

Our Spire

Volume
42
Number
4

Reaching
Up
to
God,
Reaching
Out
to
People



Easter is never over

Here we are, two weeks or so after Easter. The lily in the living room window is beginning to fade. Those once beautiful “white trumpet flowers” are completely gone. What is left over that still festive purple foil paper is all green now. Sadly, some of those green leaves are fading to yellow.

Now what?

Well, turn to scripture. We’re not the first to experience post-Easter doldrums. In John 21, Peter announces to the others, “I’m going fishing.” Some take this to mean that he is going back to fishing. He is returning to his old way of life. To this, the others respond, “We are also coming with you (John 21:3).”

So, it’s a valid question: After Easter, then what?

To get at the answer, consider John 1. John wrote this chapter in the Bible around 100 A.D.. Written from Ephesus, this pastoral letter encourages and instructs the congregations in that area of Asia Minor, seven of which are mentioned in the Book of Revelation. William Barclay explains John 1 like this:

“Many (of John’s readers) were now second or even third generation Christians. The thrill of the first days had, to some extent, at least, passed away. ... In the first days of Christianity there was a glory and a splendor, but now Christianity had become a thing of habit, ‘traditional, half-hearted, nominal.’ ... John was writing at a time when, for some at least, the first thrill was gone and the flame of devotion had died to a flicker.” (*The Letters of John and Jude*, Daily Bible Study Series, p. 3).

Our early Christians were plagued with two pressing issues. The first was lethargy. Their lack of energy and enthusiasm lingered because the followers lost sight of their distinctiveness as disciples of Jesus Christ. In other words, they experienced what some of us may experience. They blended in with the world around them.

They also experienced heresy (false teachings). These came about as a result of competing ideologies where eager souls were ungrounded. Good intentioned speakers were eager to put their particular spin on the gospel message. This was not an intentional sidestep. Remember, they didn’t have biblical commentaries, or even hundreds of years of Christian practice. They spoke in pocket communities, too. These enthusiasts were finding their way in a world unfamiliar with—and certainly unwelcoming of—Christianity.

Do not despair. Easter isn’t over. Remember what I said about Peter returning to fishing? Well, guess who shows up on shore? You’re right when you said, “Jesus.”

Jesus meets us. Easter is never over.

So, what’s our application? How do we move past the Easter Sunday sensation? The big thrill of planning for and attending Easter in church? Go fishing. This fishing doesn’t need a pole, net or boat necessarily. Be looking for things that reveal the fingerprint of God. Specifically, consider things that are similar to what you have seen God’s Son do in the past.

One great way to do this is to familiarize yourself with the people of Scripture (or revisit Scripture). Read those stories you learned in VBS and Sunday School as a child. They will make more sense now because you will see how God moved in the lives of those on the pages. Another helpful exercise is to learn or recall the promises God has made. One of the promises God makes is that of His continuing presence.

Okay, the Easter lily is fading, but Easter? Easter is never over! If you are experiencing a hard time or a lack of Spirit as we move further into the month of May, remember Jesus’ teachings. Consider what he said, especially in his prophetic messages. Look for signs that He is there with you, working, moving, and completing His plan in your life. Just like those disciples who knew Jesus best, you may be missing Him standing right there on your shore. Jesus isn’t gone because Easter isn’t over. Look around. He is calling you, seeking you, speaking to and reminding you of who, exactly, He is (and who, exactly, you can be with Him).

Pastor's Page

I have a few questions for you.

- What kind of empowering station are you when it comes to encouraging others?
- Is Harford First Congregational-UCC a place where people feel the power of Jesus Christ?
- When our community goes without power again, should there be something we do about this? Can we be more present to those in need? If so, what does this look like?

Witnessing wobbles? Forget those times you think you can't share how God is or who God is. Speak with someone about a time you didn't have it together (in other words, share when you were powerless) and God did what God does—He pulled you through.

Powerless/Powerful

Feels good to have the power back on, doesn't it? Your elation may be different than the one I'm about to share, but this scene in front of our family refrigerator may help you remember the joy you experienced when power returned after the April 19th heavyweight snowstorm wreaked mayhem across the county.

"Hey, guys!" My nine-year-old cheered. "The light in the refrigerator is on! And the milk! It's *cold!* It's really, really cold!"

Many things can be said about the widespread, long-lasting power outage, but first let's thank the crews who tirelessly worked to restore what we all wanted—power. It's true. We want power.

