



# **Our Spire**

**Volume 42 Number 2**

**March 2022**

# God, love and laughter, a review of our February sermon series

By Pastor Will

Have you noticed that most of us need to laugh more? Headlines can be hard, our daily lives can have challenges, but here's the bottom line in the four-part February sermon series called *God, Love and Laughter*: We need to laugh more! We need to hold to what our God is joyfully doing in our lives—and that's creating moments of deep joy and great laughter.

Sometimes God is using the hard places in our lives to get our attention, or draw us out of who we are so that we can be who He intends us to be.

In the story of Jesus and the two fishing boats which we opened on February 6, we see that Jesus calls the professional fisherman out *again* to do what they had failed at the night before, and that's fish successfully. When following Jesus' instruction, two boats come back with enormous amounts of fish! This text in Luke 5 speaks to Jesus' bounty for us. His provisions for us are great. We don't need to fear or stress over not having enough (and here I'm thinking about our annual budget and our monthly expenses) because God does what God does. When we follow Him, He gives us more than what we need!



In the story we had on Scout Sunday, February 13, we learn that Jesus calls his disciples by name. (Their names are listed in Luke 6.) Jesus calls us by name, too. We find joy when the Isaiah text Jesus highlights is fulfilled (Isaiah 55). When we are used by God to bless the poor, help the hungry and be present with those who grieve, we experience what is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, and that is joy. When one among us is poor, hungry or hurting, we do not—we cannot—experience joy or laughter. When we work together with God to fulfill His mission in and around Harford? Joy can be felt. Laughter can be heard.

And love wins again.

In the story of Sarah and Abraham on February 20, love does win. When we reach inside this text, we understand that God blesses Sarah because this woman who grows into her faith realizes she is blessed long before she becomes pregnant. In Genesis 21, Sarah laughs when she learns she will be a mother because she has already found delight in the Lord. This delight—this joy, this laughter—is ours too. Remember this verse. And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me (Genesis 21:6).”

Let's laugh with Sarah.



## Jonah's story is our story, too

by Pastor Will

Jonah finds himself in quite the predicament. He is stuck in the belly of a big fish for three days.

We find ourselves stuck sometimes, too. Like Jonah, we can't see our way out of the situation we are in. Like Jonah, we can turn to God and praise Him and the fact that He is with us in our scary, dark, and uncertain places.

Jonah has been assigned a ministry he does not like. It is a call he does not respond to. In fact, he runs from it!

We are assigned ministries, too. Sometimes—gulp—we don't like them. Like being trapped in a fish for three days, these ministries are not comfortable. However, just as Jonah did, we can find God with us in these ministries we are called to provide.

When I stand at the pulpit or see the congregation in a different setting, I see what God sees: a group of people willing (and sometimes a little less than willing!) to take on what God will have us do. I see this, too. Once we engage what God will have us do, we, like Jonah, are set free.

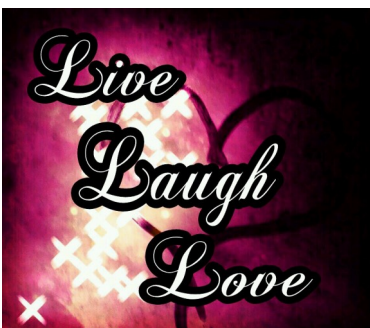
I am convinced God is putting something on your heart that you can do with joy for His Kingdom. I don't know what this ministry or mission is, but you do! And I mean what I say. You'll have joy in this. Laughter will come.

And this is what our February sermon series has been all about—God, love and laughter. I imagine when Jonah's days in Nineveh are over and, with time, he looks back on them, he likely chuckles—or all out laughs. HOW he avoided what God put before him IS comical. Well, it's comical until we get to him being in a fish for three days. That's not so funny. But I'm certain Jonah laughed with God once he saw that what God had him do would be such a blessing.

If you're feeling stuck these days, or if you sort of feel like you're in the belly of a fish for far too long, I invite you to do what Jonah did—and that is seek the salvation of the Lord. Just as God did with Jonah, you will set you free.

I can hear this once fish-smelling man chuckle or all out belly laugh when, long past his work for God in Nineveh, he laughs. Can you hear this, too? Jonah laughs because God is God. He is the Creator who keeps creating for us opportunities to give to Him and serve Him with our whole hearts.

