



Our Spire

Volume 44 # 3

April 2024

**Reaching Up to God,
Reaching out to People**

Pastor's Page:

EASTER MONDAY AND BEYOND:

How much do we continue to remember (and be inspired by) the resurrection two, three, or six months after Easter?

Easter Sunday has come and gone. The Tone Chimes playing the 10 AM prelude *Morning Has Broken* has passed. Even as early as Easter Monday (the day after Easter) we lose sight of the empty tomb, Mary, and Jesus.

“Hello, springtime,” we think to ourselves as we get occupied with family activities, projects, and plans for a garden or home improvement project.

This happens to most of us, so first up, don't be too hard on yourself. You may not be thinking specifically about the resurrection every day as April unfolds into May this year, but if you're following Christ to the best of your ability, loving your neighbor as yourself, loving people the way Jesus loved his disciples, and honoring and glorifying God, then you are imbibing the spirit of the resurrection. This is the power of love over fear and hate.

Let's spend time with this power here because we do want to experience the resurrection all year long. Since the resurrection power of love can (and has) changed each of us from the inside out, this death to life power of Easter can continue.

Look into scripture. The Bible doesn't say a whole lot about what happened in the days right after Jesus rose from the dead. We know he talked with Mary Magdalene and his immediate disciples that first day, as well as the two who ran off to Emmaus. He also appeared several times to various groups of followers over the next 40 days.

Have you ever wondered what those meetings with Jesus were like? What did they talk about? We get clues about these connections from passages like Acts 11:3. “After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God (NIV).”

Imagine the questions the disciples had. After what felt like a crushing defeat and the loss of everything they had hoped for, when they saw and talked to Jesus after his resurrection victory, the disciples were overjoyed! Yes! Jesus! With them again! Just being with Jesus following His death must have given them immense hope for the future.

What will happen next?

Here was an indication of what was in their future.

Since they didn't quite understand Jesus before and even after His death and resurrection, they likely thought of an earthly, geopolitical kingdom where the Jews had their own sovereign nation, just as in the days of David and Solomon.

But Jesus shares that they'll bear witness of Him to “all the ends of the earth.”

Jesus is not talking about David's kingdom or any earthly kingdom. He's referring to the kingdom of heaven. This kingdom is present on earth but needs to be revealed to people. That's what the disciples would be doing as they go out into the world.

This resounds with what Matthew says at the end of his gospel. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19, 20, NIV).”

Pastor's Page Continued:

We call these verses the Great Commission. Jesus gives his disciples (and this includes all of us today), the power and authority to teach people about Him.

Jesus' power and authority continues today. How we continue to remember and be inspired by Easter Sunday each day is to trust and expect this power and authority.

Too often we think of events historically. However, Jesus' resurrection is not a one-time event that happened centuries ago. It is a continuous, ongoing manifestation of the power of life over death, good over evil, and love over hate.

Moving forward with Easter, let's remember there is no "after" the resurrection. The continual life of Jesus beyond the grave is always taking place. This said, we can change the question from "What do we do after the resurrection?" to "How we can participate in the ongoing resurrection of Jesus in our lives each day?"

Participate in the ongoing resurrection of Jesus. As Jesus rose from the dead, we can, too. We do this by loving our neighbors as ourselves, loving people the way Jesus loved his disciples, and by honoring and glorifying God in Sunday worship, church participation and community and family outreach.

Senior Recognition

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC would like to recognize and honor the Senior Graduates (high school and college) that are connected to our church in the June 2024 Spire. To do this.... We need to know who they are. Please don't assume that we already know about the graduate!



Additionally, we are honoring our seniors May, 19, 2024 during worship, presenting them with a small gift and having a brief reception after worship. We will be sending out invites so we need contact information.

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 plans for the future, a picture of the graduate and contact information for the invitation.

Send information to firstchurchspire@gmail.com.

If you have questions or concerns please text or call Holli Chichester at 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com or contact Judy in the office at 570-434-2260.

Tech Update:

The pastor's headset was unreliable so a new headset was purchased. Kevin Radford purchased a new headset for Will and then traced through the sound system for a sound buzz.

The council requested more control of the sound during worship (mute mics, increase volume, etc) and if a microphone could be added in the balcony for additions during prayer.

Kevin Radford wrote up a proposal for this work and it was approved by council. Kevin spoke with Kurt Sussman (live-stream tech) to determine how the new equipment might impact the livestream, if at all.

Kevin came and added a balcony microphone, a digital mixer with iPad controller for the balcony, a stagebox to funnel the microphone and sound and two new cat 6 cables. After all changes were made to the sound system Kevin was able to follow all sound through the system and determined that there is no current buzz, however he did discover a static hiss at the camera where the sound funnels into the livestream. Because of our set-up, he was not able to determine if this is audible to livestream listeners but we will check the next livestream broadcast to see how the sound fairs.

