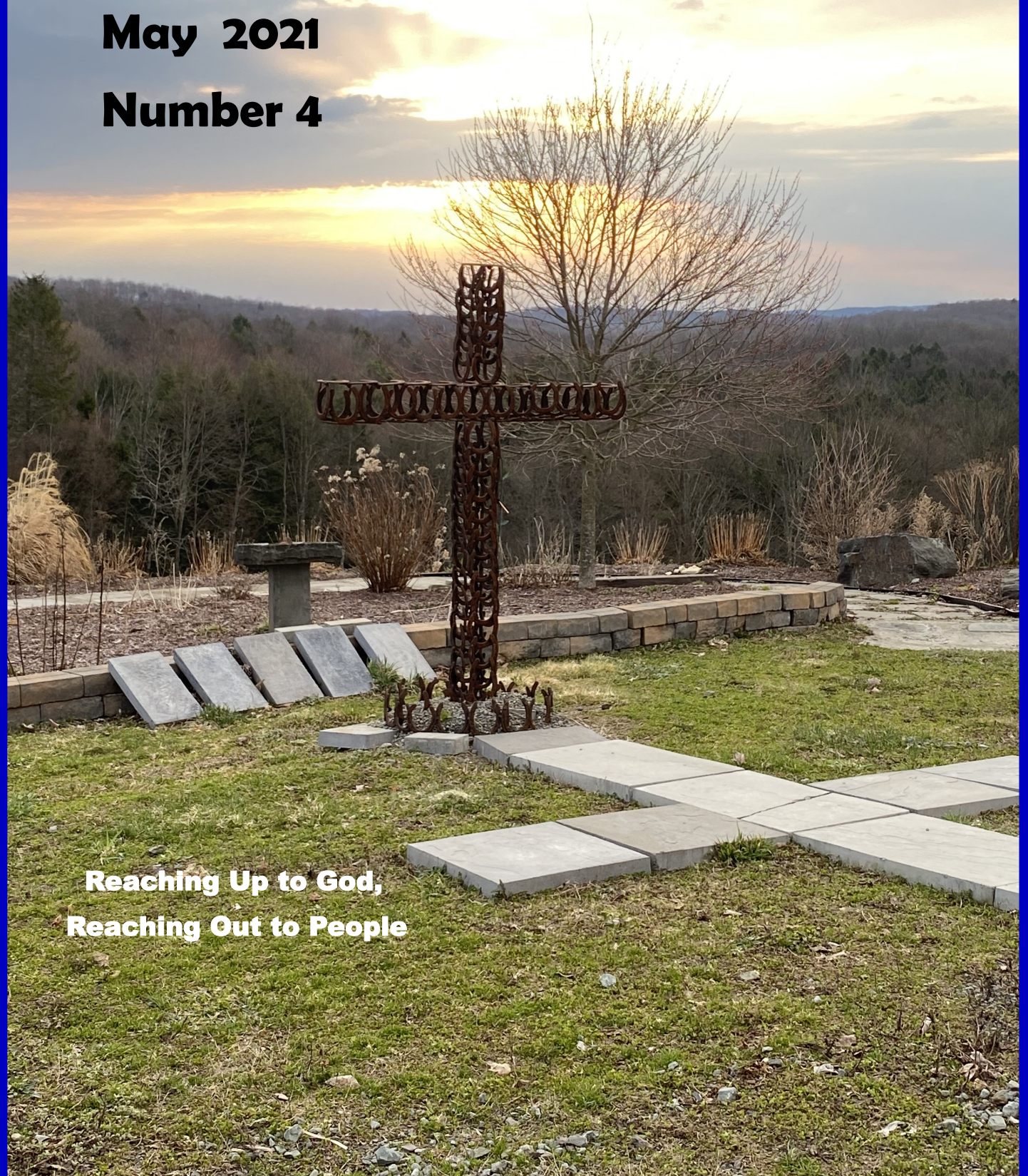


Our Spire

Volume 41

May 2021

Number 4



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

Pastor's Page

Easter isn't over, and here's how you can tell

For too many, Christmas ends. When that tree in the living room goes, that's it. Lights out. Literally.

The dark season of winter lasts twice as long as its opposite, summer. In fact, lovers of wearing tees, shorts, and flipflops find the following to be true, winter is actually two or three times longer than summer.

Yes, sadly, for too many of us, Christmas ends by New Years Day. The ho, ho, ho season to be jolly is done. Finished. Boxed away. Kaput. Over.