This sermon series isn't truly ending. We will find love and laughter together in the months ahead. As we connect further with God and each other, we will know God, love and laughter.



# ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 2022 at 7:00PM

Harford First Congregational Church - UCC



## An Ash Wednesday Reflection

*Even now, says God, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning; rend your hearts not your garments, and return to your God. For gracious and merciful is God, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. — Joel 2: 12-18.*

The call to repentance is steeped in our Judeo-Christian DNA. It is who we are to a God who always is speaking love to us.

On this ashen day, the start of the holy season of Lent, it is important that each of us pauses to look back and reflect on the thoughts and actions of time passed. We allow ourselves the opportunity to feel the collision of pain caused by negative words, ideas, and deeds with the strong desire for goodness that God asks of every person. In this reflection, we are honest about the feelings and emotions that accompany our thoughts. Honesty with ourselves allows for our openness to God, and our opportunity to be with God.

Repentance does not mean pain and sorrow alone. Repentance also brings joy because repentance is a commitment to change for the future. This commitment is to the prospect of being more Christlike to one's self, to our family and our friends, our church and our wider community, and, most importantly, to God.

As we build a more honest relationship with ourselves, we build a closer relationship to God. This relationship is the platform for truth, compassion, and justice to a world desperate for repentance yet likely doesn't even know what repentance is.

A festive St. Patrick's Day background featuring a green leprechaun hat with a gold buckle, a black tray filled with gold coins, and scattered green and gold confetti on a green surface.

**Spire Sponsor**

**Lois Gibson**

## Can we rethink Lent?

I read what I immediately found to be true. People often don't look forward to Lent.

I get it. You may, too.

With so much is taken away from us these days, Lent can seem like one more thing that is hard or burdensome. It certainly isn't something many consider fun, energizing, or uplifting.

This is sad because this is not true.

Sure, many of us hold childhood memories of giving up chocolate, or attending more worship services during this season. Additionally, words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are used in ways that suggest Lent is something to be endured rather than appreciated as a time of grace, renewal, revisioning and profound, and even enjoyable, spiritual growth.

This is also sad.

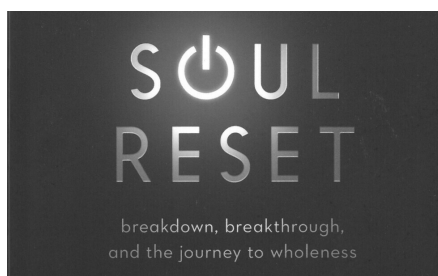
Rather than lose Lent, rethink its opportunity. If you are not embracing the gift of Lent this year for whatever reason, clear your mind because even the *thought* of resetting Lent is helpful.

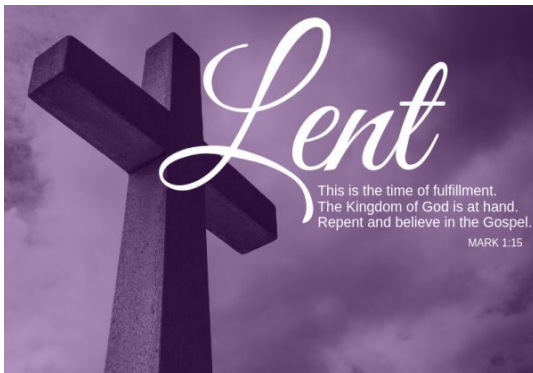
Welcome Lent as a time to realign, return, and even rejoice. Consider this time a gift, not a grind because each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives. Here we see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, that do-over. With relief, it is time to "return to God with our whole heart."

Here are some ways you can rethink the approach and the practice of Lent.

- Worship without music or talk radio in the car. That's right. Pure silence. I know a woman in our congregation who has done this. At first, this may feel unnatural, but trust me, the conversations you will have with God will be your joy in short time.
- Draw, paint, doodle, or sketch. Who said Lent *always* had to be the Word?
- Write. I know you're like me in that you WELCOME a REAL letter from a REAL person in the US Mail! Take time that you can create as sacred and connect with loved ones by pen and paper.
- Visit. Yep. Just schedule time with someone in the way that works for you. I invite you to take this practice intentionally, not casually.
- Name names. Maybe you are in a silent car, or vacuuming, or baking, or building, or tinkering with something, but make it a practice to name names. You'll know what to do with these names once they come to your mind.
- Create a playlist of hymns. The oldies but goodies ARE the best, yes. But seek those you don't know, too.
- Walk. Maybe you'll be pushing a walker around the house, or maybe you'll climb one of our great Appalachians, but walk. Be mindful of your breath, your thoughts, and your joy in being outdoors.
- Read prayers. Hear an author whose voice is so different from yours.
- Buy a book whose author presents the Gospels in a way that piques not just your interest, but your heart.

