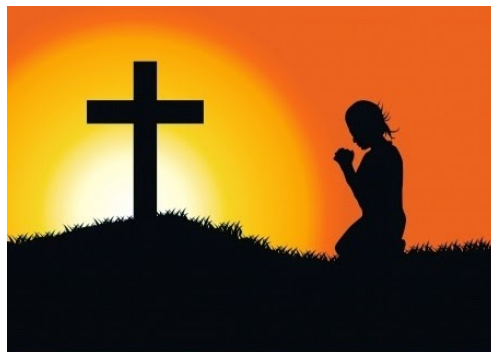
This ministry has been an outstanding gift for us. We understand more of what God must experience when God comes to us and tries to get our attention with something good.

If we’ve missed you with an ice cream sandwich this year, we’ll try again next summer!

Bell Choir Rebirth!!!!!!

Bob DeLuca has graciously volunteered to conduct a bell choir.
Please call or email Bob if you would be interested in participating.

570-498-7090 gepetto@nep.net



Prayer Concerns

Nicholas (Great Grandson of the Weidemans)

Patrick Simons

Scott Klenk

Heather Warren

Sandy Zupanovich

Christian Kuhar

Mary Jane Genneken

Sandy Paolucci

Jennika Drake and Family

Brandi & Dave

Larry Herbert

Family of Maxine Zappe

Family of Gerald Richardson

Sydney Ann (Gamble) Mead and her mother

Mallory Phelan

Nancy Burris

Jackie Schulte's Mom Diane

Franny (Kay's friend)

baby Colden

Elora Race

Family of Nadine Zei (mother of Elissa Zei Mitchell)

Jessica Miller

Evan Clarkson

our nation under God

our government

Family of Louise Allen

Ray Frederick's sister May

Family of Bob Mitchell

Wayne Wellman

Aspen Batzel

Barbara Weideman

John Butler

Family of Donna Wellman

Susan Bush

Correspondence

Thank you, Thank you, to everyone who helped me celebrate 90 years of living - the last 52 here in Harford. It was a JOY to receive so many well wishes, hugs, delicious cake, gifts of flowers, phone calls, cards which are lined up on my book-case so they can be seen and read often. It has been a great pleasure being with you during these years - of working together in the Willing Workers, choir, on committees and other projects. This church and your friendship mean so much.

Thank you again for all you did to make my birthday so meaningful.

Much love and hugs, Jean Bonham

To All: A great big thanks for your thoughts and prayers. They did me good. Roger Whitaker

Hello,

July 8, 2019

We at Summer Lunch Box Program acknowledge and gratefully thank you for your 2019 continued support. This includes your June \$20.00 cash donation, the many jars of peanut butter collected, as well as the numerous volunteer hours so many freely give. We appreciate them all.

As we approach the midway point of our distribution season, we currently have 166 children of 60 families enrolled. Most of these are from our local area that is the Mt. View School District. Since our Program is on more solid footing than in past years, we have taken steps to be classified as a 501C3 organization. It is hoped this step will make our efforts more attractive to larger donors, such as the gas and pipeline companies.

As we have had some significant contributions of meat, we'll be including more protein into our distributions soon. Your efforts to help make ours possible.

With sincere thanks for all your help,

Lorraine Stanton, for Summer Lunch Box Program, Hop Bottom, PA

From Julie Kesten: Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works.

Ladies, you are a true example of that Bible verse in life. You have proven it once again by donating all those delicious cakes to the "Breathe Easy" Benefit. The support and kindness you showed is greatly appreciated. You are a blessing to church, community, and any one in need.

May God bless each of you.

Thank you, Julie Kesten

Church Family,

Thank you for coming to celebrate Evan's high school graduation and bright future in the military.

We all appreciated you spending your time and sharing your love at the party.

Thanks so much for the gift.

Thank you, Evan

To The Cradle Roll, Thank you so very much for thinking of Gillian on her 3rd birthday! We love "If Jesus Lived Inside My Heart" and keep it by our bed for nighttime reading. We have so enjoyed all the books sent by our church family! We look forward to seeing you next time we visit Harford.

Gillian and Heidi



B/S/S/T AREA AGENCY ON AGING, INC.