The balcony microphone and the digital mixer were tested during the Lenten service. The iPad controls allow each sound input to be muted for the sanctuary and the livestream together. The volume can be adjusted in the sanctuary and the livestream separately. The livestream sound was not tested because the service was not livestreamed.

Helpful Stewardship Information:

At our last Stewardship meeting we discussed different ways of contributing to First Church.

I would like to share what we learned and talked about at the meeting.



One May Contribute by:

1. Writing a personal check.
2. By putting cash in their donation envelopes
3. By using our church's website Tithe.ly service
4. By using Bill Pay by your bank. Bill Pay is the interesting service that one's bank will provide. One just needs to set up with the bank for a check to be sent to First Church on a weekly, monthly, quarterly basis. They will automatically deduct it from your account and will send a check to the church. No charge for this service.
5. By having ones IRA's Required Minimum Distribution automatically send a donation directly to the church.

Church Income and Expenses for 2023 and 2024

To make expenses every month in general (example: electric, payroll, office and programs) we need \$14,478.34 to meet our budget for 2024.

February	2023	February	2024
Income:	\$ 9,303.20	Income:	\$ 20,837.12
Expense:	\$ 10,697.24	Expense:	\$ 10,081.88
Total:	-\$ 1,394.04	Total:	\$ 10,755.24

Year to Date 2024–General Fund:	Income:	\$34,647.28	(\$10,000 from 2023)
	Expense:	\$20,806.85	
	Total:	\$ 13,840.43	(\$23,840.43)

Christian Education: Currently working with multiple churches to develop the “SCUBA” VBS to be held on June 10-13 from 10:00-1:00. Currently have Gibson and South Gibson UM, New Milford United Methodist, Kingsley UM, Hop Bottom Church of Hope and Peace, Harford First Church and Brooklyn Universalist. Looking to try and add Fairdale and East Rush UM, Clifford UM and St. Marks Episcopal.

The theme is an underwater scape. We will rotate the children through art, Bible story, games, snack and music. We hope to incorporate our new Tone chimes with the older children.

We need volunteers and helpers for all positions. Also, we need any under water items (scuba gear, masks, snorkels, fish, coral etc.).

Sunday School: The children will learn about Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with a palm craft from Karen Jones. We will learn about Jesus’ resurrection Easter Sunday and celebrate with an Easter Egg hunt (sponsored and produced by Judy Mitchell) during our 9:00 Sunday School. All welcome!!

We are sending children to Rock Mountain Bible Camp again this year July 21-26,2024. Currently 5 children are confirmed with 3 children still deciding. If you have a child or grandchild that would love to attend a wonderful, Christian camp, please let us know so that we can extend an invitation. There are camps for ages 8-17 and several different dates. Spots are limited!

Let Holli Chichester know if you can help with VBS or have a child for camp!

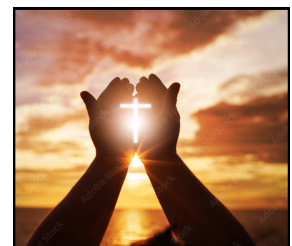
301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

Prayers and Condolences

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of:

Kenneth Laurie, Jr (brother of Lynnette Millard)

Daniel Gow (son of Butch Gow and nephew of Kay Gow).



Deacon Minutes - 3-3-24

Attending: Sharon Frantz, Nancy Burris, Kay Gow, Will Hagenbuch, Dave Schulte, Wendy Phillips, Margie Tator, Holli Chichester

Sound: The pastor's headset now works. The power to that piece of equipment had been turned off. Discussed the purchase (council approved) of a digital mixer for sound control by Bluetooth in the balcony.

Lent: March 6 - St. Mark's

March 13 – Harford (Willing Workers are hosting the refreshments)

Bulletin and Digital screens utilized

Kay and Margie usher, Holli handle the digital screens

March 20 – Gibson UMC

Maundy Thursday: Dave Schulte expressed that he felt that Maundy Thursday was an important day to observe. Deacons had been rotating between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday every other year. This year Deacons voted to observe Good Friday. Dave expressed the desire to continue with the rotation schedule. Deacons decided to continue the rotation by observing Maundy Thursday next year and then rotating each year thereafter.

Palm Sunday: The Russell Farms location that had been used for palms has closed. Kay will contact Price Chopper to see if palms can be purchased from them. Taven, Sereena and Emma will help to pass out palms prior to the last hymn. Robert will play something while this occurs. Sereena and Nancy will do the choir, Taven and Kay will do the choir side of the sanctuary and Emma and Margie will handle the other side. Communion will be by individual packs picked up by each person as they enter the sanctuary.