Our want for power (and comfort) is an underlying theme in both the gospel reading and the epistle lesson for this past Sunday, April 24th. Both John 20 and Acts 5 speak to our human nature of wanting to call the shots and having it our way. In John 20, the disciple Thomas wants to see—and understand—the risen Christ on his terms with his criteria. He seeks power on his terms.

In Acts 5, the apostles have been commissioned to share the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ yet meet opposition. The power problem they experience is one where they don't have any! They are at the whim of the religious powermongers of the day. These religious leaders have thrown Jesus' elite into a public jail because these upstart, marginalized preachers and their liberating messages of eternal life through the Son of God are not kosher with The Establishment.

These are parallel stories of the have-nots in the face of the haves. We can relate. We did not have power. We wanted power. Specifically, we wanted power back.

A strong Easter message rises here. As we move further into this new Christian season of Spring and a redeemed life made available to us not by our power but Jesus', let's be reminded of what Thomas and his peers experienced—the risen Christ among them. These once frightened and now faithful followers didn't just *experience* their leader and friend who had moved from death-to-life out of his love for them; they shared his death-to-life love not to some but to all of us. Think about it. Their ministry directly impacts our ministry moments today.

We can experience Jesus' power today when we realize this humble truth: we don't have power. Everything we do—everything we say—isn't our doing. It isn't our power. It's Christ's.

Pastor's Page Continued:

A great story illustrates this. A remarkable Christian Education director was stymied. She was really stuck. Had her back been up against a wall she might have considered that a good thing. (At least it would have held her up.) But she didn't even have a wall.

She came to me with a low, quiet voice, a voice that revealed to both of us that she knew who she was. With a voice of half resignation and half frustration, she said what we all need to hear. "I don't have it. This has to all be God." You likely know how the next page in this story goes. God did have it. And God took it. And God ran with it. And it was good.

Power outages? Yes, hello, we want to be comfortable. When sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, we also want to experience more success and far less strain. I get it. We all get it! But let's get what Jesus is saying when we don't have power. In my heart (and perhaps in yours, too), you have heard Jesus share these words. "I have you. I have this. Don't trust yourself. Trust me."

Cold milk in a refrigerator is a good thing. Having a Savior with all the power? Well, now, that's a bazillion times better, isn't it?

EASTER LILY DISTRIBUTION: Many of the lilies that filled the cross (pictured) were given to the church. They were not supposed to stay in the sanctuary beyond our Easter Sunday service. They were to be given away, and that's exactly what happened.

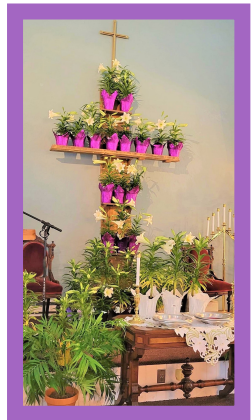
15 lilies went to the Harford Village Apartments (the HVA). HVA resident, Alice Archer, was helpful here because the lilies were given to those who were home over the Easter Holiday. What a gift to have a flower and a reminder of who Jesus is! That tomb IS empty!

My kids and I packed our van twice and went through Harford with a list of those who, for one reason or another, needed an Easter reminder at home. As kids love candy, it turns out kids also like to give flowers away. I mean, they REALLY like to give flowers away! My guys and girls actually jockeyed to see who could go to the next house. Throughout the whole ride, which took almost two hours, I'd hear from the driver's seat, "My turn! My turn!"

Not only were the recipients blessed, but also my kids were, too. Together, let's continue to see what our "Outreach Ministry" can do not only for all our children involved in Sunday school, but also for those who receive our outreach. We have a direct way of witnessing God's love to a world that needs just that—God's love.

Handing flowers or goodies to people—or leaving them at their doorstep—is a beautiful and specifically local ministry. The flowers the church gave away not just on Christmas Day (with the poinsettias) but also at Valentine's Day, with the lovely Anonymously donated flowers, and the Goody bag distribution this year. Everyone who delivered flowers or Goody Bags experienced what is so true: it is SUCH an AMAZING feeling to share God's love in a literal, tangible way. To see a face light up with a smile when flowers or goodies are handed over is heartwarming and special.

As pastor of this church, I want to thank our flower donors this year, both at Christmas time and here at Easter. Your thoughtfulness and Christian love does make a difference!