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July 15, 2019

Rev. William Hagenbuch
214 Forester Road
Kingsley, PA 18826

Dear Reverend Hagenbuch:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to the delivery schedule of our meal delivery program, Meals on Wheels Endless Mountains. We understand your concern at the idea of cutbacks, and we are glad to report that no cutbacks are being made. However, we are working to transition to a delivery schedule of 3 days per week rather than five to create the necessary uniformity of service across the counties we serve. Fortunately, meal recipients will continue to receive the same number of meals and supplementary nutrition benefits they have always enjoyed through the program. A hot meal will continue to be delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with prepared and easily heated frozen meals offered in substitution for Tuesday and Thursday hot meals.

We wholeheartedly recognize that our meal recipients benefit not only from the supplementary nutrition offered by Meals on Wheels, but also from the socialization offered by a daily visit. We think that you will be happy to know that we are encouraging use of our volunteer programs such as Telephone Reassurance callers and Friendly Visitors to make sure the social needs of our seniors are being cared for.

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to show your concern for seniors; we can certainly say we share your passion for the aging community. We also greatly appreciate your offer of help, because we can never have too many helpful hands. In this, we would gladly welcome volunteers to become Friendly Visitors and Telephone Reassurance Callers. We would be grateful to have you share these volunteer opportunities with your congregation. Interested applicants can call 1-800-634-3746 to speak with a Volunteer Coordinator for more information, or to submit a volunteer application.

Lastly, we encourage you to let us know if you or the members of your congregation seek more information about this transition. We would be glad to schedule a meeting in which we could have further discussion.

Sincerely,

Marlea Hoyt
AAA Executive Director

Worship Assistants

Greeters

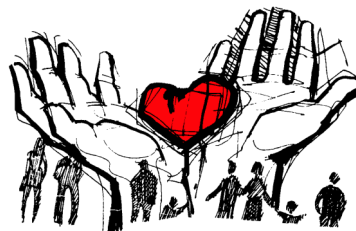
September 1, 2019 Dorothy Hagenbuch
September 8, 2019 Peg Empet
September 15, 2019 Jean Bonham
September 22, 2019 Anita Millard
September 29, 2019 Twila Williams

Ushers

September 1, 2019 Rich/Shirley Masters
September 8, 2019 Bonnie Love-Colwell/Payton
September 15, 2019 Gary Phillips and Kay Gow
September 22, 2019 Nancy Burris and Karen Jones
September 29, 2019 Bill/Holli Chichester

Readers

September 01, 2019 Peg Smith
September 08, 2019 Peg Empet
September 15, 2019 Lisa Hahn
September 22, 2019 Alyssa Clarkson
September 29, 2019 Linda Lindsey



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.

Home Bound

The Carey Family

Dorothy Greene

Catherine Escandel

Barbara Pease



Notice: Please send all material for the Spire to
Firstchurchspire@gmail.com
by the 15th of September

Directory update

Ruth Ann Batzel
383 High Street
Hop Bottom, PA 18824

Mr/Mrs. Ben/Bridget Sherring and Jax
509 Russell Road
Kingsley, PA 18826



Mr./Mrs. Steve/Sharon Decker
685 Sherwood Hill Road
Harford, PA 18823

Ted Brewster
29 Harmony Ridge Apt T04
Endwell, NY 13760

Laura Moser
3416 Middlesex Drive Apt A
Toledo, OH 43606

September Birthdays



		September 16	Brad Millard
September 03	Brett and Dena (Simons) Dew		Alice Archer
September 04	Joe Kulyeshi	September 18	Jason and Jessica Miller
	Benjamin Millard		Wayne Wellman
	Lydia Herbert	September 20	Don Lindsey
September 05	Kaiden Warren	September 21	Payton Colwell
	Bob and Dot Simons	September 23	Rick and Dana Empet
September 06	Breanne (Simons) Hiller	September 24	Bob and Irene Deemer
	Ron and Jacquie Phillips		Delaney Heller
September 07	Ralph and Ivie Simons	September 26	Aiden Empet
September 08	Bonnie Resseque	September 27	Henry Simons
September 09	Jack Allen	September 28	Griffin Simons
September 11	Jeff Zick		Patrick Simons
September 13	Leanne Colwell	September 29	Belva Adams
		September 30	Harry Gardner
			Jacob Heller
			Bridget (Zick) Sherring

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.

Susquehanna County Library Help

Do you every shop at ShurSave Supermarket?

One may register their ShurSave Gold Card at the store's customer service counter or online: (www.shursavemarkets.com-programs/Gold Card Program)



The Susquehanna County Library will receive \$.03 for each can or package of these brands: Best Yet, Nature's Finest, Top Care, Domestix, Academix and others not mentioned in the newspaper article.