Good Friday: This service will be traditional with very little tech. Bulletin only with hymnals. Kay and Holli Usher.

Easter: Sun Rise Service 7:00am outside. Holli and Kay usher with bulletins.

We will set up the Lily tree after the Good Friday service. Chris Manley will be contacted to up the sanctuary temps on Good Friday through Easter so the lilies will open. The donated lilies will be distributed to shut-ins by the deacons after the service Easter Sunday. The Hand Bell Choir will play "He Lives" with the traditional Hand Bells and the children will join on the new Tone Chimes for Morning has Broken".

New Member Class: People have been asked if they are interested, four have committed. The schedule has been paired down to four Sundays and will begin Sunday, April 14, 21, 28 and May 5. The group representatives will be contacted with the class information. Lunch will be ordered from Subway by Holli and Bill Chichester will be asked if he will pick it up. New members will join May 12, 2024 with light refreshments afterward in the Gathering Room.

May 12, 2024: Mother's Day and Bible Sunday: We will give out Bibles to the students completing Third grade (Sereena Hagenbuch). All females will be honored this day. More info to come.

May 19, 2024: Senior Sunday. All graduating Seniors will be honored this day. Parents, grandparents and friends can submit the information regarding the senior to be honored (name, address, phone number, email, plans for after graduation and a picture). The seniors will be featured in the June Spire. Any senior attending the service will be recognized and receive a gift from the congregation. The congregation will be encouraged (bulletin, announcements, Spire) to give us these names now so the invitations can go out at the beginning of April.

Bible Study: Pastor Will is interested in offering a day time Bible study in the Fall. Persons will be asked if they might be willing to facilitate a Bible study Sunday mornings.

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 10:00 am

Trustee Meeting Minutes March 4th , 2024

Harry Gardner, Kandy Wellman, Randy Decker, Jim Batzel and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Old Business:

Harry got a price from Connor Freytag to replace five windows in the Lecture Hall of \$4,373, but wouldn't be able to start until July. Rick spoke with Matt Thomas about a quote on the same project.

Kandy is still researching rates from energy suppliers. We are currently with New Wave Energy. Kandy will speak with Gary Housel as he has negotiated in the past.

Harry will talk to John Butler (Barefoot Services) about pressure washing the North side of church this spring and possible areas on the Lecture Hall.

New Business:

Council would like to lock the front doors of the church during the winter until a solution to repair/update the existing doors is complete. Trustees will make (2) signs 12"x24" that say "Please use side doors" to post on either side of the front entrance sidewalk.

Council would like a handicapped grab bar in the ladies bathroom. There is only one on the left side and is not practical. Harry will get another grab bar for the right side and install it further forward.

The center supports for the pews in the sanctuary are loose and some need to be replaced. Magnets on the pew doors need to be adjusted.

Trustees have scheduled the annual Spring Clean-Up for April 20th with a rain date of April 27th.

Randy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim.
Respectfully submitted, Rick Masters



Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, April 20 at 9:00am



Rain date Saturday, April 27 at 9:00am

Bring work gloves, broom and a rake if possible.

New Members Class

The schedule has been paired down to four Sundays and will begin Sunday, April 14, 21, 28 and May 5. Lunch will be provided. New members will join May 12, 2024 with light refreshments afterward in the Gathering Room. All are welcome to attend to find out more about who we are at Harford First Congregational Church—UCC.

Please talk to Pastor Will or Holli if you are interested.

Holli 301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com



North Harford Willing Workers

March 12, 2024

The North Harford Group of the Willing Workers met at the Lecture Hall at 1:00. Our president Holli Chichester opened our meeting with a prayer.

Minute/Treasurers Report: Kay Gow made a motion to accept the minutes and treasurers report as written. The motion was approved.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received from Care Net, Women's Resource Center and Interfaith for the donations sent at Christmas.

Old Business:

New Business: 1. Change of plans, we will now hold the April Showers for the Women's Resource Center after church on April 28th. The announcement will be made in church on Palm Sunday, March 24th. There will be a bin to collect items for the shower at the church. Missionary Society is buying gas cards to donate. A motion was made by Connie Breese and seconded by Priscilla Allen to buy items with \$300 from our treasury for the shower. The motion was carried. We will serve cookies and bite size cream cheese brownies with coffee and tea. Linda VanGorden, Kay Gow and Connie Breese will furnish the refreshments. Holli Chichester will send an e-mail to our group to inform them of our plans.

2. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday June 4th at the Lecture Hall at 1:00 to discuss the fair and fudge making.

Least Coin and dues were collected.
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
CONNIE BREESE
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Pierogi Making Class

**There will be a pierogi making class on
Saturday, April 6 at 9:30 in the Lecture Hall.**

Abby Toolan will be leading it.

Please sign up in the Gathering Room.

All are Welcome!!



Happy Birthday to our beloved Judy Mitchell, giver of wonderful hugs, counselor, secretary and friend!



Correspondence

To First Church Missionary:

Thank you for the kindness and generosity that you have given to our family. The loss is overwhelming. It is a comfort to know so many people care. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

With Sincere gratitude, The Healey Family

Good Afternoon Ladies of Missionary: I wanted to thank you for the very generous amount of money you gave to turn my house back into my beautiful cozy home. I will be at least another month or two before I get everything put back to where it goes.

God isn't done with me yet. The damage was unbelievable. The bathroom exploded twice, but the damage affected so many rooms.

I'm going to use your money in my bathroom. My faucets are black, my towel racks etc. Everything had to be replaced except my tub. So, I'm going to get black faucets and showerhead. Once I find the perfect color paint, I will need a shower curtain and rugs, etc. The part that toughed my heart was the messages you wrote. You are wonderful missionary women.

Love Sandy Z.

Missionary — 3-19-24

Attending: Karen Jones, Ellen Holdredge, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Kay Gow, Sherry Decker, Michelle Estabrook, Peg Empet, Wendy Phillips

Opened with Prayer: Karen Jones

Minutes: Read and Accepted – Holli Chichester

Treasurer's Report: Sherry Decker

In: \$81.00 (Dues, Least Coin, Donations)
Out: \$500.00 Home explosion – Sandy Zupanovich
\$100.00 Interfaith – Bountiful Blessings
\$500.00 Home Fire – Healey Family
Total: \$6984.05

Least Coin: Wendy Phillips

Women International – Canada - Women at Risk

It has long been recognized that women's economic empowerment is vital to the world survival in the fight against hunger.

Poem

Give a woman a fish and she can eat for a day.
Teach her to fish and she and her family can eat for a life time.
But give her access to markets and she earns a living.
And give her community resources to fish sustainably
and she can feed the world.

Correspondence: In: Healey Family – Thank you for financial aid.

Sandy Zupanovich – Thank you for financial aid

Out: Sympathy to Gow Family

Easter Wishes: 15 persons

Showers of Blessings: Sponsored by North Harford Willing Workers. Collection for the Women's Resource Center. Missionary will purchase 12 - \$25 gas cards from Pump and Pantry

Operation Christmas Child Update: Last month we saw how this year had the largest number of shoeboxes ever. We also discovered where our church's boxes went.

2019 Malawi (East Africa)

2020 Malawi

2021 Honduras (Central America)

2022 Honduras, Liberia (West Africa), Colombia (South America)

2023 Mexico, Haiti (Caribbean), The Dominican Republic (Caribbean), Tanzania (East Africa), Eswatini (Southern Africa)

Missionary Minutes Continued:

Rock Mountain Bible Camp: Christian Education is sending 8 children to Bible camp this summer July 21-26. It cost on average \$340/child. The fair dinner raises money to help cover this project. Missionary voted to donate \$1000.00 to sending our children and some in the community to camp this year.

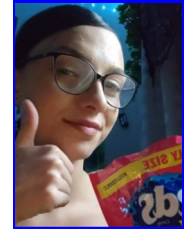
Senior Food Boxes: The program is beginning to ramp up. 8 Senior Boxes were delivered this month.

Summer Lunch Box Program: Weinberg is allowing the Summer Lunch Box program to purchased some of the needed food through their wholesalers. They will order the food and then deliver it to the Masters Building for the Summer Lunch Box program. This should help keep expenses down some.

Military Care Package: Ainsley Allen enjoyed her care package.

Council Rep: March 25 – Sherry Decker

Next Meeting: April 23, 2024



Stewardship Minutes— February 29, 2024

Present at the meeting were Alice Archer, Wendy Phillips, Kay Gow, Peg Empet, Shirley Masters, Judy Mitchell, Ellen Holdredge and Michelle Estabrook.

We voted on our officers for the coming year:

- Chairperson – Kay Gow
- Vice Chairperson – Peg Empet
- Secretary – Michelle Estabrook
- Assistant Secretary – Wendy Phillips
- Representative to Council – Michelle Estabrook

We discussed using Bill Pay to send in a donation to the church and discussed how the website keeps a portion of the donation made. The Spire had an article about Bill Pay – we would like to keep that in every edition.

Shirley Masters talked about the History Day we had – and adding some more footage to what was filmed. They would like to add more this spring. Some topics discussed were the cemetery and Galusha Grow, the ice storm, moving the 9 Partners Monument and the steeple repair.

We went over the pledge letter for the fall campaign.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:00p.m. It is on Thursday because of the Lenten services on Wednesday.

Respectfully submitted. Michelle Estabrook

Stewardship Minutes— March 21, 2024

In attendance were Judy Mitchell, Joe Metzler, Ellen Holdredge, Kay Gow, Michelle Estabrook, Julia Gardner, Peg Empet and Pastor Will Hagenbuch.

The minutes from February were corrected to add Ellen Holdredge as being in attendance.

We went over the financial reports. We are recommending moving \$10,000.00 to the Emergency Fund. We will bring it up to Council at their next meeting.

We discussed who will speak on the topics during our fall campaign.

Our next meeting is April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted. Michelle Estabrook

Pastor's Page:

I presided over the Ash Wednesday service this year. The sermon, songs and liturgy made for a meaningful evening. The journey of Lent is most meaningful when we recognize Psalm 51 and how sinful we truly are AND how wonderful God always remains.

My teen Sunday school class that meets Sunday mornings continues to bring such joy. These young minds are truly becoming theologians in that they are significantly weighing into the Bible and discerning together and individually not only who God is, but also how God is. The class volunteered to help Judy Mitchell set up for the Easter Egg hunt this year.

I have had a couple wonderfully significant visits in my office this month. Please join me for a time of connection, question, joy, reflection, lament, grief or any other topic or conversation you'd like to share with me privately. You are all welcome to be a part of an intimate time with me as pastor.

I continue to visit shut ins as time permits. If you know of someone who is homebound or would benefit from time with me, please let me know.

The pastors of the 2024 ministerium included Annette Zrowka (pastor, Gibson UMC and South Gibson UMC), James (Jimmy) Kincaid (pastor, Fairdale UMC and East Rush UMC), Laura Kincaid (pastor, New Milford UMC and South Montrose UMC), Lou Divis (pastor, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Milford and Susquehanna Community Church), Lucas Taylor (pastor, First Universalist Church, Brooklyn) and me. We completed the Wednesday night JOURNEY TO THE CROSS which began at the Brooklyn First Universalist Church, moved to the United Methodist Church in New Milford, the Episcopal Church in New Milford, here at our church in Harford, and was to conclude at the Gibson United Methodist Church (canceled due to inclement weather).

I preached at the Episcopal Church on March 6. I appreciate all who helped with the March 13 service held here: Robert Fisher, Kay Gow, Holli Chichester, the Harford Choir, and of course the Willing Workers who graciously set up, supplied wonderful refreshments and clean-up after the worship.

The ministerium fund that had been very low has been replenished by generous contributions in and well beyond our congregation. This money will be used to help those within the areas of Hop Bottom, Brooklyn, Harford, Kingsley, New Milford, and Great Bend.

With the choir, I sang at *The Feast of the Pascal Lamb* at the Masonic Temple in Scranton on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 24. I was also the guest preacher that afternoon. Time at the pulpit (podium?) addressed how Jesus still weeps during painful situations in our headlines and our own sometimes broken hearts.

I will preach the Good Friday service at 6 PM and the Sunrise and 10 AM services on Easter Sunday.

I pray you all have a blessed and meaningful Easter in your walk with Jesus that should include quiet and private contemplation. This Easter season and beyond should also incorporate worship where together we can experience the love and guidance through Jesus Christ.

As Easter for us all continues, may we be mindful and celebratory with:

Romans 5:8

**“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**



Hymn Dedication



Dedicate the Offertory Hymn of any Sunday Service in Honor or in Memory of someone. There is a sign up sheet in the Hallway next to the Flower sign-up sheet or place a card in the collection plate with the hymn and the name of the individual to whom you wish to honor.

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

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of April 2024!

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.

Our Spire Sponsorship

Are you appreciating and enjoying the news and updates through our church's newsletter?

Since we are now able to print in color which certainly makes the newsletter more attractive and easier to read, we have an increased cost of production. The production costs for the ink have increased greatly. We have asked for a \$75.00 donation to sponsor Our Spire; however, this amount of money does not entirely cover the cost of the printing, paper, and mailing. Quite often we will use more than one or two sponsorships to cover the cost of publishing Our Spire. Also, if \$75.00 is not in one's budget, please feel free to donate whatever you feel comfortable donating towards the cost of publishing Our Spire.

With your contribution, one may have Our Spire mention who donated a sponsorship and, in whose memory, or honor Our Spire is sponsored. We appreciate every sponsorship as that helps us realize that folks appreciate Our Spire and keeping up to date on First Church's activities.