Lent 2022 kicked off with an Ash Wednesday Service at Harford First Congregational Church. Each Wednesday following we worshipped with our Rt 11 Ministerium partners:

Harford First Congregational Church— Pastor William Hagenbuch

Gibson and South Gibson UMC— Pastor John Shaffer

New Milford UMC— Pastor Laura Kincaid

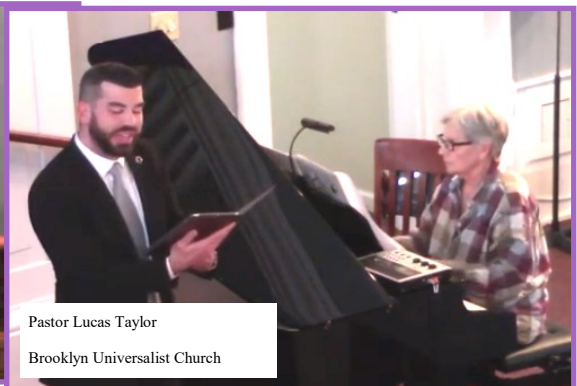
Great Bend UMC—Pastor Ho-Shik Kong

Brooklyn Universalist Church— Pastor Lucas Taylor

Each church supplied a different part of each service and we were treated to wonderful music and messages each week. After worshipping together, we had refreshments supplied by the host church.



Pastor Ho-Shik Kong
Great Bend United Methodist Church



Pastor Lucas Taylor
Brooklyn Universalist Church



Pastor Laura Kincaid
First UMC New Milford

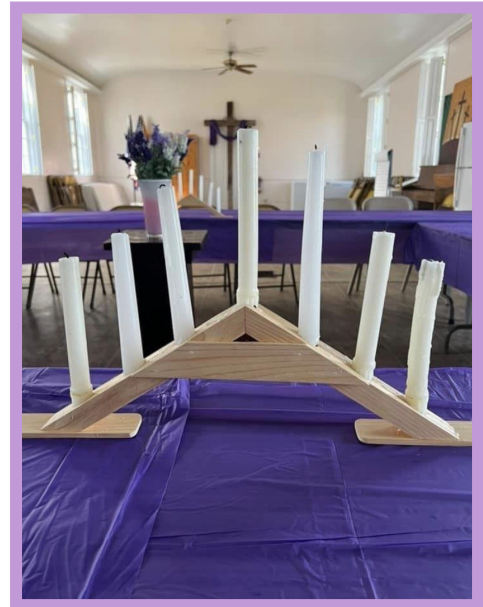
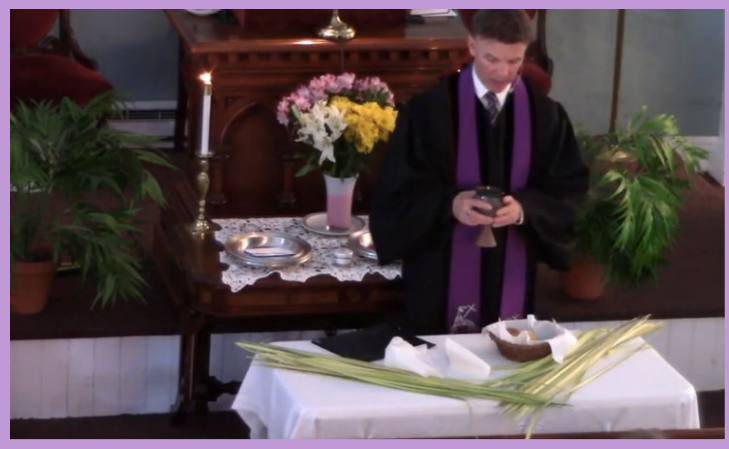


Pastor John Shaffer
Gibson and South Gibson UMC



Palm Sunday Service

Maundy Thursday Service & Meal



Good Friday

Easter Sun Rise Service



Spire Sponsor

**In Loving Memory
of William Mitchell**

-Judy Mitchell

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday the Sunday School had a group lesson about Jesus riding into Jerusalem, the last supper, His betrayal, His trial and crucifixion. We focused on Jesus' sacrifice and Him rising from the dead on Easter so that we might have salvation. We spoke of our new life in Jesus and the hope His sacrifice gives.

We then spoke of why we have eggs at Easter. We spoke of eggs symbolizing new life and how Jesus gives us new life. We then had an Easter Egg hunt.