Easter, however, now this season lasts. And here's how you can tell. You have hope. You have hope beyond measure. You are not just optimistic; you're actually, truly, unshakably hopeful. Sure, there are down days. Walls are steep. Mountains seem too hard to climb. Bad news settles. Perhaps hard times even stay for a while. But far sooner than later, there is hope—indelible, undeniable hope. And generosity. And spirit. And spark. And flexibility. And acceptance. And abundance. And life.

There is life because Christ's empty tomb and his appearances following what was that first Easter Sunday continue to affect how we react, respond, and recover. We, who continually confess in sight of the empty cross, are not weighed down by our sins, or the sins of the world. We know our Savior did just what his job title says he'll do (and this is present and future tense thinking here, not yesterday's news). He saves. Specifically, he saves us each time we sin and if this is not enough, he saves each time we are caught in the ripples of someone else who sins.

And this? This is JOY. We may not bounce around doing the Toyota kick (do you all remember what that was?), but we do hold optimism not in any news of the day, but in the news that Jesus Christ himself shared with us. He will return. Until he returns, he has sent his Advocate, the Holy Spirit. And even if what we are and will experience in the days ahead is a wash, meaning, we've been dealt longstanding hardships, this isn't it. This life isn't the be and end all. Oh, no. This? This is temporary. The best is yet to come—forever.

Heaven.

Yes, Easter people live and live well. Easter people experience the pings, pangs and problems of life like non-Easter people; we are not exempt from pain; but there is no hold. There is no stay. Like Jesus, we rise.

Easter people not only have noticeable joy, but also there's another way you can tell who Easter people are. Easter people spend so much more easily (and joyfully) than non-Easter people. Sure, there are budgets. Certainly, there are tough decisions to make. There are cuts no one wants to deliberate, but Easter people spend not as if there is no tomorrow; Easter people spend because there is a tomorrow, and we know that non-Easter people need to know this.

The Widow of Zarephath will tell you this (1 Kings 17:7-16). She had almost nothing and gave that away to gain it all.

Being an Easter person can seem like a challenge to some—at first. But this changes. Actually, we change. We change through prayer, through participation, and through practice.

If the world you live in is far too dark, then being an Easter person is your best option. Actually, it's your only option when it comes to eternal salvation.

This bears repeating. Easter people hurt sometimes. Easter people have trouble spending sometimes, especially if secularism weighs in, but Easter people have hope, and Easter people give.

And this? Yes. This is worth a Toyota kick.

Light Your Candle of Imagination!



From absolutely nothing came absolutely everything that we see, touch, and taste. From the depths of emptiness, God is still creating a vast, ever-expanding universe. Putting it mildly that is some imagination.

If we, children of God, are built in the image of God, then the imagination gene is ours, too. And the imagination gene is one we need. Consider how vital our imaginations are as we lift ourselves and others from the quagmires of despair and the downers that accrue each day. It takes more than hope to do this heavy lifting. Imagination is required, too. We Christians have to see what isn't there. We have to conjure what isn't seen. We have to generate what isn't yet available. All by imagination.

I think of the Advent candles many churches use in late November through Christmas Eve. Please do not hold me to specific significances to each candle each week because variances do occur. Traditionally, however, the candles lit each Sunday during Advent represent hope, faith, joy and peace (or hope, peace, joy and love).

It's true that I've done no research on this, but I'm pretty sure most congregations don't light an imagination candle. And maybe all of us, regardless of where we are in the liturgical year, should light imagination candles. Speaking to the liturgical calendar, one of this past Sunday's lectionary selections included 1 John 3:16-24. It is important to remember that 1 John has three distinct parts. First the disciple turned apostle speaks to light, then love, and finally life. The third chapter begins John's commentary on love. In verse 18 he writes, "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions (NLT)."

Immediately, John is calling us to imagine. How are we to show the truth of love? What does this love look like? Where does this happen? Who is included? Is it somehow possible to leave someone out of this love, and, if so, when are the action steps in an action plan taken? These questions can seem exciting or daunting—or both—but what I want to focus on here is how examples of seeing what isn't there is the work of the church. Newsfeeds wear us down if we don't see the potentials God has for His dear children to envision not what is (first of all this is done all the time), but what can be. Would you like three powerful and prophetic-leading words today? Here they are. Imagine a world...

Imagine a world where love from God through us doesn't rest but renews, restores and regenerates each day. Imagine a world where we actually get that we are dear children and this genealogy empowers, equips, and enables an equality that still hasn't been seen by all. Imagine a world where, yes, we actually do what John instructs, we don't just say we love each other; we show we love each other.