There's a pastor who will be walking an entire congregation through Lent each Sunday. You can find the message of God in a church you know in Harford.





## Lenten Service Schedule

The Route 11 Corridor Ministerium returns! This year we pick up the tradition that was cancelled last year due to the severity of Covid. The churches and the pastors have set out a schedule for us during the weeks of Lent. Each church hosts its own Ash Wednesday service. The following five Wednesdays we will be meeting in the churches that comprise the ministerium.

Each Wednesday night service begins at 6 PM.

Masks are strongly encouraged. Each church will have what we're calling a "Safety Zone" where everyone in this section of seating will be wearing a mask.

The pastors also decided that there will be light refreshments following each service, but no sit down gatherings are scheduled at this time.

Here is the schedule of the churches, the pastors preaching, and special music.

March 9: HOST CHURCH—TBD

Pastor William Hagenbuch preaching, Harford First Congregational  
First UMC New Milford, special music

March 16: HOST CHURCH—South Gibson UMC

Pastor Lucas Taylor preaching, First Universalist Church, Brooklyn  
Harford First Congregational-UCC, special music

March 23: HOST CHURCH—First UMC New Milford

Pastor Ho-Shik Kang preaching, Great Bend United Methodist Church  
South Gibson UMC, special music

March 30: HOST CHURCH—Harford First Congregational-UCC

Pastor John Shaffer preaching, Gibson and South Gibson UMC  
First Universalist Church Brooklyn, special music

April 6: HOST CHURCH Great Bend UMC

Pastor Laura Kincaid preaching, First UMC New Milford  
Special music - Open to where the Spirit leads!



## **New Members Class**

**A New Members Class is starting March 13, 2022 and will go for 5 Sundays after the service. (Times and Days negotiable)**

**All are welcome to attend and become more knowledgeable about Harford First Congregational Church—UCC and our beliefs.**

**Please contact Judy in the office to sign-up for the classes and let us know that you are interested.**

Pastor William Hagenbuch and a Deacon will lead the classes with representatives from many of our groups and committees. There will be five classes March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10. Lunch will be provided. Joining the church on April 24, 2022

- Topics: History of UCC, History of Harford First Congregational
- Structure and Operation of our church, Sacraments and Rituals
- Embracing the Differences and Coming together in Love
- Personal Faith Journey

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: [firstch@nep.net](mailto:firstch@nep.net)



## **Join Us for Ugly Quilts**

**Tuesdays 9:15 - 1:00**

**No Sewing skill required!!**

**Fun, Friends and Fulfillment**

**as we make sleeping bags**

**for the homeless.**



## Council Minutes—February 10, 2022

Vice-president, Maureen Warren began the meeting in absence of our President. There were ten members attending—Peg Empet, Julia Gardner, Kay Gow, Will Hagenbuch, Ellen Holdredge, Judy Mitchell, Wendy Phillips, David Schulte, Maureen Warren, Kandy Wellman.

President David arrived and relieved Maureen of taking care of the meeting up to this point.

David reminded us that the first meeting of the year is to elect a council president. A motion was made by Maureen, seconded by Ellen to nominate Dave for council president. All in favor, motion carried.

First on David's agenda was to re-organize the finance committee. He would like this meeting to take place on February 24 instead of having another council meeting in February. People on this finance committee are: Maureen Warren, Nancy Burris, Connie Breese, Julia Gardner, Holli Chichester, and David Schulte. David will personally call everyone to alert them to the change in meetings and to let them know that the finance committee will meet on February 24 instead of council. Council will meet in March on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Julia felt that someone from each committee should be on this finance committee. David would like a list of all assets presented at this meeting, and what the money is earning to get a plan in motion for the church's finances.