Hopefully you will be able to sign up on your next shopping trip or from your computer.

Join us For Our...

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 15th 12:30-3:30pm
Harford First Congregational Church

FUN, FOOD, COMMUNITY

**BOUNCE
HOUSE**



FALL OVERNIGHTERS

OCTOBER 11-12 or OCTOBER 18-19

Cost: \$34 (adult or child)
****Pay for 15 children/leaders & get the 16th FREE!**

This event is for 3-6th grade Children's Ministries & leaders!



Register Your Group NOW!
 1.800.458.8260 x 216
 ReidA@RockMountain.org



OVERNIGHTER REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone () ____ - ____ E-mail: _____
 Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Grade in School _____
 Church where Child attends club? _____
 Parent/Guardian Name _____
 Mobile Phone () ____ - ____
 Emergency Contact (other than parent/guardian) _____
 Phone () ____ - ____

OVERNIGHTER PERMISSION SLIP

To whom it may concern: As Parent/guardian, I give permission for my child to attend and participate in the Fall Overnighter at Rock Mountain Bible Camp on ____ / ____ / ____ (Date).

As parent/guardian, I do herewith authorize treatment by a qualified and licensed medical doctor of the following minor in the event of a medical emergency which, in the opinion of the attending physician, may endanger his/her life, cause disfigurement, physical impairment, or undue discomfort if delayed. This authority is granted only after reasonable effort has been made to reach me. I grant permission for my child's picture to be used in camp promotional materials.

Name of Child _____

Name(s) of Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian Phone () ____ - ____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Is the child taking any current medications? No Yes, please list:

Does the child have any allergies? No Yes, please list:

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy# _____

FALL OVERNIGHTER PACKING LIST

Leaders & Kids need to bring the following to camp.

- Sleeping bag & pillow
- T-shirts/Shirts
- Jeans/Pants (for indoor & outdoor activities)
- Undergarments & Socks
- Sneakers (for indoor & outdoor activities)
- Sweater/Sweatshirt/Fleece (to stay warm!)
- Coat (in case it rains or snows!)
- Hat & Gloves (in case it's cold outside!)
- Toothbrush/Paste, Soap, Shampoo, & other necessary toiletries
- Towel
- Flashlight
- Bible
- Pencil or Pen

September 2019

September 2019							October 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	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						29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 1 10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	2 Labor Day	3 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH)	4 5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	5 9:30am 10:30am mtg	6 Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	7
8 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	9 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office 7:00pm 8:30pm Deaco 7:00pm 8:30pm Trustee	10 7:30am 9:00am Men's brkfst (Binghams) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH) 7:00pm 8:00pm Choir (MR)	11 5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas LH - KWW	12 1:00pm 8:00pm KWW (LH/Kitchen)	13 Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	14 9:00am 2:00pm Book Sale (Orphan school)
15 9:30am 10:30am SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 12:30pm 3:00pm Fall Festival 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	16 8:00am 9:00am Pastoral Relations (P) 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 12:00pm 1:00pm Ladie 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor i	17 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm 3:00pm Missionary (LH) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate 7:00pm 8:00pm Choir (18 SPIRE DEADLINE 9:00am 12:00pm Crafts, Knit, sew, crochet (H. 4:00pm 6:00pm Clifford Meth dinner 5:15pm 6:45pm Armett	19 7:00pm 9:00pm Stewardship	20 Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	21 7:00am 7:30am Ugly Quilt picnic
22 9:30am 10:30am SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (LH) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	23 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office Pastoral Rel 8:00am	24 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH) 7:00pm 8:00pm Choir (MR)	25 9:00am 12:00pm Crafts, Knit, sew, crochet (H. Chichester) 5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	26 6:30pm 8:00pm Council (LH)	27 Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	28 11:00am 1:00pm Rt 81/11 service of praise/thanking (Liberty park)
29 9:30am 10:30am SS 11:00am 12:00pm Service (Sanctuary) 12:00pm 1:00pm Pot luck lunch (LH) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	30 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office	Oct 1	2	3	4	5

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United Church of Christ
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Email: firstch@nep.net
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: <http://www2.nep.net/~firstch/>

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

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Rev. William Hagenbuch –Pastor
Home Phone: 570-434-7729
Email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Mon. 4-5:30 pm

Judy Mitchell –Sec
Hours: Tues. 1-5 pm
Thurs or Fri 11am -