I have a hunch that the imagination candle has been blown out for some of us. For others, I see that candle waning, or feebly (or maybe even fiercely) flickering against a wind that is relentless, or, at least in the moment, too strong. We can all light or relight imagination and stand strong in its glow.

Two quotes from two very different sources may help love be shared. The first is from the Apostle Paul, the second from Helen Keller.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:5-6, ESV)."

"The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision."

Envision a world where love for each other is not just said but shown, as John calls us to do. Having trouble seeing this? Light your candle of imagination.

**Council Minutes
4-22-2021**

Treasurer:

March	2020	March	2021
Income:	\$9,081.00	Income:	\$13,355.58
Expense:	\$10,384.40	Expense:	\$13,074.03
Total:	-\$1,303.40	Total:	+\$281.55

General Year to Date:	Income:	\$37,434.78
	Expense:	\$37,373.91
	Total:	+\$60.87

Christian Education Minutes: CE met on April 8th and 21st at 4:00 P.M.

Present were Charleene Martens, Holli Chichester, Tammy Stout, Kandy Wellman, Will Hagenbuch and Kay Gow.

Will opened the meetings in prayer. Many topics were discussed. First topics of discussion was who would be the CE Director. Will volunteered to be the interim CE Director.

The next topic of discussion was when to have Sunday School. Many suggestions were given such as; having SS during church. No one present wanted to miss church. The next suggestion was to have SS before church. It was decided to have SS before church beginning April 11th @ 9-9:45. Pastor Will's niece Mia will be in the nursery, while Kandy and Kay will be with the older children until the end of May. A time for crafts was discussed and Kandy suggested perhaps once a month a Bible theme craft time could be done. Also, when more children come for SS and if the parents are staying for church, care would be provided for the children unable to sit in church during worship.

We discussed if in the fall, do we need to change the time for SS. It was decided to leave SS at 9:00 because it is working currently with the number of children we have attending. In the fall we may begin to use some pre-ordered curriculum for SS lessons. Currently Kandy and Kay are teaching the children a small portion of what Will is giving in the sermon to the congregation. During the lesson the children role play some of the people we are talking about and then we ask them questions about who we talked about.

Kay will be the CE representative to council. The meetings ended in prayer. The date of the next meeting will be announced at a later date.

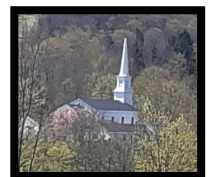
Church Cupboard: Serve one family

Cradle Roll: Served one 2-year old—Received book and letter.

Attention! The worship service will be livestreamed live at 10:00 am each Sunday.

We have been eager to worship together again. We are now meeting in groups with masks, distance, and additional sanitizing.

We would like to invite those who feel ready to worship in groups to come to the livestreaming of our worship at 10:00 am. Masks are mandatory. We must keep our distance. We will not use the hymnals and Bibles. All needed text will be projected for you.



For those who feel it is best to stay at home and continue online worship, please know our council supports and appreciates your participation. Safety first is a key to our wellbeing. We look forward to worshipping with you online or in person each Sunday at 10 am.

Deacon Meeting- Zoom 3-29-2021

Attending: Ginny Ahearn, Tammy Stout, Teresa Lamberson, Will Hagenbuch, Ellen Holdredge, Holli Chichester

Will opened in prayer.

Good Friday: 6:30 Live-Stream Service Bulletin and words on the Wall, Leanne and Ginny will read.

Sun Rise Service: 7:30 am Chairs will be by the back door, Holli will have bulletins .

Easter Service: Ushers and helpers arrive at 9:30am (Bill Chichester, Kay and Ellen will take temperatures and take down one name + one phone number for contact if we have Covid reported)
-Holli, Leanne and Ginny will seat people by going into the sanctuary via the organ door and exiting via choir door.

-People will sit in seats marked "sit here". Balcony will be used if needed for overflow. Leanne and Ginny will dismiss rows starting at the front on both sides. People can get their Lily as they leave.

-We have 22 lilies to take to shut-ins etc. We are working on a list for delivery on Easter after the service. Maybe each Deacon could deliver a couple of Lilies.

The left-over palm branches will be kept to be burnt for Ash Wednesday next year.

Tammy spoke about honoring the seniors this year. She is looking into the church sponsoring a Baccalaureate service. She will talk to the principal at MountainView. We are all going to think about what kind of gift might be appreciated by the seniors (decision next meeting).

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:00pm at the church.

Deacon Meeting—4-11-2021

Attending: Ginny, Holli, Teresa via zoom, Missy Clarkson. Will via phone.

This meeting time is obviously a very poor time for everyone. We will work to find a better time for meeting. It has been suggested that Sundays after church may be the best time since many of us are already here. We will try the next meeting on Sunday, April 25 at 11:15 and then May's meeting on Sunday, May 16 at 11:15.

Communion: We discussed dates for the next communion and methods of safely serving communion. It was agreed that we will have the next Communion on May 23, 2021, Pentecost Sunday. We will purchase 100 individual small cups of juice with wafer included. These are sealed and will be placed by the bulletins for individuals to pick up when entering the sanctuary. A Deacon will stand by the bulletins to inform people to pick up the sacraments.

High School Graduation: There are 57-62 graduating seniors. The seniors have been receiving goody bags each month. It was suggested that a nice picture frame with the inscription "They will soar on wings like eagles" Isaiah 40:31. A sticker will be placed on the back "God Loves You and We Do Too" Harford First Congregational Church.

Mother's and Father's Day: We will give each woman a flower on Mother's Day and each man a candy bar on Father's Day. We will discuss shut-ins next meeting.

Justin Vietri lost his business in a fire. Will plans to speak to Joe Vietri to determine how we can help.

Cards sent to 7 persons.

Next Meeting: April 25, Sunday at 11:15. Please notify Holli if this time does not work for you.

Deacon Minutes - 4-25-2021

Attending: Tammy Stout, Lisa Hahn, Holli Chichester, Ginny Ahearn, Leanne Colwell
Via Zoom: Teresa Lamberson, Katherine Masters

Graduating Seniors: We received approval to gift the seniors with a grey and black photo frame with the inscription: "They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint." The frame will also have the silhouette of a soaring eagle. The gift will also include some candy. The frames are \$10 each. Tammy is working to have these done. The Maza Fund will be used.

Communion: Communion will be held May 23, 2021 on Pentecost Sunday. The communion cups with juice and wafer will arrive by May 1, 2021. Ginny Ahearn will greet on May 22, 2021 and direct each person to take a communion cup. The congregation will be directed to dispose of the trash as they leave the sanctuary.

Mother's and Father's Day: Each woman will receive a chocolate on Mother's Day. Each man will receive a chocolate on Father's Day. The prayer will focus on the mother and father figures in our life's.

Sign Recognition: Deacons will advertise that the sign can be utilized to recognize Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Births and other special occasions. Tammy will be the contact person for sign requests.

New Member Class: Deacons will offer a New Members class in September. The Spire will advertise this class. Details about this class will be filled in during the next months. The office will keep a list of those interested in these classes.

Bible Study: The Deacons will offer a Bible Study in September. The topic and facilitator will be discussed in the next couple of months. The office will make a list of those interested in a Bible study. The Spire will advertise this class.

Confirmation Class: A youth membership class is being investigated. What it will entail and how it will be structured is being considered for the fall.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2021 at 11:15 in the Choir Room.



Bible Study

Coming in September!

If you are interested in studying God's word and having fellowship with other Christians, please call or email the office so that we can add you to our Bible Study list.

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

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net

Missionary Minutes — 4-20-2021

Attending: Maureen Warren, Ellen Holdredge, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Karen Jones, Peg Empet, Ginny Ahearn, Kay Gow, Wendy Phillips

Minutes read and accepted.

Treasurer: In: \$14.00 Dues and \$ 5.05 Least Coin Total: \$694.70

Least Coin: Ginny reported that the Least Coin Funds are used by the Grant system. Each grant is \$4500 and is only given once. The grant must include budget and target audience information and is quite lengthy. One such grant was for a program in Bosnia, Ground Swell, to help woman understand the culture and beliefs of others (Catholic, Christian, Muslim). Break down stereotypes.

Webinar: Living in the Shadow of a Nuclear Disaster – Fukushima (10 years later). Jeff Mensendiek narrated and translated first hand testimonies of people living in the area and their experiences with the continuing radiation. 10,000 people died as a result of the disaster and more are experiencing cancers.

Emergency Food Bank Collections: The Hop Bottom Food Bank will transition back into the Summer Lunch Box Program in June. We will end the food collection of all items and switch to just peanut butter and Jelly starting in May. The congregation will be informed of the transition starting April 25, 2021.

Summer Lunch Box Program: The Summer Lunch Box Program serves four areas: Choconut, Montrose, Elk Lake and MountainView. There is a need for 1000 Peanut Butter and 1000 Jelly. The barrel will be placed outside by the double glass doors.

Disaster Kit Collection: The Disaster Kit Depot is finally operational and will accept drop-offs April 26. Karen Jones, Ginny Ahearn and Holli Chichester will drive the 30 Clean-Up Buckets and 73 Hygiene Kits to Binghamton. The shipping/processing fee of \$236 will be sent to CWS.

Yard Sale: The Yard Sale will be planned for Labor Day Weekend since the Harford Fair seems to be a “Go”. All yard Sale Items were transferred from the Lecture Hall to our storage facility thanks to Gwenn Diaz. We will do weekly transfers of items to keep the Lecture Hall neat.

Golf Tournament: The Missionary Group will sponsor a Kids Game Basket for the golf Tournament. Each member will bring in one game for the basket. We will also help fill the Goody Bags for the Tournament of June 10, 2021 at 10am.

Weinberg Food Bank: The next distribution is April 23, 2021. All were encouraged to help.

Bake Sale: We will ask the Fire Hall (Gus) if we can hold a Bake Sale on voting day, May 18, 2021. We will plan for an outside set-up with a pop-up tent. We will have 4 2-hour shifts. We will place the shifts and a bake items sign-up sheet on the board in the Gathering Room. Karen Jones will make a poster.

Stewardship: Ellen reported that Stewardship will be collecting Nik Naks and costume jewelry for local nursing homes. The nursing homes use these items as prizes. We will look at our yard sale stuff and sort out items that can be used for this.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 1:00

Stewardship Minutes: Stewardship met on April 15th.

Present were Connie Breese, Julia Gardner, Peg Empet, Ellen Holdredge, Shirley Masters, Nancy Burris, Wendy Phillips, Michelle Estabrook, Will Hagenbuch and Kay Gow.

Julia let us know as of March 31st the church was \$281.55 to the good. The Julia Hudson Fund was discussed and \$7,000 must be left in the fund, but the interest accumulated can be used if needed.

Questions about where the money from the golf tournament will be going this year. The money will go to the Youth and Outreach Budget to be used improving our online outreach.

We as a committee were asked if we needed a mission statement. We decided to read the responsibilities of the stewardship committee and see if we can come up with a mission statement. A question was asked is, what is a steward and how can we let the congregation know what we as a committee are about? A possible beginning was given; "When we serve others, we serve God."

We talked about where the community might need help. One area was the exterior renovation of the building Interfaith now owns, another was what do residents in nursing facilities need. We thought Cindy Beeman might come to speak to the congregation and tell us what Interfaith is doing, has done, and is looking to do, how many churches support them and a little of the history of Interfaith. The stewardship committee could talk about Interfaith during the summer and then perhaps on September 12th Cindy could come and talk to the congregation and we could tie it into the Neighbors in Need campaign.

As for what residents in nursing facilities need, Ellen said that she had spoken to the activity director at Barnes Kasson and the director said some of the things they could use were craft items, note cards, occasion cards, and note pads. Ellen volunteered to get in touch with the other nursing facilities in the area and see what their residents might need and then on May 2nd the stewardship committee would have a moment in ministry in worship and Ellen will let the congregation know we will have a box in the Gathering Room for collecting the items and then they will be delivered to the facilities and given to the activity director to use at their discretion.

Peg thanked those who shared stories for the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting is May 20th at 6:30.

Trustee Meeting Minutes -April 12, 2021

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

Old Business:

Gary has spoken to Spectrum Electric about the new lamp posts for the church. One was damaged in transit. One pole will be replaced while we wait for a new one. Spectrum will also try to use the lamp from the old post to replace the fixture that was broken in the flower garden. Spectrum will also work on the spotlight that shines on the steeple.

Council approved Replacing the blacktop portion of the driveway with concrete by Benedict Construction this summer.

Spring Clean-up day is scheduled for this Saturday. We will take all of the help we can get.

Trustees are considering covering the Vinyl flooring issue in the vestibule with an indoor/outdoor area rug.

New Business: Judy has requested an additional railing on the steps leading to the basement. Maybe it would be a better solution to keep things somewhere else to avoid using the basement stairs.

Should the lecture hall driveway be resealed or wait another year?

Willing Workers: Several willing workers met to move supplies from the basement into the new cupboards in the Gathering Room. The new Cupboards were lined with vinyl. The next meeting is May 5, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Pastor's Report:

I was unable to visit a friend of a member of our church who was hospitalized in Scranton because at the hospital's front desk I was asked to present my pastoral credentials. When I had called earlier that day, the requirement for credentials was not mentioned. In my 13 years of being your pastor, this request has never been made. I don't have presentable pastoral credentials, unless I bring in my doctoral diploma. Credentials such as a badge can easily be forged, so this creates a possible issue in the future.

I will reference our church website in the future where we will get my photo on the site.