**Christian Education**-Kay shared Holli's minutes of the last Christian Education meeting. They were averaging 18-26 children per Sunday spread over five classes-Nursery, Pre-K-Kindergarten, Grades 1-2-3, Grades 4-5-6 and a Youth Class (Junior and High school). Two of our teachers had to step down due to work and other stressors (Tatiana MacDowell, and Kassandra Lamberson) They will be missed. Two new teachers stepped up to take the PK-Kindergarten class—Ellen Holdredge and Adele Bennett. We are so thankful to them. The Christmas pageant was successful with only half of the children able to participate as there was a rampant stomach flu circling among the children. There were two weeks off for Christmas and New Year and 1 week of because of weather. We started back on January 16, 2022, with 26 children and promptly had to close due to COVID. If Mountain View School closes due to COVID, we also cancel Sunday School. One congregant pledged enough money in 2022 to cover the curriculum for 1 year.

**Choir**-Ellen shared that the choir is practicing. They have been invited to perform at the Peace of the Pascal Lamb, a Masonic event at the Masonic Temple on April 2, 2022 at 3:00. Public is invited. There was a request from the Deacons that during the offering there be an instrumental or have the choir sing.

**Church Cupboard**-Maureen shared that one family is being served.

**Clerk**-No representative, no report.

**Cradle Roll**-Kay shared Holli's notes that four children/families were served by the Cradle Roll in January.

**Deacons**-Kay shared Holli's minutes. Linda Lindsey brought a program to the Deacons' attention-**Senior Companion Program**. It is a program through the Area Agency on Aging that matches persons over 55 and income qualified that matches a volunteer with a senior that would like to have some company and a friend. The benefits to the companion are a meaningful volunteer experience. The program has benefits of travel and meal reimbursement, stipend, recognition and training. **Meals on Wheels**-this program will be researched and contacted for ways that our congregation can reach out into the community. A **Valentine Day Card** and small bag of goodies will be delivered by the congregation and the Deacons to homebound who would appreciate the gesture. Ellen suggested to remember the teens upstairs helping with the technical production as a thank you. It was decided to keep the **Communion Elements** to pre-packaged for the present. Singing during worship was discussed. It was thought that we should strive to limit hymns to 1-2 verses if possible and to limit the offertory music to instrument or the choir. **New Member class** will begin on March 13 and continue for five weeks. We plan to continue with asking committee representatives to join for a class. We will have the class after the worship service and will begin at 11:15 to 12:45. A small lunch will be provided. Each class will have a co-teacher Deacon to team with Pastor Will to help guide the conversations and agenda. Linda Lindsey will be our council representative from May to October. Kay Gow will be deacon representative from November to April. **Bible study**-“Meeting the Spirit” led by Craig Stout is going very well. Several people have asked for an alternative time due to conflicts. Craig will start another “Meeting the Spirit” Bible study on February 21, 2022, at 6:30 at the church. Next Deacon meeting is Sunday, February 20 at 6:00 pm in person and by Zoom.



**GAME ON**-no activity.

**Historian**-December 12-49; December 19-76 (SS Program); December 26-39; January 2-34; January 9-no church-ice; January 16-54 (Baptism); January 23-32; January 30-34. Average for seven Sundays-45.

**Missionary**-Attending: Priscilla Allen, Sherry Decker, Peg Empet, Ellen Holdredge, Wendy Phillips, Kay Gow, Karen Jones

Least Coin: Wendy told us about a Syracuse University student who is doing an internship in France, teaching immigrants to speak, write and understand French in order to be able to cope with their new lives in France.

Correspondence: Karen read a note from Joyce Berish who appreciated hearing from us in December. Cards were signed and will be sent out.

Care Package to Evan Clarkson was assembled and readied to send out. A card, signed by all, was included in the package.

The meeting to make the sauce for the pulled pork was tentatively set for the afternoon of 2/22

Next meeting: March 15, 2022

**Nominating**-Wendy shared no report for this month.

**Pastoral Committee**-David is planning on getting the finance committee together. David agreed to have a service ready in case Will has to miss a Sunday.

**Stewardship**-Peg reported that at the last meeting they discussed the budget and the financial situation of the church.

**Technical Committee**-Michelle reported that they will be having a meeting after church next week. David suggested that we add the Technical Committee to the by-laws.

The annual meeting was broadcast on You Tube. Was that okay to do that. After discussion, yes the group decided that that was okay broadcast the meeting.