Mail your sponsorship money to: Harford First Church

PO Box 217

Harford, PA 18823

The Senior Food Box Program

The Senior Food Box Program is separate from the Weinberg food program but is also offered by Weinberg. Persons receiving the Senior Food Box Program boxes must be 60 or more years (I.D. check). An application form is required. Applicants are asked to provide their contact information and to self-declare their income. All applicants must reside in Susquehanna County. Those receiving the Senior boxes are also eligible for the regular Weinberg distributions.



The Senior Food Boxes will be delivered to the Harford Village Apartments in Harford, Kime Apartments in Great Bend, Emerson Southgate Apartments in Hallstead, Howard J. Emerson Apartments in Hallstead and the New Milford Creekside Apartments (day and time are yet to be determined). Individual pick up will be held at the Master's Building in Kingsley every 4th Friday from 3:30-4:30 and the Hop Bottom Emergency Food distribution every 2nd Friday at Hop Bottom Church of Light and Hope from 1:00-3:30.

Email form information to: seniorfoodboxsusq@gmail.com

For online application go to: www.firstchurchharford.com

Look for the Senior Food Box Banner and then click on "More Information".

To speak with someone please contact Holli Chichester 301-643-1775 or Paula Smith 973-903-7226.

Foods Included: Juice and Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned soup, Cheese, Milk (Shelf –safe), Canned meat, Plant Based Protein/Peanut Butter, Cereal, Pasta/Rice. Others items will be added as available.

Spire Sponsor



In Memory of my brother
Alvin Seamans, Jr



-Marge Tator

Greetings from the Bell Choir.

As many of you know already or may not know, there was a presentation at the last Council Meeting requesting a set of 61 note Malmark Choirchimes. The discussion that followed was to have that reduced to mirror the current set of Handbells which is a 37 note set. The Memorial Fund Money will be used.

The reason for this is not to replace the existing handbells; however, it is to be able to offer the opportunity for children fourth grade on up to be able to join in music making. These are instruments that are designed with children in mind.

Currently, we are in hopes to have the Malmark Choirchimes be present for the opening of the Easter Sunday Service with the playing of the Prelude "Morning Has Broken". The handbells will be incorporated into the same service playing "He Lives" for offertory.

If you have any children in third grade and older who are wanting to become involved with music making on the new Choirchimes please let Earl Cottrell know at (701) 405-3417 via text or phone call or even email earl.e.cottrell.jr@gmail.com.

This is to enhance the old handbells with the new sounds. The two musical instruments are complements of each other. The bells provide a very bright brassy sound and the chimes will sound mellow and not bright.

If we outgrow the set we can expand either the bells or chimes to include more octaves to increase participation.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Earl E Cottrell, Jr.

PS. We hope to include the Choirchimes, for our older children, as a part of our Multi-church "SCUBA" VBS June 10, 11, 12, 13.



Beginning Hand Bell Choir

Our beginner hand bell choir has started. Practice will be held right after church every 2nd and 4th Sundays.



No prior experience is necessary and the ability to read music helps but is also not necessary.

Please text or call Earl Cottrell for question or to let him know that you are interested at 701-405-3417.



Melissa and Charles Clarkson
4040 State Route 547
Harford
PA 18823

Spire Sponsor



Ben and Joy Heckman



Volunteer Delivering Meals on Wheels

Looking for volunteers to deliver meals for the Fairdale (Montrose) and Clifford locations, both are on Monday's.

I am not sure about Clifford but we deliver for Montrose and leave the house at 10:00 am and are back home by 1:00 pm. The three hours go by quite quickly. In addition, most consumers are very thankful and grateful. You also are reimbursed for your mileage during delivery route.

Please contact the Area on Aging for more information. Or if you have any questions ask me.

Area Aging Telephone number--570-278-3751

Thanks, Linda Lindsey

Medical Equipment

We have walkers, canes, wheelchairs, Shower chairs, Portable toilets and more for loan to anyone that is in need of these things. Call the office at 570-434-2260 or Holli at 301-643-1775 for information.



Home Bound

Lynola Carey
Joanne Connolly

Martha Jenkins
Dorothy Greene
John Zimmerman

Norma Carey
Vivian Rutherford
JoAnn Titus

Anita Millard



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—All staff and students
- for those with medical issues large and small
- Those with Alzheimer's and their families
- those experiencing financial pressures
- those fighting addiction or cancer
- all those in nursing homes and their families
- Evan Clarkson, Andrew Kazmierczak, Robert Schulte , Ainsley Allen and all those serving in the military
- Sandy Zupanovich
- Gregg Symuleski and family
- Nancy Marr
- law enforcement officers & EMS
- hospital workers and fire personnel
- Truck drivers, farmers & Small businesses
- Patrick Simons
- Mark Ezdebski
- Earl Gow
- Lynn Hernandez
- Chris (Paula Smith's brother)
- Sherri (needs kidney)
- family of Roy Silfee
- Barb Parraga's son
- Kara Batzel upcoming surgery
- Lois Gibson
- Charleene Martens sister
- Shirley Granger
- Leland Weed
- Millie Tingley
- Phil (Schulte's son)
- Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)
- Norma and Lynola Carey
- Ron and Jacquie Phillips
- Wayne Wellman
- Donna's mom - Nancy
- Don Lindsey
- Steve Holtmaster
- Jason Miller's co-worker with cancer
- Ed Lindsey
- family of Joe Felix
- family of Daniel Gow
- Angie Poxon
- Grace Palmiter
- family of Ken Laurie Jr.
- family of Wayne Smith
- Ruth Taugher
- Wanda Birchell and family
- David Vose (Gary Housels son-in-law)
- Andy Granick
- Mrs. Esgro's father
- Ryder Gebo recovering from surgery
- Rhonda (kidney transplant)
- Sue from Interfaith & her husband with ALS



April Birthdays and Anniversaries



April 2	Roxanne Love	April 11	Edward James Zick
April 3	Jenny Simons-Frantz	April 12	Elissa Muller-Deverny
April 4	Alex Empet		Travis Bridgeman
April 7	Will Hagenbuch	April 15	Grace Ann Graf
	Lynnette Millard	April 17	Brooke Zupanovich
	Dot Simons	April 19	Ron Phillips
April 8	Shirley Masters	April 21	Jackie Schulte
April 10	Carol Oakley	April 22	Katie Brown-Bailey
	Dale Empet	April 23	Irv Needham
		April 25	Lauren Abigail Mitchell

Congratulations!

Do you have a new baby in your home?

Would you like to receive some free books to read to your child?

Bring Baby to the Susquehanna County Library before their first birthday. One may stop at any branch of the library. (Montrose, Hallstead, Susquehanna, Forest City) Call first for an appointment so that their camera is available. They will take a picture of your new child and present the baby with a gift basket and a book.

Library's telephone numbers:

- Montrose-----570-278-1881
- Forest City-----570-785-5590 (Boro bldg.)
- Forest City-----570-785-4822 (531 Main Street)
- Hallstead-----570-879-2227
- Susquehanna---570-853-4106

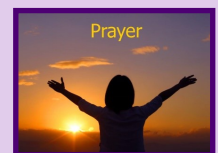
What a wonderful way to teach your child to love book reading! Enjoy.

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**.

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: firstchharford@gmail.com



Worship every Sunday at 10:00am.

Hymnals and Bibles may be utilized but all text will be available via our monitors in the sanctuary. We would like to invite those who are not able to attend in person to watch our livestreaming worship at 10:00 am.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg>



Men's Breakfast

at 7:30am

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



The Website

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: April 26, 2024

May 24, 2024

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.



Women's Lunch

**3rd Monday of each month
12:00 at Bingham's
All Welcome! Bring a Friend**



Greeters and Ushers

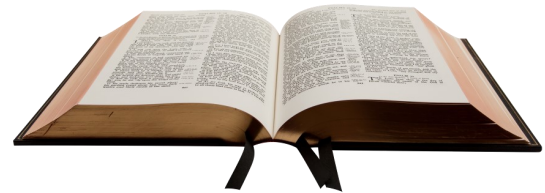


April 7 Betty Lou and Ken Bennett
April 14 Laurie Thorn and Karen Jones
April 21 Judy and Emma and Karen Jones
April 28 Miss Clarkson and Sharon Frantz

**If you would like to greet, usher
or read during our worship
services please contact the office.**

Lay Readers In April

April 7 Karen Jones
April 14 Gary Phillips
April 21 Kandy Wellman
April 28 Alice Archer



Attention, Attention!!



We are again collecting glass wine bottles and cork stoppers for fair crafts. Please leave bottles and stoppers by the coat rack in the gathering room. We want all colors or bottles. We also can use old soda bottles.
Questions: Holli 301-643-1775

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.





Multi- Church Vacation Bible School

June 10-13 , 2024

from 10:00 – 1:00

**At Harford First
Congregational
Church**

Three ways to register your children:

1. Online: www.firstchurchharford.com
Click on the VBS Banner
2. Call or Text: 301-643-1775 Holli
3. Pick Up/Drop off Forms at one of the following churches:
 - Harford First Congregational Church
 - Hop Bottom Church of Hope and Peace
 - Kingsley UM Church
 - New Milford UMC
 - South Gibson /Gibson UMC
 - St. Mark's Episcopal - New Milford
 - Universalist Church - Brooklyn

Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

June 10-13, 2024

From 10:00-1:00

Online Registration:

www.firstchurchharford.com

Click on the VBS Banner.



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

Parent's First Name: _____

Parent's Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Child Registration:

1. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ **Age:** _____ **Other:** _____

2. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ **Age:** _____ **Other:** _____

3. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ **Age:** _____ **Other:** _____

4. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ **Age:** _____ **Other:** _____

5. Child's First and Last Name: _____

Allergy: _____ **Age:** _____ **Other:** _____

Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 8, 2024 9am



\$100/person- includes 18 holes with cart,

Donuts and Coffee, Hot Dog, 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

301-643-1775

To benefit Harford First Congregational Church

Business Sponsor



March 20, 2024

Dear Friend,

The Harford First Congregational Church is hosting our 14th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 9:00am at the Tall Pines Players Club in Friendsville, PA. All money raised will benefit Harford 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, disaster relief) possible in the past. Your donation is tax deductible and our tax-exempt number is 75139758.

You can help by:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Putting a team together to golf in the tournament.
- 4) 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.

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

Memorial or Honor Sponsor



March 20, 2024

Dear Friend,

The Harford First Congregational Church is hosting our 14th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 8, 2024 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

Call or Text / Mail to:
Hollie Chichester
1814 Tingley Lake Rd
New Milford, PA 18834
301-643-1775
hollischichester@gmail.com



**14th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 8, 2024 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
301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

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





**14th Annual Harford Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Saturday June 8, 2024 9:00am shotgun start



Golf Team Registration

Team Captain _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Team Players: _____

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

Call or Text/Mail to: **Holli Chichester**
1814 Tingley Lake Rd
New Milford, PA 18834
301-643-1775 or hollischichester@gmail.com

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN
\$100 per Golfer = \$400 per Team**

Please Pay when Registering

April Shower of Blessings

North Hatford Willing Workers

When: The month of April

Where: Hatford First Congregational UCC

Benefit: The Women's Resource Center and CareNet

A "Thank you" reception will be held after church, April 28, 2024,
to display all collected items and celebrate a gift of love.

We will be collecting:

New: sheets, Towels, washcloths,
women's, PJs, socks, underwear
Cleaning Supplies – mops, brooms,
soap, sponges, plastic pails, cleansers
scrubbing pads

Gift Certificates:

Pump n Pantry \$25,

Walmart \$25,

Rob's \$25, Ray's \$25,

Price Chopper \$25

Additional Items – full size:

tissues, paper towels,
deodorant, toilet paper,
dryer sheets, fabric softener,
cookware, brush/comb
school supplies, pens

All new baby items, baby diapers,

New small appliances,

Pet supplies: smaller bags

shampoo, conditioner,
dish soap, hard-cover journals,
laundry detergent
(64 oz. or smaller),
feminine hygiene

wipes, furniture, clothing

new children's PJs,

April 2024

April 2024

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

May 2024

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	31	
Th							
Fr							
Sa							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1 7:00pm Trustees (PO) 7:30pm Fair.mtg (LH)	2 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir (MR)	3	4 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	5	6 9:30am Pierogi making class (LH)
7 7:30am HVFC Brkfst (fire) 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Worship 11:00am New member 11:15am Deacons.mtg	8 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (LH)	9 7:30am Men's Brkfst (Bingham) 9:00am Pastoral Rel. 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir (MR)	10	11 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	12	13
14 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanc) 11:00am New member class	15 8:00am Ladies lunch (Bingham) 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	16 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm Missionary mtg (LH) 6:00pm Choir (MR)	17 6:00pm Stewardship mtg (LH)	18 10:00am KWW mtg (LH) 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	19	20 9:00am Spring Clean-up (Outside)
21 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanc) 11:00am New member class	22 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 6:00pm Council (LH)	23 ELECTION DAY 8:00am Bake Sale (Fire hall) 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir (MR)	24	25 10:00am Pastor in office (Office)	26	27 9:00am Raindate-cleanup
28 9:00am SS (LH) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanc) 11:00am New member class	29 9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	30 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir (MR)	May 1	2	3	4

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: office@firstchurchharford.com
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com
Live Worship:https://www.youtube.com/
channel/UCmQ-Xr0IE5xwdZS0yVs7dtg

.....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: Pastor.will@firstchurchharford.com
Home email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12:00

Judy Mitchell –Sec