Funny Things Kids say:

When asked why we have eggs at Easter, one student said that after Jesus died and was resurrected three days later, He had low blood sugarso.... the chocolate!



Easter Sunday Fellowship Time

After Sunday School, the Easter Egg Hunt, the eggs were opened and snacks were had by all!



Conflict in Ukraine

Samaritan's Purse meeting Urgent Needs, Working Alongside Church Partners.

The world is shocked and horrified by the images of death and destruction coming out of Ukraine, a catastrophe we have not witnessed in Europe since the Second World War.

“Ukrainian families are hurting and in desperate need of prayer and support as millions flee for their lives,” said Franklin Graham. “We want to meet the needs of these families in their darkest moments while pointing them to the light and hope of Jesus Christ.”

In addition to our medical work, Samaritan's Purse is providing hundreds of tons of food, as well as water, hygiene kits, blankets, winter clothing, and other important items to refugee families. We are working alongside local churches to get this urgent relief to those in greatest need.

We've also sent thousands of children's backpacks to Ukraine aboard our DC-8 aircraft. Included inside are a soft bear that says "God Loves You" in their language on the front, plus crayons, a sketch pad, a knit hat, a ball, and a booklet in Ukrainian that tells them God loves them.

Samaritan's Purse has a partner network of more than 3,000 churches in Ukraine and neighboring Moldova. As conflict erupted, we were in the process of distributing 600,000 Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes in Ukraine.

“Please join me in praying for the people of Ukraine and for this conflict to end quickly.”
Franklin Graham, Samaritan's Purse.



Harford First Congregational Church's Response to the Conflict in Ukraine

Missionary Group and Stewardship partnered together to respond to the human suffering in Ukraine.

Our church donated: \$2,506.70 through “Our Neighbors in Need”

\$725 donated through Missionary

\$500 donated from Missionary

Total: \$3731.70

**This money has been given to
Samaritan's Purse online.**



INVITATION

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

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

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

Gifts are not usually not given at baptisms. If, however, you'd like to celebrate Will's children, our community, and the future of our congregation, gifts can be made in honor of the children.

Checks (or online giving on our website) can be made to the General Fund for the future wellbeing of the church the children call home.

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



Christian Education

4-27-2022

The Easter celebration went very well. The children gathered in the Lecture Hall for a telling of the Easter story with Resurrection Eggs and a felt board by Kandy Wellman. Then the children had an Easter Egg Hunt supplied by Judy Mitchell. The children had a wonderful time.

They last day of Sunday School will be May 1, 2022. The children will gather in the Lecture Hall for song time. All children completing the third grade will receive their Bibles (purchased by the Missionary Group), then be dismissed to their classrooms. The classroom teachers will have a lesson and then say good bye for this school year. Each child will receive a Sunday School gift.

Most of our wonderful teachers have committed to return next year. We will be looking at curriculums and programs for next year throughout the summer.

Our church is hosting a Multi-Church VBS this year. Make Waves VBS will run June 13-16 from 10-12:30. The churches involved are New Milford UMC, Gibson UMC, South Gibson UMC, Brooklyn Universalist Church and Hop Bottom UMC. We have 3 pastors helping out too. We plan to advertise online, through the local churches and via school flyers.



Senior Recognition

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC would like to recognize and honor the Senior Graduates that are connected to our church in the June Spire. To do this.... We need to know who they are. Please don't assume that we already know about the graduate!

If you have a senior graduate in your family or know of a senior graduate that has connection to our church please contact Holli Chichester with a brief summary of the senior's graduation and plans for the future and a picture of the graduate.

Send information to firstchurchspire@gmail.com.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Holli Chichester at 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com.



Multi-Church Vacation Bible School



June 13-16, 2022

10:00 - 12:30

At Harford First Congregational Church

Three ways to register your children:

- 1. Online:** <https://firstchurchharford.com/get-involved/childrens-programs/multi-church-vacation-bible-school>
- 2. Call:** 301-643-1775 Holli
- 3. Pick Up Forms at one of the following churches:**

Harford First Congregational Church

Hop Bottom UMC

Gibson UMC

New Milford UMC

South Gibson UMC

Universalist Church - Brooklyn



Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

June 13-16

From 10:00-12:30

Online Registration: <https://firstchurchharford.com/get-involved/childrens-programs/multi-church-vacation-bible-school>

Or fill out the form below:

Parent's First Name: _____

Parent's Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Child Registration:

1. Child's First Name: _____ Allergy: _____
Child's Last Name: _____ Age: _____

2. Child's First Name: _____ Allergy: _____
Child's Last Name: _____ Age: _____

3. Child's First Name: _____ Allergy: _____
Child's Last Name: _____ Age: _____

4. Child's First Name: _____ Allergy: _____
Child's Last Name: _____ Age: _____

5. Child's First Name: _____ Allergy: _____
Child's Last Name: _____ Age: _____

Region 27 Future Business Leader of America Conference

March 18, 2022

Mountain View 7th and 8th graders participated in leadership activities, competitive events fun, making new friends and awards.