**Trustees**- January: Kandy shared that Brandon Bennett is not doing the plowing. Who is plowing? Harry had called Brendan Herbert. He is plowing and also has the equipment to spread cinders/gravel on the icy parking lot and driveway. Irv asked about installing air conditioners in the kitchen. After discussion it was decided that they were not needed, plus there was no extra money to pay for such conveniences. There is a ceiling exhaust fan, plus the floor fans are also very helpful when cooking in the summer. Gary bought a new light to install by the double doors in the Gathering Room. Hopefully this will be a brighter light at night and also to shine a little bit into the driveway. Discussed rug cleaning. The cost was less than \$200. The group felt that it might be better to have the carpet cleaned twice a year.

February: Trustees have set the date for the annual Spring Clean-up for April 23 with a rain date of April 30<sup>th</sup> Kandy spoke with Gary about getting quotes to replace the deck of the lecture hall porch with composite decking this summer. Harry updated the emergency contact information with the emergency monitoring service provider. Brendan Herbert will plow and cinder the parking lot for the rest of this winter. Trustees will look into other options before next winter.

**Quarterback Monday AM meeting**-Judy reported regarding the Monday morning quarterback meetings the following. We missed a few meetings in January. Lately the meetings have been virtual. We discuss people mentioned on Sunday and in the prayer list. If anyone has an update on anyone we will share this information. We discuss worship service such as the audio sound, etc.; we discuss upcoming activities.

**Willing Workers**-Ellen shared that there were eight in attendance at the last quarterly Willing Workers' meeting. They discussed the April 9, roast beef dinner plus considering different dinners. Some ladies asked about indoor dining. Last year was all take out. After discussion regarding dining in or out, it was decided that yes, if folks wanted to dine in they would be free to do so. Council left it up to the Willing Workers to decide what they would like to do.

**Important upcoming date: Saturday, June 11, 2022**  
**Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament**

### **Pastor's report-**

Please keep in prayers those who are on a cancer journey. Please keep in your prayers those who are grieving, who are financially and/or emotionally stressed in any way, and those who are carry heavy loads most of us will never learn about.

Let's also pray for times we can be present and loving to our senior population. Make us to reach out with a call or a card.

I send this with prayers to each of us. This is a challenging season when we consider the situations around us. This is also a God-at-work season when we remember our God never leaves or forsakes us. The God who drew Naaman to wellness is the same God who draws us to wellness, too. His mercies are new every morning. Every morning—every day—God draws us to Him and situates us in the world to serve Him and others.

Let's continue to do so.

Will performed a funeral eulogy for an atheist.

Visited JoAnn Titus.

Ilse feeling a little bit better.

Question asked-are we spraying after every service, etc. No Kay answers. Supposedly the germs are gone after three days and we only use the sanctuary on Sunday. So spraying is not needed

David has not lost sight of revisiting the by-laws to bring them up to date.

Still working on getting the defibrillator.

Julia asked for permission to purchase \$453.40 for the yearly fee for using Excel to do her reports. That includes stamps and Ins. Total \$454. Fee-\$372.06; Stamps \$1.36; Insurance \$79.98=\$453.40.

Will asked if we should decide if we should make a decision of masks yes-or no. We chose to say no one is required to have a mask. Each person may choose what they would like to do. Council decided to have a note attached to each door that says-"Masks Recommended. Please Respect Others. Thank you" Judy will make the signs



## **It's a Girl!!!**

**Congratulations to proud parents**

**Kari and Michael Zeshonski**

**on the birth of their baby girl Lydia Jaye.**

**Lydia Jaye arrived on January 21,2022 weighing  
6lb 15oz.**

**Congratulations also go to the proud grandparents  
Sandy and Bobby Zupanovich, her aunt Brooke  
Zupanovich and great aunt Julie Kesten.**




**February 13, 2022**

**Valentine Sunday**



**Alter Decorations by Sandy Tingley! Thank you they were beautiful!**

**Youth Sunday School making cards for the Valentine Outreach Goody Bags!**



**We wish you a  
Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Join us Sunday and  
find out more  
about God's  
unfailing love.**

**Assembling the  
Valentine Outreach  
Goody Bags for  
distribution to the  
Community!**



# Boy Scout Sunday

## February 13, 2022



**Gavin Bewley**

**Alex Empet**

**Bill Heiss**

**Reilly Potter**

**Leaders: Kristin Potter, Owen  
Bewley, Scott Heiss, Donald  
Potter**

**Our new Pre-K and Kindergarten  
Sunday School Teachers!  
Adele Bennett and  
Ellen Holdredge**



**Our new Sunday School teacher  
substitute Paige Seymour  
pictured with Aubrey Daniels  
and the Grades 1-2-3 class**



# Outreach!!!!

**An Anonymous donor gifted our church and community with 100 bunches of gorgeous flowers!**



**A team of church and community leapt into action and announced the flower gift to our community with drive by pick-ups and home delivery!**