Fortunately, I was able to visit a member who is entering hospice care from a personal care home. How grateful I am to the Dunmore Health Center for allowing me into see Rupert Carey whose health is declining. I was presented with a full face shield to wear over my face and mask, a gown, and gloves. How graceful and professional was the staff there during these dangerous days. My visit with Rupert was beautiful and meaningful.

I delivered the Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Easter 10 AM sermons. Each service was distinct, meaningful, and attended by heartfelt followers who longed for the message, especially since a year ago all three services did not happen where people could attend in person.

At one point in the sunrise service, sun beams that had been held back through cloud cover actually broke through. Warmth and light landed on the Memorial Garden to present a heavenly and holy moment, a breath of the Spirit.

We held the sunrise service an hour later than we have since I began ministry here as your pastor. We began at 7:30 AM. I didn't speak to all those gathered outdoors, but those I did speak to on the subject of a later start did not mind gathering later in the morning.

I wish to thank all who attended those services online or in person. I also wish to thank the musicians and the tech team for enabling those three services, in addition to all of our services, to be as carefully planned and carried through as possible. We are blessed as a congregation.

It was a blessing to hand deliver as many Easter lilies as I could on the afternoon of Easter. My kids joined me for the ride. We added a couple of colored eggs to each flower. This is a significant gift to our seniors and our shut ins, especially in the age of COVID.

On a personal front, the parental rights of my five foster children were terminated at the end of March. The biological parents will likely carry on with an appeal. This prolongs the adoption process.

As I recently preached, I invite and encourage each of us to continue being the hands and the feet of Jesus—even with our holes as Jesus, the Risen Christ, presented Himself with His holes in His hands and feet.

One year ago, I had completed defending my dissertation at Lancaster Theological Seminary. In all of this time I have been the pastor here, I thank you for being your minister, colleague, and fellow traveler of faith. May God's blessings continue with this congregation and its ministry of care.

Old Business: The Sign is finished . The base has received a stone covering. Mulch and flowers are around the ground surrounding the sign. Any money remaining in the sign fund will be held to cover repairs and unexpected costs

Technology Committee:

The tech committee presented the bid to upgrade our current equipment and software. This equipment upgrade will allow several cameras to video several different angles without panning one camera up or down. It will allow the live-stream to see better text graphics on song and scripture. It will allow these text and graphics to be display on two 75 inch monitor in the sanctuary. This will eliminate the projector view and not show text on top of the cross. Software will be purchased to allow all this to be managed on a laptop. The price is \$6113.21 plus \$400 for the software.



Maureen motioned that the Golf Committee's offer to use the proceeds from the tournament to help fund this improvement be approved. Dave Schulte generously offered \$1000 to help fund this endeavor. Council approved this purchase.

This is a cardboard representation of 75 inch monitors.

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.





**FREE
COMMUNITY
DRIVE-THRU
CHILI AND
BREAD MEAL**

Saturday,
April 17th
3:30-5:30

Pre-orders
preferred

Contact Tammy @ 570-396-7081
before April 10th to order

A FREE Drive-Thru
Community Chili Dinner
was held on Saturday, April 17, 2021

The dinner included Chili, Salad,
Bread and Cookies.



A wonderful group of volunteers, including the
Susquehanna Co. Dairy Court, amazing youth
and their parents, dedicated cookie bakers, and so
many more, helped prepare for this Community
Event.

With the love and support shown from both our
congregation, as well as the community, we were
able to provide 125 people with meals.



The Susquehanna Dairy Princess along with
several ambassadors were on hand to hand
out milk and a "Royal Recipe book to each
meal recipient.

After the past year it was a great feeling to, once again, be able to reach out and serve Harford
and our surrounding areas. We are looking forward to more outreach events in the near future!



New Members Class

A New Members Class is starting up in September.

All are welcome to attend and become more knowledgeable about

**Harford First Congregational Church
and our beliefs.**

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

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

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



Spire Sponsor

Lois Gibson

Correspondence

Harford Church,

Thank you for allowing us to have our wedding ceremony here and being an awesome church family. Being a part of this church for so long I wouldn't have wanted to get married anywhere else.

Love, Alyssa and Cody Nolan

Dear Harford Church,

As I had mentioned in my email earlier this week, the radiation treatments I had on my prostate were successful in destroying the cancer. In light of that, I would like to be removed from the prayer chain. Also, could you express my appreciation to all who prayerfully supported me by putting the following in the Spire.

I recently received the good news that the radiation treatments I had undergone were successful in destroying my prostate cancer. It's been a long ordeal, but it was made easier because of the support of many of you - your emails, phone calls, cards, and especially your prayers. I can't thank you enough. First Congregational is truly a caring congregation.

Ray Frederick

Dear First Church,

I want to thank you for the Easter lily. It made the third party at our Easter dinner. Things are looking up, and I may be back in church next month. But I'm not taking any risks.

See you soon, Anita

Good Afternoon,

Thank you very much for the delicious chili dinner yesterday, along with all of the wonderful extras. It was very much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed. First Church Harford proves that Harford continues to be a small community with a big heart!

Thanks again, George and Gus

Skip and Ann Burroughs want to thank you for the very nice chili meal!

Home Bound

The Carey Family

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joan Benson



Joanne Connolly

Prayer Concerns

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

-We pray our national and local leaders

-All school districts—this includes school board members, administration, faculty, staff, parents and students

-Craig Stout and Family

-We pray for Connie and David Schulte's son (Phil)

-for those with medical issues large and small

-for those affected in anyway by the COVID virus

-David and Brandy and family

-Those with Alzheimer's and their families

-Gary and Wendy Phillips

-the Carey family

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addition

-Joan Benson & Lois Gibson and all those in nursing homes along with their families

-Will's five foster kids

-Evan Clarkson and all those faithfully serving in the military

-MaryJane Genneken

-Rich Masters

-Sandy Zupanovich

-UCC churches in Japan

-Greg Symuleski

-Mark Gregory

-health or loss of family pets

-Dot Simons

-The Holdredge family

-Nancy Marr

-Walter Poxon & sister Lois Terrance and Angie

-Kandy's friend Mary Keihl (ALS)

-Jessica Miller's grandfather (Bill Brooks)

-Healing for Jacob Lucas

-Marilynn & Richard (Marylou Swank)

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-George Zack

-Joe Megivern

-Paula Adams

-mother of Sandy Green

-Phil Thompkins

-Joan Thompkins

- Katherine Masters Doolittle 's mother-in-law, Karen Doolittle

-Justice Vietri

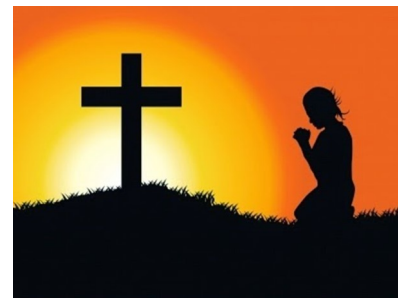
-Joe Vietri Sr. and daughter Luann on the loss of her husband

-Scott Heiss

-David (burns)

-Kathi & Dale Ferger's great granddaughter Mya Grace (born this past week)

- David Schulte's brother Bob who is experiencing health issues





Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church
The 4th Friday of each month



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

Next distribution May 28, 2021 from 4:30-5:30

Any income can apply, complete the form online firstchurchharford.com or call Tammy @ 570-396-7081.

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



CHURCH CLEAN-UP



Jud Holdredge passed away on Friday April 23, 2021. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Ellen and the Holdredge family.



Soup Ministry



Know someone that is shut-in or feeling down or sick? Take them a quart of home-made soup. It's in the large freezer by the church mailboxes. Just sign the paper on the door to let us know who received the soup.

Men's Breakfast

Starting back up May 11, 2021

at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.

The second Tuesday of each month.



A Use for Canceled US Postage stamps

Grace Lutheran, our fellow Rt 11/81 Ministerium church collects used postage stamps. The stamps are sent to the Canadian Bible Society. This organization purchases Bibles for prisoners.

Instead of putting the envelope with the canceled postage stamp in the garbage, would you please be able to save the used stamps and bring them to the Gathering Room and deposit in the box that will be there. Please leave at least ¼ inch of envelope around the stamp if possible.

Thank you very much for every little stamp that is saved.



Directory Update



Jan Winemiller
14 Tuxedo Drive
Beaufort, SC 29907

Abby Toolan
5054 State Route 247
Clifford Township, PA 18421
570-507-0348

Sandy Wilbur
Apt 204 HVA
201 School Street
Harford, PA 18823

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.



Notice: Please send all material for June to be included in the Spire to:

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of May 2021!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Ugly Quilts

On vacation for the summer



We will begin meeting
Tuesday September 14 at 9:30
Looking forward to seeing you.
Thank you, Judy



May 2	Hollis Lewis	May 21	Denise Finagan
May 4	Teresa Lamberson	May 22	Dorothy Matthews
	Brian and Nancy Tyler	May 23	Despina Mitchell
May 5	Dena (Simons) Dew	May 24	Chad and Kara Batzel
	Chelsea Empet	May 25	Gus Ferrara/George Lotter
May 6	Susan Major-Conklin	May 26	Elissa Mitchell
	Bob Deemer	May 27	Kailey Bridgeman
May 7	Scott Mitchell		Holli Chichester
May 9	Mason Mitchell		Dean Herbert
May 10	Zeb Feduchak		Gary Housel
	Kevin and Diane Reuss		George Weideman
May 12	Richter Masters		George and Barbara Weideman
May 16	Hailey Miller	May 28	Breanne and Kris Hiller
May 18	Ken Bennett		Gillian Marie Millard
May 19	Kris Hiller	May 29	Missy Clarkson
	Helen Foster	May 30	Jason Miller

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



Clifford United

Methodist Church

Main Street, Clifford

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Chicken, Biscuit, Mashed

Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans,

Harvard Beets & Dessert

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

TAKE OUT ONLY - DRIVE

THRU FROM 4:00 to 6:00 pm or

until Sold out

Donation \$10



Emails

It has come to our attention that some of you may not be receiving our email prayer lists.

This is an oversight that we would like to correct .

Please call or email Judy and let her know that you are not receiving the emails.

Tel.570-434-2260
Email: firstch@nep.net

It's Time to Spring Clean!!!!

The Missionary Group is sponsoring a yard sale, date TBA.

We will be collecting anything to be sold in a yard sale:

Bedding, electrical appliances, lighting, TVs, furniture, household items, kitchen items, tools, yard stuff, toys, baby items, bikes, decorations etc.

Please bring any items to the lecture hall and label them "Yard Sale".

If you would like a pick up, please call or text Holli at 301-643-1775 or 570-851-5109 or email at hollischichester@gmail.com.

Thank you, Missionary Group



**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



Faith,

Family,

Freedom

Thursday May 6, 2021—noon

Harford Volunteer Fire Company Gazebo

National Day of Prayer 2021 Theme,

***“LORD, Pour out your
Love, Life, and Liberty”***

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

*****Bring a Chair***

**Chicken BBQ, Bake Sale
& Chinese Auction**

Chicken BBQ



Saturday, May 22, 2021

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

VFW Post 8488 Kingsley, PA

\$11.00 per Dinner

Benefits

Summer Lunch Box

Tickets available in the office or call Holli at 301-643-1775

Spire Sponsor



In loving memory of Eleanor Miller

by Jason and Jessica Miller

Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 12, 2021 9 am



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

prizes and Steak Dinner

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

Holli Chichester: hollischichester@gmail.com

570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775

**To benefit First Congregational Church **

Business Sponsor



April 8, 2021

Dear Friend,

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

You can help by:

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

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

Putting a team together to golf in the tournament.

Posting our Golf Tournament advertisement in your place of business.

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

Contact / Mail to:

Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

570-851-5109 or

301-643-1775

hollischichester@gmail.com

Memorial or Honor Sponsor



April 8, 2021

Dear Friend,

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

You can help by:

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

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

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

Contact / Mail to:

Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

570-851-5109 or

301-643-1775

hollischichester@gmail.com



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

Saturday June 12, 2021 9am shotgun start



Hole Sponsor/Memorial Level:

GOLD-\$200

SILVER-\$100

BRONZE-\$50

Your Name _____

Address _____

Information for the Sign _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

Contact/Mail to: Holli Chichester
1814 Tingley Lake Rd
New Milford, PA 18834
570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

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



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

Saturday June 12, 2021 9am shotgun start



Golf Team Registration

Team Captain _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Team Players: _____

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

Contact/Mail to: Holli Chichester
1814 Tingley Lake Rd
New Milford, PA 18834
570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

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

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament



1. LONG - TERM PARKING

Some people left their car in the long-term parking at the airport while away, and someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home and robbed it. So, I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

2. GPS:

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

3. CELL PHONES :

I never thought of this! This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account .

4. PURSE IN THE GROCERY CAR SCAM :

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf. Wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.

Moral lesson :

- A. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mum, etc .
- B. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back .
- C. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you .

May 2021

May 2021							June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
30	31						29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)		4:00pm SS mtg (PO) 7:00pm WW Quarterly mtg (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office 12:00pm Nat'l Day of Prayer		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams)		10:00am Pastor in office		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 11:15am Deacons (LH) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	7:00am Bake Sale-NHWW (Fire) 7:00am ELECTION DAY 4:00pm	1:00pm Missionary (LH) 4:00pm SS mtg (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)		12:00pm Barbecue -Summer Lunch Program (VFW-Lenox)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)			10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Council (LH)	4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	
30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5
9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	MEMORIAL DAY 9:30am NO Quarterback mtg					



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