1st Place Agribusiness: Aiden Empet

1st Place Exploring Computer Science: Shane Toolan

1st Place Leadership: Richter Masters

Congratulations!!! Well Done!!!

Stewardship 4-27-2022

Attending: Shirley Masters, Connie Breese, Ellen Holdredge, Nancy Burris, Julia Gardner, Judy Mitchell, Joe Metzler, Will Hagenbuch, Kay Gow

Conference Minister Visit: May 22, 2022. Will is going ask for the sermon to be on Legacy, how other churches are staying open, and church longevity. Pot Luck Luncheon to follow (Pulled Pork will be used. Set up for luncheon will be May 21.

Long Term Financial Gift information was discussed. How to establish a long-term gift to the church and how to establish a legacy fund.

Judy reported that web-site giving was up in March.

Ellen mentioned the Ukraine mission and the refugee line item on the Money Market sheets (to be added to the Ukraine donation)

The Lent offering will be diverted to the Rt 81/11 Ministerium for use. Julia will complete a voucher.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's report were reviewed and accepted.

Issue discussed: Finance Committee report to whom

Bicentennial: June 26. County Commissioners to be invited plus others.

Joe questioned having to go to the web-site to give money during online worship.

Cindy Beeman from Interfaith will be coming September 11, 2022

Next Meeting: May 18 at 6:30

Potluck Dinner



Invitation from Stewardship

You are cordially invited to attend a Pot Luck Luncheon on May 22, 2022 following worship to talk with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates.,
Conference Minister.

The main meat, Pulled Pork and Rolls, will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Additional Council Minutes 4-28-2022

Equitrust Annuity yielded interest of \$1743.28 on the initial investment of \$40,000. after two years it stands at \$48,170.68.

Workman's Comp Audit increased on payment from \$750 to \$958 yearly.

Choir: Practicing. Choir room will be used to store Attic Treasures for the fair in July.

Church Cupboard: Serving one family

Cradle Roll: one birth—receiving one blanket

Historian: Average of 52 persons/service

Pastor Relations: Met in April. Changing meeting time to 9:00am.

Stewardship: Some confusion about how to give online. Go to www.firstchurchharford.com select the "GIVE" button.

Tech: Microphones will be paid for using Music funds.

Trustees: Parking lot has been put off for over a year. The cost of concrete has gone up \$3000. Benedict Construction is still indicating that the driveway will be done May-June timeline. The driveway cannot be done the week of June 13-17 due to VBS hosted at our church.

Willing Worker: Quarterly meeting May 4, 2022 at 7:00.

Spire Sponsor

In Loving Memory of:
Thelma and Howard Poxon
Helen and Steve Brewster
Eleanor and Elmer Oliver

-Walter Poxon



Deacons 4-24-2022

Attending: Kay Gow, Holli Chichester, Gail Batzel, Linda Lindsey, Leeanne Colwell (Zoom: Katherine Doolittle, Will Hagenbuch)

Review of Lent and Easter:

Add Hop Bottom UMC and Kingsley UMC to Rt 11 Ministerium
Purchase half the palms purchased this year (get two stalks)
Distribute Palms during the offering (follow ushers with palms)
Burn this year's palms for Ash Wednesday next year (Sunday School)
Sun Rise and Easter Service went very well
get pictures of Lily distribution

Sunday School: Last day May 1 - no picnic

Bibles will be presented in Junior/High School Class
Bibles will be presented during opening group to 3rd grade on up

Altar Flowers: Deacons will offer the option of submitting flower sponsorship.