**Many were blessed by this selfless gesture. Both givers and receivers! The HVA received home delivery!**

**Thank you to our anonymous donor and all that helped to make this outreach a loving success!**



## Directory Update

Wanda Schmidt  
4404 Trinity Court  
Virginia Beach  
VA 23455



Winter address:

Loren and Linda Robinson  
W297 Hiway A1A  
Satellite Beach  
FL 32937

Mr./Mrs. Josh/Melissa (Yarrish) Wallis  
285 Ridge Road  
Thompson  
PA 18465  
Baby: Willow Ryane born: 2/3/2022

Mr./Mrs. Rhett\*\*/Carissa Butler, Henry and Holden  
PO Box 340  
Uniondale  
PA 18470-0340

## Important Dates to Note!!

### Lenten Organ Meditation

March 6, 2022 at 3:00  
Organist: Rudy Sumpter  
Montrose Presbyterian Church

### MountainView Musical

#### Percy Jackson: Lightning Thief

March 4 and March 5 at 7:00  
Sunday March 6 at 2:00

## 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.**



## 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

## Bible Study

Meeting the Spirit — Bible Study

Have you realized that the Holy Spirit promised by God is available to you?

Have you heard that having the Holy Spirit in your life can make a difference in your life?

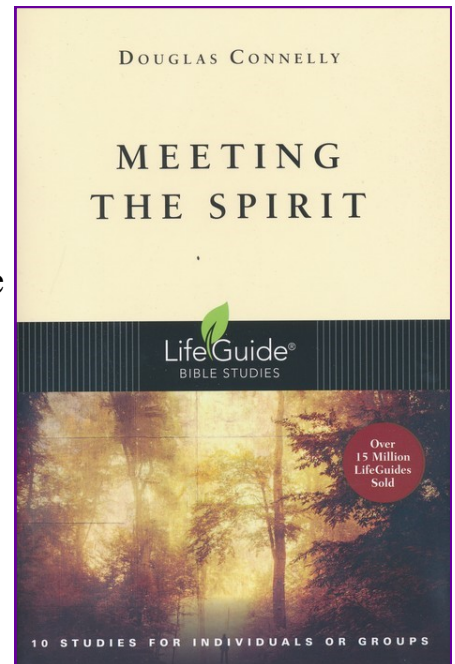
Would you like to see if you can encounter the Spirit in a life changing way?

Join us in the church office workroom as we gather around the table and dive into scripture and discussion about various Scriptures in the New Testament.

We look forward to seeing you! Sundays at 8:45am. **You can enter the Bible Study at any time so newcomers are welcome!**

**This same study is now available on Mondays at 6:30. Please call Craig and let him know if you are interested.**

Contact Judy in the office or call Craig direct at 570-396-7080 to let us know you'll be joining us!



## Kingsley Willing Worker Soup Sale

Kingsley Willing Workers will be having a soup sale on March 20.

Last Day to order is Sunday, March 13. Price per quart \$8.00

Please send orders to Judy at [570-434-2716----jmm@nep.net](mailto:jmm@nep.net)

Soup varieties offered for March sale:

Broccoli Cheese  
Chicken Noodle  
New England Clam Chowder  
Pasta Fagioli  
Taco





## 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.

Our Sunday School (9:00-9:45) is now open with five classes: Birth to 3 years, Pre-K to Kindergarten, 1-2-3 grades, 4-5-6 grades and a teen meeting class for grades 7-12.

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

March 8, 2022  
at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.

The second Tuesday of each  
month.



## Calling All Gardeners

**The Memorial Garden has been adopted by Dick and Delores Berish! Thank you!!!**

**Nicky Bernosky has volunteered to adopt the front landscaping around the church, but would love someone to help her in the Spring! Please call the office if you are willing to help beautify our Church Grounds.**

**570-434-2260**



## 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.

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

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



## 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.

## 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.

## Home Bound



Lynola Carey

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joanne Connolly

Norma Carey

Helen Foster

Lou and John Zimmerman

## 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 Helen Foster and all those in nursing homes along with their families

-Will's five foster kids

-Evan Clarkson, Bob Schulte, Andrew Kazmierczak 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

-Makel Silfee

-law enforcement officers

-emergency volunteers

-hospital workers

-fire personnel

-Joe Hawkins

-George Payne

-Nicole Rosa

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-Kristin Williams

-Lola and John Zimmerman

-Joe Megivern

-Lynn Hernandez

-Braxton MacDowell

-Samantha Valentine

-Karen Doolittle

-Earl Gow

-Gia Fanelli, Wendy Phillip's daughter-in-law

-Paula Adams

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Family of Maryanne Oakley

-Mandi Batzel

-Ginny Ahearn

-Gift of Life Program (Organ Donation)

-Hunter (Gail Batzel's grandson)

-Andy Granick

-Leanne Colwell family's health

-Mark Gregory

-Donnie Hiller and donor family

-Scott Mitchell family

-Family of Ted Kitrinis

-Family of Jesse Manzer

-Brooklyn Universalist Church

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### March Birthdays

March 1 Barbara Weideman

March 3 Katherine Doolittle

Kassandra Lamberson

March 4 Dorothy Greene

March 5 Erika Lewis Gething

March 11 Cindy Millard Galambos

Judy Mitchell

March 12 Lyra Brosius

Scott Muller



March 14 Harry and Julia Gardner

Ethan Rodriguez

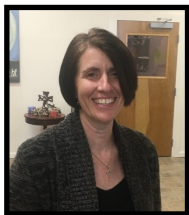
March 20 Linda Arthur

March 22 Peg Empet

Liz Grant

March 25 Gus Ferrara

March 26 Susie Chidester



## Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church

Please contact Tammy if you have registered but do not plan to pick up.

Next distributions Thursday, March 3, 2022 from 4:30-5:30 and Friday, March 25, 2022 at 4:40-5:30

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.



## 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)





**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)

## March Greeters and Ushers

March 6- Sharon Decker (Greeter)  
Alyssa Nolan (Usher)

March 20-Karen Jones (Greeter)  
Kay Gow (Usher)

March 13-Priscilla Allen (Greeter)  
Jim Bernosky (Usher)

March 27-Leanne Colwell (Greeter)  
Judy Mitchell (Usher)

## 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 April to be included in the Spire to:**

**[Firstchurchspire@gmail.com](mailto:Firstchurchspire@gmail.com)**

**by the 15th of March 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.



# HARFORD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS - SURVEY

Are you interested in improving the  
ballfield and creating a community park?

Please take this survey!

<https://www.surveylegend.com/s/3v2d>



To take the survey on paper,  
stop at the Township Office Mon-Fri from 10am-4pm

Join our Facebook group:  
Search for "Harford Township Park"

Harford Township Municipal Authority  
DANA Empet, Rick Masters, Josh Olivo,  
Shawn Krause, Brad Millard  
[harfordmunicipal@gmail.com](mailto:harfordmunicipal@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC INPUT - SURVEY**  
**HARFORD TOWNSHIP BALL FIELD / PARK MASTER SITE PLAN**

**HARFORD TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**  
**(PARK COMMITTEE) NEEDS YOUR INPUT !!!**

**WE ENCOURAGE PARENTS & KIDS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY TOGETHER.**

**Project Need:**

---

Harford Township is committed to providing its residents with a fun, well-maintained and safe place to play. The Harford Township Municipal Authority (Park Committee) and the Township are eager to upgrade and improve the Township Ball

*Harford Township*

Fields off of School Street. The current ball field has potential to be reimagined and developed into a full-season recreation area that can provide a variety of play options, from playgrounds, swings and courts to gathering areas, wellness/hiking trails and open lawn. Well-maintained parks increase the appeal and wellness of our community and provide a venue for worthwhile community events.

Your opinion is respected and it is needed during this planning process. *What would be in your ideal park? What can the Township do better? What does Harford not have? What do you like to play? Do you have a new vision for this recreation space?* Please complete this survey so we can find out what is important to you. With proper planning and community involvement, this park can be improved to meet the needs of all residents, young and old.

**Project Goals:**

---

- Evaluate the condition of the Ball Fields, including safety, accessibility, parking and drainage.
- Consider expanding from a single-season ball field into a 4-season municipal park.
- Identify long-term park recreation needs, as guided by public input.
- Prepare improvement plans for public review and comment.
- Strategize a phased approach to help the Township start improvements.



**Use this link to take survey online: <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/3v2d>**

**Or fill out this paper survey and return to the Township Building**

**Seniors in your neighborhood need your friendship and support.**

# Be a Senior Companion!

Senior Companions are volunteers age 55+ who provide friendship and assistance to older adults who need help with tasks, such as shopping, appointments and recreation time. The program aims to help older adults maintain their independence longer, and provide assistance to family caregivers.

As a Senior Companion, you can earn **\$400+** per month without decreasing your housing, medical, food, disability or other assistance you may be receiving. You'll make new friends and help improve the quality of life for older adults in your community.



## Senior Companions Provide:

**Friendship and social support**

**Respite for caregivers**

**Support with daily activities\***

**Transportation for shopping, appointments and more**

*\*Senior Companions do not provide physical assistance with lifting clients, ambulating, toileting, dressing, cooking or cleaning.*

### Benefits

- Pay that goes straight into your pocket, tax-free
- Pay that does not decrease any assistance programs you may have including disability, food, housing and all others programs
- Paid time off
- Holiday pay
- Meal and mileage reimbursement
- Flexibility and independence
- Be a member of the Senior Companion group who share the mission of helping
- Create new social networks/ Make new friends

### You can become a Senior Companion if you:

- Have the ability to transport others
- Are at least 55 years old and live on a limited income
- Live in See below
- Want to belong to a group of peers and staff who support you

2009c.11/19

## Senior Companion Program

**Covers Susquehanna, Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga Counties.**

**If you or someone you know would like to get additional information on being a companion or getting a companion, call June Werner at 1-800-982-4346.**

**In church contact: Holli Chichester (Deacons) 301-643-1775**





**B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc.**

**1-800-982-4346**

## **Meals on Wheels Endless Mountains Drivers**

Just a few hours a week can make all the difference...

Meals on Wheels Endless Mountains volunteers pick up prepared meals at local Active Living Centers and deliver them to seniors in need of a nutritious, noon-time meal. The volunteer drivers are provided training, mileage reimbursement, and personal protective equipment to promote safety while serving.



### **Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Opportunities**

Our local Area Agency on Aging is in need of some very vital volunteers to help maintain their much needed programs for our elderly.

They need: Drivers

Ombudsman

Site Workers

PA MEDI

Visitors

Senior Companion (previous page)

Callers

They have four local site: Clifford, Great Bend, Fair Dale and Waynesboro.

To get more information on the programs and volunteer opportunities check their website at [www.bsstaa.org](http://www.bsstaa.org) or call Lynne Jenks at 570-278-3751.

Church Contact: Holli Chichester (Deacons) 301-643-1775



2022  
LILY ORDER FORM

Please order:

\_\_\_\_\_ lily plants at \$ 8.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total price)

I would like to donate these lily/lilies to shut-in outreach Yes No

Given By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**“DEADLINE /April 3, 2022”**

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail order and payment to:

First Congregational-UCC

P. O. Box 217

Harford, PA 18823



# March 2022

March 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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		

April 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
7:30am Fire Co. 8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service 11:15am New	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 6:30pm Bible Study (PO) 7:30pm Fair Mtg	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir ?	Ash Wednesday Service 6:00	10:00am Pastor in office 4:30pm Weinberg pick up	7:00pm Mt. View Play	7:00pm Mt. View Play
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7:30am Fire Co. 8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service 11:15am New	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 6:30pm Bible Study (PO) 7:30pm Fair Mtg	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:00am Pastoral 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir	6:00pm Lenten Service (Place to be determined)	10:00am Pastor in office	11:00am Girl Scouts (LH)	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service 11:15am New 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm Missionary (LH) 6:00pm Choir	6:00pm Lenten Service (South Gibson)	10:00am Pastor in office		10:00am Woodwind dance (LH)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service 11:15am New Member 6:00pm Deacons (PO)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch 6:30pm Stewardship 6:30pm Bible Study	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir	6:00pm Lenten service (NM Methodist)	10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service 11:00am Soup Sale 11:15am New Member	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 6:30pm Bible Study	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir	10:00am KWW (LH) 6:00pm Lenten Service (First Church)	10:00am Pastor in office		



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

PERMIT—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

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

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

Isaiah 9:2

*Join Us Each Sunday!!*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MAIL**

**PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

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

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