Plain envelopes in the pews to be used for flower sponsor
\$20 with date for flowers, sponsor's name and honor/memorial name if desired
Deacon will purchase flowers and submit receipt for reimbursing
Ask Judy to make a line for flowers sponsor
Advertise option in Spire

Bi-Centennial: June 26, 2022. Deacons will plan the service (Video Montage, Group Picture, Refreshments, Music). Will ask Stewardship to invite guests if desired

Senior Graduation: Senior Recognition

Deacons will place an article in the Spire for Seniors to recognize
The seniors will be featured in the June Spire with a brief write up

We currently have three names (Jim Bernosky, Shannon Toolan and Laura Moser)

Fellowship Time: Fellowship Time began with a hostess setting up the refreshments and inviting people to get coffee and tea etc. We are now leaving the set up out 24/7 and Kay Gow and Holli Chichester are refreshing the set-up Sunday Mornings. The Sunday School has been using the area for snacks and that is working very well.

Karen Jones will add a duty to the Usher and Greeters to invite people to enjoy the coffee, tea etc. as they enter for worship.

Memorial Day: The theme for this day will be "Sacrifice". Linda Lindsey will find a poem or reading and Holli Chichester will make a picture montage to accompany the reading.

Communion: May 15, 2022. We will continue using the pre-packaged communion elements through the summer and reassess in the fall. The communion liturgy will remain at the Pastor's discretion through-out the summer.

Mother's Day (May 8): All women will receive a flower with a handmade attached card. The altar will be decorated (Sandy Tingley will be asked if she is willing to decorate). Extra flowers will be purchased for "Outreach Ministry" delivery after the service.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6:00 in the pastor's office.

Missionary—4-26-2022

Attending: Karen Jones, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Maureen, Warren, Joy Heckman, Kay Gow, Sherry Decker, Peg Empet, Wendy Phillips

Opened in Prayer – Priscilla Allen

Minutes read and Reviewed- Holli Chichester

Treasurer’s Report: Maureen Warren Deposit \$7 Dues
 \$7 Least Coin
 \$725 to Ukraine Conflict

Total: \$2038.58

Withdraw: \$725 Ukraine Mission Donations
 \$500 to Ukraine Conflict

Total left: \$813.58

Ukraine Conflict Response: Missionary along with Stewardship collected \$2,506.70 through Neighbors in Need. Missionary added \$725 collected for Ukraine along with an additional \$500.

The total given to Samaritan’s Purse to help Ukraine is \$3,731.70 Money deposited into Samaritan’s Purse online 4-27-2022.

Wendy will report this to the congregation May 1, 2022

Afghan Refugees: Churches through-out the country are sponsoring Afghan Refugees families. These families have been housed on US military bases. Holli reported that a church in State College is getting a family this week.

Least Coin: Wendy read a letter of Easter Greetings from the chairperson of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. She then reported on a program in Japan to feed people during COVID using take out.

Correspondence: None in. Three out (Will, Ginny, Craig).

Bake Sale: Tuesday May 17, 2022. Set up 4-hour work schedule. Baker Sign Up Form is in the Gathering Room. Asking in Spire for baker participation.

Yard Sale: September 2-3 in the church. Collecting now. Advertise in the Spire. Will begin moving items to the church at the end of July. Clean and sort items in August.

No Meeting in May. Next Meeting in September.

Spire Sponsor

*In Honor of what would have been
Steve and Sherry Decker’s
60th wedding anniversary on
May 26, 2022*

-Carolyn Loch



Finance Report:

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

	2021	2022	YTD
March Income:	\$13,355.58	\$16,020.95	\$52,067.13
Expense:	\$13,074.03	\$11,888.82	\$31,395.86
Total:	\$281.55	\$4,132.13	\$20,671.27
			(includes \$10,000 donation)

**Trustee Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022**

Attending: Harry Gardner, Gary Housel, Rick Masters, Irv Needham, and Kandy Wellman

Old Business:

- Gary will call Benedict Construction to confirm the status of the concrete project.
- Camera system. Harry is going to speak with Jim Fluck about the camera system. The main challenge is to get the video to a monitor on Judy's desk.
- Kandy still needs to contact Matt Hawley about a price to repair the Lecture Hall porch.
- Spring Clean-up is still scheduled for April 23rd. Gary will speak with Craig about the availability of the Boy Scouts to help out as they do each year. Those attending are encouraged to bring their own hand tools such as rakes, shovels, and brooms.
- Gary spoke to the fire company about washing down the parking lot. They are not yet sure when they can make it. Rick offered a skid-steer with broom attachment to clean the parking lot

New Business:

- Harry will call Pro-Seal about re-sealing the Lecture Hall driveway as well as inquire as to future stripping of the parking areas.
- Assistance is needed to help unload the truck for the food bank one Friday each month if there could be more volunteers.
- Harry made a motion to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Masters, Secretary

Willing Workers:

The Willing Workers reported that the Roast Beef Dinner Fund Raiser made of profit of \$2807.81 after expenses!

Thank you to all who worked at the Roast Beef Dinner and those who purchased dinners! You made this event a success! A Special Thanks to Charlie Ahearn, Jimi Bernosky, Lynnette Millard, Becci, Cody and Ryan, Bill Chichester, Gary Phillips, Ralph Simons and all who made bar cookies.

Church Spring Clean Up Day

April 23, 2022 9:00am



**Thank You to All that
Helped Beautify Our
Church Grounds!**



Missionary Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Fire Hall

7:00am to Sold Out

**Need Bakers!!!! Sign up in the Gathering Room
Bulletin Board**

Need Baked Goods Monday, May 16 at the church



May Birthdays and Anniversaries



May 2 Hollis Lewis
May 4 Brian and Nancy Tyler
May 5 Dena (Simons) Dew
Chelsea Empet
May 6 Susan Major-Conklin
May 7 Scott Mitchell
May 9 Mason Mitchell
May 10 Kevin and Diane Reuss
Zeb Feduchak
May 12 Richter Masters
May 14 Mikey (Hagenbuch)
May 16 Hailey Miller
May 17 Roger and Carol Robinson
May 18 Ken Bennett
May 19 Helen Foster
Kris Hiller
Sereena (Hagenbuch)
May 22 Dorothy Matthews

May 23 Despina Mitchell
May 24 Chad and Kara Batzel
May 25 Gus Ferrara/George Lotter
May 26 Elissa Mitchell
May 27 Kailey Bridgeman
Holli Chichester
Dean Herbert
Gary Housel
George Weideman
George & Barbara
Weideman
May 28 Breanne and Kris Hiller
Gillian Marie Millard
May 29 Missy Clarkson
May 30 Jason Miller



New Members Class

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 . Lunch will be provided.

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

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.



It's a Girl!!!

Madelyn Rose Ford, born on 4/4/22 weighing 6lbs 7oz and 19 inches long.

Congratulations to proud parents Kassandra Lamberson and Mark Ford, big brother MP Lamberson and Grandma Teresa Lamberson!

Directory Update

Susan J. Major
919 Chenango Street
Montrose
PA 18801
607-765-0808

Cathy Archibald
1954 Creek Road
Kingsley
Pa 18826
570-815-9336



Important Date to Note!!

May 14 2022
Sparks Concert at Grace Lutheran
Church
Greenwood Street
Hop Bottom
PA.
2:00 PM
Refreshments following concert.

Altar Flower Sponsorship

Here's a new way to serve in your congregation and add beauty to our worship experience! **Sponsor Altar flowers!!**



All you need to do is take a pew envelope, place cash or check for \$20, put your name on the envelope with the date you wish to sponsor and who/what the flowers honor or commemorate. The Deacons will then purchase and arrange the flowers for you.



You may also sponsor a week yourself by signing up on the Altar flower sign-up sheet in the Gathering room.

Attention Snow Birds and Travelers!!!

If you have two residences that you inhabit during the year, I have a simple request for you. Would you please let the church office know when you will be moving from one home to the other home?



We are charged \$.78 for having the incorrect address and having to have the mail article returned. The Spire is mailed the end of the month, if you might be returning home or going away around the end of a month it would be very much appreciated if you could let the office be aware of where you will be living. Thanks ever so much, Judy

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.

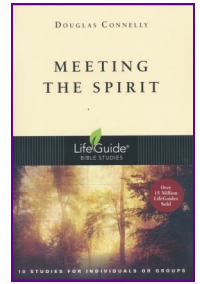
You can enter the Bible Study at any time so newcomers are welcome!

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!

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



Correspondence

Dear Harford Congregational Church,

First, I have to apologize that this is so late! Life gets away from me sometimes.

Thank you so much for the blanket given to Emma. That was so thoughtful. We have used it many times, especially in the cold weather. She also loves to nap with it!

We are so blessed to be welcomed in your church and hope to continue being involved as past generations were.

Thank you again! Carly, David and Emma Corbin

Harford First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for the use of the Kitchen and lecture hall for our Irish Dinner and Dance. It was a huge success!

Your support of WHDA is greatly Appreciated.

Much Love, Miss Bobbie and the WHDA Family

First Congregational Church,

Friends are a gift tied to the heart.

I'm so happy to share my life with Friends like you!

We miss all of you!

Here is the balance of our 2022 Donations!

Say hello to everyone for us and come to visit! 88 today and beautiful.

Kathi and Dale Ferger

Yard Sale



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

September 2-3, 2022.

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

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

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.

Attention!

We are fully open for worship at 10:00 am each Sunday!

We have been eager to worship together again. We are now open!!! Our ushers and greeters will be present during the service.

Hymnals and Bibles may be utilized but all text will be available via our new monitors in the sanctuary. We would like to invite those who do not feel ready to worship in groups to watch our livestreaming worship at 10:00 am.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmQ-Xr0lE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>



Men's Breakfast

May 12, 2022
at 7:30am



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

The Website is up and running.

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

www.firstchurchharford.com



Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church
Please contact Tammy if you have registered but do not plan to pick up.

Next distributions Friday, May 27 2022 rom 4:30-5:30

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

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

Home Bound



Lynola Carey

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 & upcoming adoption

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

-Sandy Zupanovich

-health or loss of family pets

-Connie Schulte's son Phil

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-Family of Makel Silfee

-law enforcement officers

-emergency volunteers

-hospital workers

-fire personnel

-Linda Berol

-Dorothy Hagenbuch

-Family of Wanda Brooks

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-Lola and John Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-Braxton MacDowell

-Karen Doolittle

-Earl Gow

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

-Paula Adams

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Ginny and Charlie Ahearn

-Gift of Life Program (Organ Donation)

-Aubrey Daniels daughter Harper

-Andy Granick

-Mark Gregory

-Brooklyn Universalist Church

-George Weideman

-Margaret Frederick

-Willard & Millie Tingley

-Robert Hagenbuch

-JoAnn Titus



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

May Greeters and Ushers

May 1 - Dee Archer (greeter)
Alyssa Nolan (usher)

May 8 - Shirley Masters (greeter)
Peg Empet (usher)

May 15- Sharon Decker (greeter)
Lynette Millard (usher)

May 22- Peg Empet (greeter)
Karen Jones (usher)

May 29- Karen Jones (greeter)
- Kay Gow (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 June to be included in the Spire to:

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of May 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 First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2022 9am



\$95/person- includes 18 holes with cart,
prizes and Steak Dinner



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

Holli Chichester: hollischichester@gmail.com

570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775

To benefit First Congregational Church





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

Saturday June 11, 2022 9am shotgun start



Hole Sponsor/Memorial Level:

GOLD-\$200

SILVER-\$100

BRONZE-\$50

Your Name _____

Address _____

Information for the Sign _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN



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

Saturday June 11, 2022 9:00am shotgun start



Golf Team Registration

Team Captain _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Team Players: _____

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

Contact/Mail to: Holli Chichester

1814 Tingley Lake Rd

New Milford, PA 18834

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN

\$95 per Golfer = \$380 per Team

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament



May 2022

May 2022

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

June 2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 1 7:30am Fire Co. 8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service	2 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice (Balcony) 6:30pm Bible Study	3 6:00pm Choir	4 7:00pm WW qtly mtg (LH)	5 10:00am Pastor in office 12:00pm World Day of Prayer (Fire hall-Gazebo)	6	7
8 8:45am Bible Study 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	10 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:00am PR mtg (PO) 6:00pm Choir	11	12 10:00am Pastor in office	13	14 2:00pm The Sparks Concert (Grace Lutheran)
15 8:45am Bible Study 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	16 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch 4:00pm Bell Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	17 7:00am Missionary bake sale (Election polls) 4:00pm Clifford Meth (Dinner-Chick/bis) 6:00pm Choir	18 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)	19 10:00am Pastor in office	20	21
22 8:45am Bible Study 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	23 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice (Balcony)	24 6:00pm Choir	25	26 10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	27 4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	28
29 9:30am Fellowship Time (GR) 10:00am Service (sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	30 Memorial Day NO Quarterback mtg 4:00pm Bell Practice (Balcony)	31 6:00pm Choir	Jun 1	2	3	4



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



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

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

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit—#20
Montrose, PA 18801

DATED MAIL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY