

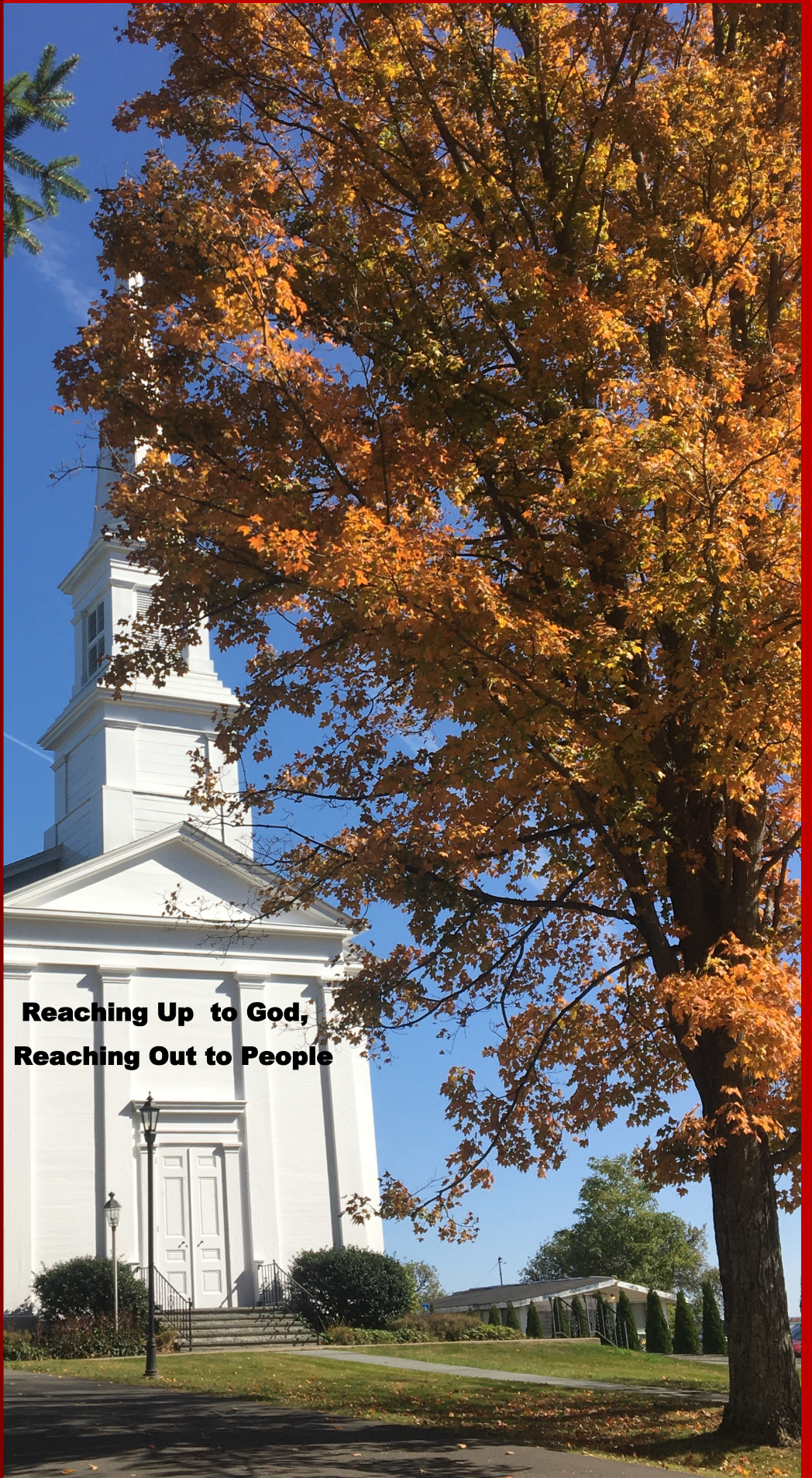
Our Spire

Volume
41

October
2021

Number
8

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



Treasurer's Report-

To make expenses every month in the general (example: electric, payroll, office and programs), we will need \$12,895.83 a month to meet our Budget for 2021.

Here is the Income and Expenses for August 2021 and YTD

August	2021	General Fund year to Date for 2021
Income:	\$ 9,262.70	Income: \$85,764.28
Expenses:	\$11,315.76	Expense: \$95,505.64
Total:	-\$2,053.06	Total: -\$ 9,741.36

This is the financial scene that started off our September 2021 Council meeting. \$9,741.36 in the red and no money available to pay our bills.

Your Council had to make some very difficult and disappointing decisions so that our bills could be paid.

\$2000 was taken from the Sign maintenance fund leaving only \$845.50

\$2022.79 was taken from the Other (used for special projects) leaving none

\$80.48 was taken from the copier category leaving none

\$5000 was taken from Technical Support leaving \$534.26

\$1206.35 was taken from the Nicaragua Fund

(Kay Gow and Holli Chichester had set aside personal funds for a future mission trip) leaving none.

Total : \$10,309.62

The bills have been covered for this month, but what about next month and the next? All our work to reach out to the community and grow our children's programs will be halted if we are unable to turn on the lights or the heat.

Our church, our community is led by Jesus.... to be more, to do more. God's work does have a cost and we all need to be aware that we are not currently able to pay it. Please consider your giving this month and what we can do when we are fully funded.

GOD IS TALKING TO US

Adrian Rogers once said, "It's what you sow that multiplies, not what you keep in the barn." What are we keeping? Perhaps for some of us we're keeping a God that is too small. A God that is okay with how things are. A God who doesn't ask much, or expect much. This is not the God I know. This is not the God you know, either. The God I know challenges us. The God I know changes us. The God I know creates for us opportunities to witness to Him not just with our lips, but our wallets.

I share Rogers' quote not only because it's true, but also because it needs to be said now. We are at a pivotal time in our church history. A time for giving financially to the General Fund is now. Financially, we are where we have been before. This is not new. What IS new at this time is the opportunity we have to pray for God to lead us through this season as He has led us through financially challenging situations in the past.

I've been in leadership long enough to understand when God is talking. Don't get me wrong, God's silences are good, too. But when the Great "I AM" has something to say, it comes through unavoidably. **God is talking to us now. He's not saying, "Small." He's not saying, "Cut back." He's saying, "Give—and I'll show you yet again how much more I'll give back to you."** Like me, you only know a big, bold God who does big, bold things to those He loves. Look. Listen. Pray. Respond. Our financial future rests with you. More specifically, it moves with you. It's time for us to see again how God will part a sea, make a way, and get us through this.

— Pastor Will, Written hours after our latest council meeting

Great conversations, great connections—the new membership class has begun

By Pastor Will

The new membership class has had two Sunday afternoon meetings as we come into this month's *Spire* deadline. I didn't want to wait until the 5 classes ended to share what a joy it has been to sit with my special guests and the new members themselves.

Sunday afternoons are typically down time for pastors who give their heart and soul in a Sunday morning sermon. Rest is GOOD. But this? This is even better!

This IS better because it rejuvenates, inspires, and calls us as a small group into the care Christ designs for us. I leave each meeting carrying the joy we experienced together.

Each week, the membership class has a special guest (or guests) from the church who introduce a part of who we are as a congregation to those who may or may not know about who we are as a people of God.

I've been joined by David Schulte as council president on the first Sunday we met as a group. Dave and I have never worked like this before, and I honestly felt we make a promising pair because our skillsets complement each other. With just a single page of notes on a notepad that fit in his palm, David impressively shared an overview of the history of Congregationalism in America. He offered details, connections, and what I'll call "theological good stuff."

The following Sunday, Judy Mitchell and Holli Chichester joined the class. Judy spoke of her role as church secretary. She shared how she is called to this ministry. Her presence and her care for those who visit her in the office are well known—and appreciated.

Holli spoke about Christian Education and the Spire. She shared what a year this has been for our Sunday school program. As I hope you know (or have read about), the Sunday school program has been completely and prayerfully rebuilt, restructured and realigned. The number of teachers who have joined the team is not only heartwarming but also impressive. So much care and love has been poured into this youth outreach.

Now as for the Spire, I hope you all enjoy this outreach. These pages connect and in-"spire" us all.

The class and I look forward to more time each Sunday following worship. All are welcome to join us for any Sunday. Learning about the UCC and our specific history in the oldest and newest denomination is an uplifting, important conversation to have at all points on our faith journeys. Our new members will join the church on October 17, 2021.

Spire Sponsor - Walter Poxon



Holy Grounds Cafe

Open Sunday 9:30-10:00 am

Fellowship to follow

Come help yourself &
enjoy some light
refreshments and
beverages!



Holy Grounds Café

Sponsored by Your Deacons

Designed and managed by:

**Linda Lindsey, Sandi Tingley
Susan Green and a host of many
volunteers!!**

Being a Christian is
like being a pumpkin!

God picks you from the patch and
brings you in.
(John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all
the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling
face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)



**Come join us for a time
of Fellowship
complete with Coffee,
juice and light snacks.**



**The children join us after Sun-
day School.**

**This is a great opportunity to chat
with old friends and
meet our young
families**



**and welcome them
to their new church
home!**

Christian Education—

Current Staff: Birth – age 3

Abby Toolan and Becci Warren



PreK- K

Kassandra Lamberson and Tatianna MacDowell



Grades 1, 2, 3

Aubrey Daniels and Ashley Parsons



Grades 4, 5, 6

Charlene Martens and Kay Gow



Letter to Parents of 7th-12th grade Students

Hi parents, the Christian Education Committee has reassessed our youth program for 2021-2022. We originally planned to have a Youth Membership Class for 5 weeks for 9-12th graders and a Confirmation Class for 7-8 graders starting after Christmas.

As we prayed over these decisions and worked to set up the curriculum, we began to feel concerned that we were not giving our youth the connection and support that they need to establish their own faith base. It was felt that our youth have lost their connection to the church during COVID and that more consistent meeting would be the best solution.

We decided to combine the two classes (Youth Membership Class and Confirmation Class) to offer our Youth a more in-depth opportunity to share their faith and their concerns. Starting September 12, 2021, Harford First Congregational Church began our Youth Sunday Meeting at 9:00 – 9:45 for 7th-12th graders. We will meet every Sunday and will cover topics of interest to our youth along with the topics normally covered during a Confirmation Class. Pastor Will is teaching this class and will have others Co-teaching with him on occasion to add other perspectives and broaden the support of our congregation.

In the spring, any of the youth that wish to join the church will be encouraged to do so. If a youth does not feel ready, they will have the opportunity to do so when they feel ready. The Youth Sunday Meeting Class will continue through each school year. Youth will be encouraged to continue attending for spiritual support and fellowship, whether they join the church or not.

Pastor Will plans use several resources in guiding this class: Words for the Journey (Letters to our Teenagers about Life and Faith), My Confirmation (A Guide for Confirmation Instruction) and the Bible.

Our Youth are precious to us and we are striving to offer them the best possible support and guidance as they begin the process of becoming adults and establishing their own relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Please feel free to ask questions or bring forward any concerns. Contact Pastor Will at 570-434-7729 or Holli Chichester at 301-643-1775.

Your Christian Education Team and the Deacons

Youth Sunday Meeting

Re-Connect Re-Establish



Re-Affirm

When: Sunday Mornings at 9:00-9:45 AM.
Where: Harford First Congregational Church
Who: 7th-12th Graders



Harford First Congregational Church - UCC
Sunday School Registration Form
2021-2022

Please Use one Form per Child

Child's Name: _____

Name of Parent (s) or Guardian (s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

(Most Communication will be via email)

Grade: _____ Age of Child: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Allergies: _____

Information Regarding Your Child We Should Know: _____

Child's Interests: _____

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Information

(Check if Willing to Help)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Pageant Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute for Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Events Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Helper |

Harford First Congregational Church's Sunday School periodically uses photographs of students to publicize this church and events. Please sign below to indicate that you agree that a photo of your child may be utilized in this manner (Closed Facebook, Website, Flyers). I agree to allow Harford First Congregational Church to use my child _____'s photograph for publicity purposes as described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Deacon Minutes - 9-20-2021

Attending: Ginny Ahearn, Kathryn Doolittle, Will Hagenbuch, Holli Chichester, Tammy Stout, Teresa Lamberson via Zoom

Fellowship Time: The Fellowship time Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:00 seems to be going nicely. Linda Lindsey put up a sign-up sheet for hosts for the Fellowship time and people signed up through the time she is in Florida. It was mentioned that some of the children requested Hot Chocolate. Children under 4th grade will receive water for their beverage. .

Prayer List: Our prayer list has gotten very long and some of these persons' well-fare unknown. It has been our practice to remove names after 2-3 weeks but it is felt that contacting each person for an update on their prayer concern would be a better solution. It would give the church more information for prayers and let the individual know that we care. We will look for one or more persons that could take this as their ministry of care. Judy Mitchell has volunteered to work with this ministry but needs another person to make calls.

Visitation: The Deacons wish to begin visiting our congregation again with Pastor Will. We have made a tentative list of people to visit. All persons will be contacted to set the date and time prior to the visit (target days are Thursday or Friday between the hours of 10 and 2). Communion will be offered. If the person/ persons visited wish to have private time with Pastor Will, the Deacon will retire to the car. Visits will be held to 15 minutes. If more time is desired, Pastor Will can set a return visit. Most of these visits will happen during the day. Tammy, Ginny and Holli are willing to visit. Linda, Missy, LeeAnn and Lisa will be asked if they can visit.

World Wide Communion Sunday: October 3, 2021. Pastor Will is considering the sermon for this day. The service will be all about communion. Kathryn will help distribute the Elements at one door we will need one more deacon for the other door. Holli will check to be sure that we have enough communion supplies. We will have people pick up the elements as they enter the sanctuary.

Children's Ministry- Communion: Deacons will work with the Sunday School Teachers in Communion Education through out this year. The children in 2nd grade and above will receive recognition in church in the spring and receive their communion, a certificate and a small celebration. Thereafter, children will receive communion in the spring of their 2nd grade year, a certificate and a celebration. No child will be denied communion but a milestone event will occur each year for our children.

Children's Ministry – Bibles: All children will be instructed on the Bible (what it is, who wrote it, how to use it) in Sunday School. This year all children finishing the 3rd grade and above will be recognized by the Deacons and will receive a Bible in church. During the following years, on the completion of the 3rd grade, the Deacons will recognize each these children and gift them with a Bible.

Grief Seminar: There is a Conference seminar on Grief, November 6, 2021 in Allentown. It was suggested that it might be easier to attend a seminar closer to Harford. Teresa shared that she attended a Grief seminar held at Bartron-Myer Funeral home and lead by Dale and Sandy Black. Holli will contact Bartron-Myer Funeral Home for more information. Harford Church could host the seminar at our church. This will be discussed at the next Deacon meeting.

Christmas Tree Lighting: November 28, 2021. The theme of Hope was used last year, we will consider and revisit the theme in November. Tammy said that the decorations last year did not stay on the tree. We are thinking of using wire of pipe cleaners to hang the decorations. We will use outdoor red, green, gold and silver ball ornaments. Permanent markers (fine point) can be used to write on the ornaments. There are many Christmas cards left from last year.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2021 at 6:00

Missionary Minutes : 9-20-21

Attending: Karen Jones, Holli Chichester, Maureen Warren, Ginny Ahearn, Sherry Decker, Ellen Holdredge, Priscilla Allen

Priscilla opened the meeting with prayer.

Treasure's Report: Collected in June \$14.00 dues an \$5.20 Least Coin.

Paid: \$200 to Interfaith Building Project

\$200 to WRC (Women's Resource Center)

\$200 to CareNet

\$ 70 Church Women United (Least Coin)

Balance: \$615.91

*Note: Daily Bread paid in September

Missionary Group Portion of Yard Sale and Meal In: \$2539.13

Correspondence In:

Thank you from CWS (Church World Service) for Disaster and Hygiene Kit

Thank you from CWU (Least Coin) for donation of \$70

Thank you from WRC (Women's Resource Center) for \$200 donation

Thank you from Interfaith for \$200 donation to Building Fund

Thank you from Golf Committee for the Outdoor Game Basket donated

Invite to CareNet 2021 Banquet September 29, 2021

Correspondence Out:

Thank you Cards sent to those that helped Missionary and Willing Workers with the
Yard Sale and Meal

Congratulations sent to the Schulte's at the birth of their baby

Thinking of you Cards to Dale Grant, Liz Grant and Lynola Carey

Earthquake in Haiti: The suffering and trauma of events in Haiti were discussed. Missionary decided to donate \$500 to Haiti Relief through Samaritan's Purse.



Missionary Continued:

Operation Christmas Child: It was decided to purchase 50 plastic shoeboxes through Samaritan's Purse for the upcoming Operation Christmas Child Collection. The collection will run the month of October so as not to conflict with the Interfaith Christmas tags.

Missionary plans to have a Moment for Mission October 3, 2021 to launch the program prior to the Stewardship Campaign. Ellen will pack a box for demonstration and review what can and can not go into a shoebox. She will stress no weapon or war items and to remove packing so more will fit.

Missionary does have a few stuffed animals to offer the participants for inclusion. We hope to fill 50 shoeboxes. Funds are allocated for boxes that require intervention.

Election Day Bake Sale: Missionary voted to have the November 2, 2021 Bake Sale. The sign-up sheets for baking and working will go up in October.

Soup Ministry: We have 3 quarts of soup left. We will be making Chicken Vegetable and Hamburger Vegetable soup Tuesday September 28, 2021 at 9:00am. We will see if there are extra vegetables from the Weinberg Distribution for the Soup. Deacons Report that they will be visiting the Congregation with Pastor Will and will be encouraged to take soup if warranted.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 19 at 1:00.



Operation Christmas Child

Missionary Group is kicking off our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. Boxes and lists of item suggestions will be available all through the month of October 2021. Completed boxes to be returned by November 7, 2021.



**SPIRE
SPONSOR
LOIS GIBSON**



Bell Choir Starting Back Up!!!!

Would you like to hear the sounds of the handbell choir again?

We're in need of some new ringers. No experience necessary.

Some ability to read music is helpful but if you can count to 4,

you can ring handbells.

Please contact the director,

Bob DeLuca

at 570-498-7090 to join!



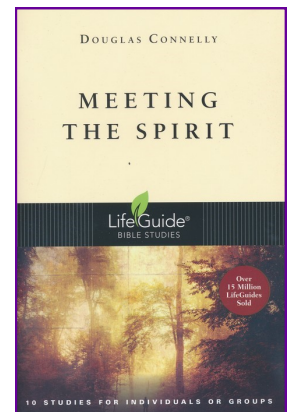
Bible Study

Coming October 17th!

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. We plan to have:

In-person study, facilitated by Craig Stout

Zoom Bible Study, facilitate by Teresa Lamberson.



Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net

Stewardship Meeting Minutes: 9-16-21

Attending: Peg Empet, Shirley Masters, Ellen Holdredge, Julia Gardner, Will Hagenbuch (via phone), Craig Stout, Kay Gow

Topics: -Cindy Beeman (Interfaith) will visit at a later date.

-Church Finances: Julia stressed that all committees need to watch their spending. She also brought a copy of last year's budget so committees can begin to work on next year's budget.

-There will be a HVA Fall Themed event on November 14, 2021. More info. to come.

-Craig Stout brought the idea of a canoe in the sanctuary for a prop for the 2021 Fall Campaign. Theme will be "Feel like you are Up a Creek without a Paddle?". Each week will be focused on a word of help.

-Stewardship Moments will be presented before the Offertory and will include facts like utility costs.

-Stewardship is considering a Legacy Program to be included in the Pledge letter.

Next Meeting: September 30, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Gow

Stewardship Fall Campaign

Do you feel that you have been Up the Creek without a Paddle this past year? Still not in that area of calm water or peace that you're looking for?



In our Fall Campaign Sermon Series October 10—November 7, 2021, we will be equipped with five ways to navigate the troubled waters on our life journey with God!



Harford First Congregational
Church-UCC

2022

Commitment Card

“But when he saw the wind, [Peter] was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. — Mathew 14:30-32, ESV

In the next calendar year the church will
receive a contribution of
\$_____ per
(Week) (Month) (Year)
(Please circle one)

Please apply the pledge above as follows:

- \$_____ General budget
- \$_____ for Our Churches Wider Mission
(OCWM)
- \$_____ for Capital Fund (Property
Improvement)
- \$_____ Building Fund
- \$_____ Church Cupboard
- \$_____ Youth/Community Outreach
- \$_____ Other _____
- \$_____ Other _____
- \$_____ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this side to the financial secretary, or mail to the office, or deposit in the collection plate

Thank you very much.



Harford First Congregational
Church-UCC

2022

Commitment Card

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- \$_____ Youth/Community Outreach
- \$_____ Other _____
- \$_____ Other _____
- \$_____ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this side to the financial secretary, or mail to the office, or deposit in the collection plate

Thank you very much.

2022-Time and Talents

Altar Flowers-provide _____
Attic Treasures help _____
Bell Choir _____
Bible Study _____
Candle lighting _____
Choir singing _____
Church Cupboard help _____
Church up-keep _____
Cocoa donate _____
Coffee Hour help & food _____
Crafting group _____
Disaster kit items _____
Drive folks _____
Fair Dinner-help _____
Food-covered dish meals _____
Funeral Dinners/help or food _____
Golf Tournament help _____
Greeter at double doors _____
Log Cabin help _____
Memorial Garden-help _____
Missionary Group _____
Monday 9:30AM mtg-attend _____
Music _____
Solo, choir, bells (circle)
Nursery sitting _____
Peanut butter- donate _____
Pick up folks for church _____
Read on Sundays _____
Serve on a committee _____

2022-Time and Talents

Altar Flowers-provide _____
Attic Treasures help _____
Bell Choir _____
Bible Study _____
Candle lighting _____
Choir singing _____
Church Cupboard help _____
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Cocoa donate _____
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Nursery sitting _____
Peanut butter- donate _____
Pick up folks for church _____
Read on Sundays _____
Serve on a committee _____

Willing Workers Minutes:

Change of date for annual roast beef dinner. It will be April 9, 2022.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 3 at 7PM in the Lecture Hall.

Attention

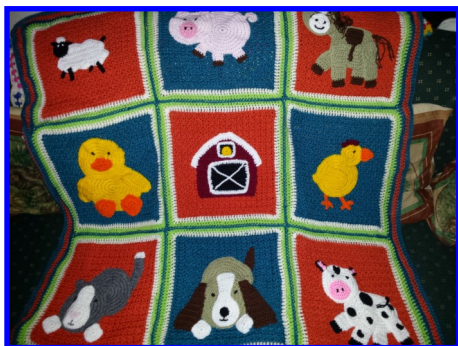
All Knitters and Crocheters

We have depleted our reserve of baby blankets for the Cradle Roll.

Please Call or text Holli Chichester

if you have blankets that you would be willing to donate!

Holli 301-643-1775



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 and have a time of fellowship from 9:30-10:00 each Sunday.

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

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

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



Trustee Meeting Minutes - September 13, 2021

Attending; Gary Housel, Rich Masters, Bill Chichester, Irv Needham, and Rick Masters

Old Business:

Gary called Benedict Construction to check when they will be doing the church parking lot / driveway. They will be calling Gary back with their timeline to begin. Trustees will ask that the job be done in it's entirety by the end of September or else wait until spring. Gary will also ask if they feel they can do a section of it before the end of the month.

Gary knocked down the wasp nests.

Gary cleaned out the end of the pipe where the gutter downspout of the lecture hall discharges into the yard. There were broken pieces of plastic pipe blocking it.

Gary will contact Kandy and have her move forward with arranging for the lecture hall carpets to be cleaned by All-Clean Services.

New Business:

Trustees would like to thank Dick and Delores Berish who took care of weeding the Memorial Garden and have offered to continue to care for it.

Trustees is looking for volunteers willing to take care of the flower beds in front of the Church.

Irv asked if it would be possible to add a portable air conditioner to the kitchen in the kitchen of the lecture hall when it's being utilized for cooking on hot days. Gary mentioned that there are big portable fans in the church that could be utilized on such occasions.

The north side of the lecture hall needs to be pressure washed again. Gary and Bill will do it.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Masters



Baptism - Welcome
Braxton Kenneth MacDowall
Parents: Tatiana and Kurt
MacDowall
GodParents: Kassandra Lamber-
son and Andrew MacDowall
Deacon: Teresa Lamberson

Pastor's Report to Council:

Recently, the pastor's discretionary fund was used. A check for \$600.00 was sent out for family or individual in need. Prayers are being answered. God is good.

God IS good. I was blessed to have a great conversation with conference minister Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates by phone recently. We met by phone first, and then we face timed. Bonnie shared that all pastors in the conference are pulled and pushed. It's a challenging time to pastor with Covid, national pressures, and in-house strains from every congregations in the no mask/mask wearing quandary. Bonnie did what she always does when we connect. She reminded me that she's there as my pastor. Our time closed in prayer.

I am teaching the teen Sunday school class again. This is exciting, challenging, and fun. Advice I received long ago when I began teaching a Sunday school class is this: you have to grow your own class. Kids won't just come. You have to build your group. Given all the pressures students are experiencing just as teen AND THEN ADD Covid and mandatory quarantines if exposed to the virus, it's tough to be in school these days. Stress levels are high. Depression is high. Anxiety is high.

I've prayed to God on how to grow the class and be present to the students. This lead to a meeting with Dr. Lemoncelli, the MV Jr./Sr. high school principal, and George Barbolish, the Dean of Students. A suggestion was made at the meeting that I could be present to the student population during their lunchtime. Talk about a way to grow a class! Breaking bread together in a high school cafeteria is literally the only way a pastor with a heart for counseling and coaching through God's love can be present to a population of students these days. I would start this at one lunch a week so that my other pastoral visits can continue to be made.

Another pet blessing will take place at its annual time, the first Saturday in November. This year, I'll be in or near the parking lot for pets on Saturday, November 6, from 9-11 AM.

Another new Stewardship Campaign brainstorming event took place recently. As a congregation, the Stewardship Committee and I haven't looked to the denomination's Stewardship Drive material for five or six consecutive years. We've created our own campaign specifically designed to reach our specific congregation. As in years past, I am very impressed with and excited by what was created for the 2021 year. What makes this year unique is that the whole stewardship momentum will encompass the entire service. In years past, we've had "a Stewardship moment" during worship. This year, the sermon series AND the campaign are one in the same.

Speaking of sermon series, I am grateful we did a four-week series on Christian Character. This September series will lead into the Stewardship sermon series that begins October 10th. From Christian Character we will move into the fellowship of believers. Our "Up the creek with out a paddle" will enable us to see what, exactly, it means to be in the same boat (that is, the church) together.

What a joy and honor it was to baptize Braxton Kenneth MacDowall on Sunday, September 12th. A couple of years ago, I married Braxton's mom and dad, Kurt and Tatiana MacDowall. The blessing of being with the couple again and baptizing their little baby boy was a gift from God.

Another joy was being able to attend the "Thank you Summer Lunch Box Volunteers" breakfast on September 18th. Speaking with those I called dignitaries was a pleasure. County Commissioners Betsy Arnold and Alan Hall were there, along with two high school superintendents and a high school principal. The real joy was time I could spend with Paula Smith, the leader of the program, and her volunteers. Her volunteers are tremendous. They show us all what love can do!

Another joy is the nod to the current Sunday school program. My five little ones are singing their Sunday school songs at home. Also, my middle child matter-of-factly shared a story of Moses one Sunday afternoon.

I want to share the honor and the reward of being a part of another New Membership Class. We've had such good, lively, Spirit-led conversations around my office table Sunday's following worship. David Schulte, Judy Mitchell and Holli Chichester have joined me. David co-taught the first week. Holli and Judy joined for the second week.

Pastor's Report Continued:

Our incoming new members will be such an addition. How grateful I am to be a part of this specific journey in their spiritual formation.

Finally, I want to share how grateful I am for those pastoral visits I have had in my office, on the phone, in person, or in the nursing home this month Our God is good. Let's continue to seek the ways He will have us go so that we can carry His love to those He calls us to meet.

More Council Minutes:

Choir: Practicing Tuesdays at 6:00. All welcome!

Church Cupboard: 1 family

Clerk: 1 Wedding

1 Baptism

Cradle Roll: 2 newborn Blankets sent

Game-On: Meeting October 1 2021

Historian: Average of 51/worship in-house

New Business: We will currently encourage all that have concerns to wear masks.



Community Fall Festival



Food

October 16, 2021

Hay Rides

3:30-6:00

**S'mores
Face Painting**

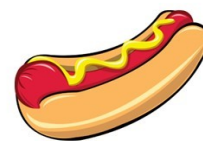
Everyone Welcome

Harford Church

Games



Pumpkin Painting



SLB Program honored in Harford



When Paula Smith, the founder of the Summer Lunch Box Program, came to the Harford Church this past summer, she shared from the pulpit many facts about the vital program that feeds so many children and their families who experience food scarcity in the county. In her presentation, Smith casually added how she wanted to honor her dedicated volunteers. This was no hint. It was just a desire, a plan for “sometime” in the future. That sometime was this past Saturday, September 18th at 9 AM.

The church heard her and offered their Lecture Hall space to accommodate a breakfast the church would host. Smith accepted. Two county commissioners, two local high school superintendents and a high school principal accepted the invitation, too.

In front of an appreciative, attentive audience, Smith thanked all her volunteers. She shared a unique challenge and growth spurt in the program. Her essential volunteers truly stepped up when COVID hit in March of 2020. She said, “The need for food at that time increased dramatically. We fed 102 families in two days.”

SLB Program challenges were acute at that time. Bulk food—the staple of the program—was a scarcity. Smith said, “But people just stepped up. We met our challenges. We got the job done.” This included \$9,000.00 worth of gift cards that went out to local schools.

Smith was quick to also thank the Hop Bottom UMC and the Hop Bottom Fire Hall, the original hosts for the program. Of those who serve at the Hop Bottom Fire Department, Smith said the dedicated crew was always willing to help. She thanked the local churches that support the program. “They’ve been there since Day 1. Their donations through the years have helped us add school districts to the program.”

This past summer, the SLB Program operated out of the Kingsley Community Church.

Smith thanked that church and the local VFW of Lenox who provide the program’s one time a year fundraiser, a chicken barbeque dinner. To date, this fundraiser has cumulatively netted over \$68,000.00 for the cause to make no child hungry in our community.

The SLB Program also thanks the VFW from Montrose. They’ve hosted a golf tournament for the past two years and have raised over \$17,000.00.

Smith also thanked the Lions Club for helping pick up food. The challenge is getting helpers through the week, and Smith is grateful for the help the club provides. She looks for more help—especially during the week—as the program continues.

Smith and her team hold such heart and compassion for those who experience hunger or empty cabinets during hard times.

Two superintendents also spoke from the heart. Their appreciation for the SLB program was evident and well-addressed. Christopher McComb from MASD said that what makes this area so unique is that small communities stick together. He added that the SLB Program is invaluable to the school’s mission because “with proper nutrition, our students come ready and able to learn.”

Dr. Mike Elia from MVSD shared McComb’s sentiments. “For kids who don’t have food—it’s tough. Math, English and life lessons are just really tough if a student hasn’t eaten. Having this program in the district makes all the difference.” Dr. Lemoncelli, the MVSD high school principal, appreciates the mission and the philosophy of the SLB program. “No one goes hungry in our school,” he said. “We support each other. The answer is always ‘yes’ when it comes to supporting programing in the community.”

Before the school leadership spoke, the Harford Church organizers contacted the three Susquehanna Commissioners. Commissioner Betsy Arnold said “What impresses me about this area is the awareness that it takes a community—it takes a team. Missions like this start small, persevere, and get the job done.” Arnold added, “Thank you to the people like you at the Summer Lunch Box Program who have heart, compassion, vision, love—and energy!”

Commissioner Alan Hall followed Arnold. He echoed her gratitude. “Hats off to the hard work you do. We can send trillions overseas but we can’t feed our own kids.”

Hall and Arnold are looking into ways the county can fund the SLB Program in the future.

The SLB Program began in 2011 in the Mountain View School District. Smith realized that kids in need weren’t getting enough to eat in the summertime when schools and their cafeterias were closed. The program ended that first summer by feeding 69 children at a cost of \$3,881.09.

In 2019, the program added Coconut and needed that summer with 199 children at a cost of \$19, 633.17.

In 2020, the program added ELSD and the rest of the MASD. 550 students were enrolled. The total cost of the program last year was \$47,289.70.

2021 started with 366 students enrolled at a cost of \$16,414.79.

So much financial success comes from so many who add so much, including “Mr. Anonymous” who purchases all the meat in the program. Attorney Giangreco provides his legal services for free.

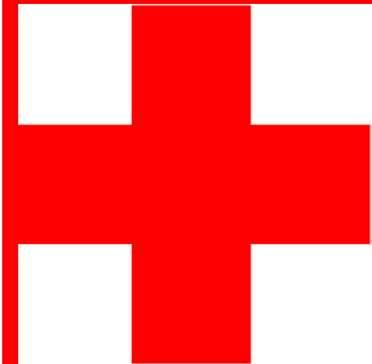
Smith didn’t forget to thank the spouses and families of the volunteers. “Without you there to support and encourage us,” she said, “we’d have a much tougher time at this.”

Ruthann Batzel, a volunteer, offered a thank you herself just after the meal began. At the table surrounded by her fellow volunteers, she said, “I need this program. I need to get out. I need to serve. This helps me so much.”

In all, 46 people attended this “thank you” meal. This included the youth who served the breakfast and 5 very young children. The children are recipients of food from the program. On pick up days, the quintet greets Ruthann and others with appreciation and glee. The children sang a thank you to the SLB Program volunteers to the tune of “Happy Birthday.”



First Church Youth & Crew
Thank you for hosting a beautiful
breakfast for the
Summer Lunch Box Program.
You are Awesome!!!!



American Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drive

Harford Fire Hall

Wed. Oct. 27th from 1-6 pm.

Appointments can be made at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

All blood donors must wear a mask to the October blood drive



RADA Knife Sale

There will be a Rada Catalog Christmas knife sale beginning 11-1-21 thru 12-4-21. Please stop in the office to browse through a catalog or contact Kandy at 570-5618-8835 beginning November 1st.

Kandy will be posting pictures of the catalog pages by the end of October for you to view on Facebook.

Here is a link to download the catalog:

<https://linksharing.samsungcloud.com/rc7NHkIMNpso>



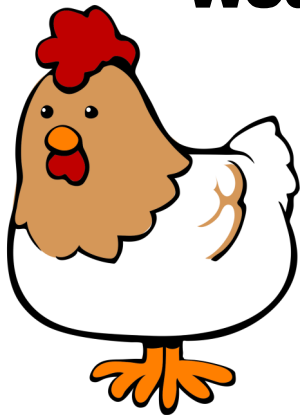
Spire Sponsor

Jan Winemiller

**Clifford United Methodist Church
Main Street, Clifford**

**Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
Chicken, Biscuit, Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Harvard Beets & Dessert**

Wednesday, October 20th, 2021



**TAKE OUT ONLY
DRIVE THRU FROM
4:00 to 6:00 pm
or until Sold out**

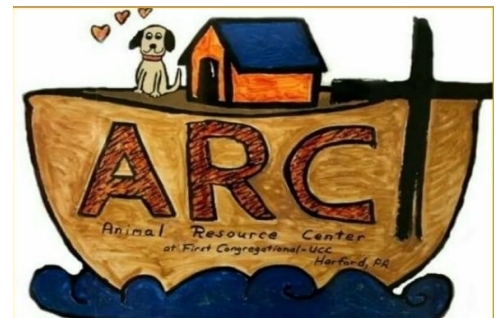
Donation \$10

Pet Blessing

Saturday

November 6, 2021

9:00-11:00



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 \$.75 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 appreciated if you could let the office be aware of where you will be living.

Thanks ever so much, Judy

Correspondence:

August 23, 2021

Hello to All at Harford Congregational,

All of us at Summer Lunch box gratefully acknowledge your recent gift. Thank you for your \$360.00 donation.

Our 2021 Season for food distribution has come to a close. We served 245 children of 102 families this past season, and we did so from 4 different sites in Susquehanna County. Your contribution helped to make our efforts possible and we truly appreciate it.

We are also thankful for your support over a number of years and in various ways. As we prepare for 2022, we ask for continued thoughts and prayers.

Thank you again, Lorraine A. Stanton For Summer Lunch Box

September 17, 2021

First Church,

Thank you for the donations to the Community Shop.

They are a blessing.

Thank you, The Community Shop, Jessica Louderback

9/15/2021

I would like to thank you for sending me the "Spire".

I read it cover to cover and know most people from living in Harford so many years. I'm so happy to see the church is doing so well for everyone. I read Bill's article every week in my paper and find it very interesting every week.

Thanks again for the "Spire". I really appreciate you sending it to me. Pat Forsyth



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 First Congregational Church?

Pastoral Relations is the group that handles all concerns, issues and difficulties that can not be resolved directly. These meetings are confidential. Contact the office if you find that you need to meet with Pastoral Relations at **570-434-2260**.

Home Bound



The Carey Family

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joan Benson

Helen Foster

Joanne Connolly

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

-Lynola and Norma Carey

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addiction

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

-Will's five foster kids

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

-MaryJane Genneken

-Sandy Zupanovich

-Mark Gregory

- health or loss of family pets

- Connie Schulte's son Phil and her parents

- people of Haiti

- friend of George Lotter, Laura C.

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-Howard Poxon

-Walter Poxon's sister Angelika

-son of friends of Christy Komora

-Lois Terrace

-Kandy's friend Mary Keihl (ALS)

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Harry Gardner

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Betty Montalvalo

-Karen Jones relative

-Terry Benedict family

-Kristin Potter

-Christy Komora's friend's son Cael

-Lola Zimmerman

-Lynn Hernandez

-Braxton MacDowell

-Pastor Tim and his church

-The upcoming Sunday School and staff

- Dave Kurosky

-family of Emmett Wilkerson

-Patty Moser and Chris Coates

-friend of Lauri Demark

-Dale and Liz Grant

-Karen Doolittle

-Earl Gow

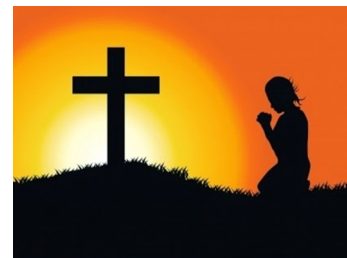
-baby James Trim (cancer)

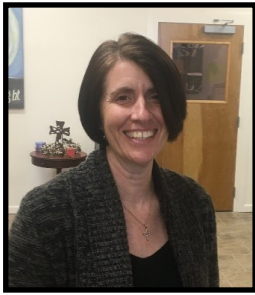
-People in Louisiana

-family of Alice Cavanagh

-Penny Sanauskas (cancer)

-friend of Aubrey Lillian that lost her husband





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 distributions October 22, 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.



Attention!!!!

Carpets will be shampooed on November 10 . Please avoid walking on the carpeted area of the Gathering Room and hall area on November 10.



Directory Update

Mr./Mrs. Kristopher/Breanne Hiller-Kara, Maura

4 Warren Road
Hudson, NH 03051-3975



Bruce Maza
620 Quaker Ridge Ter
Easton, PA 18042-7104

Lynola Carey
Clarks Summit State Hospital
1451 Hillside Drive
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570-587-7117

Fall Meeting of PNEC
November 6, 2021 9:00-4:00

In Allentown, PA

Theme: Grief: Let Go to Move Forward

Register online: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/4175536>



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.



Soup Sale !!!!

Kingsley Willing Workers

Kingsley Willing Workers will be offering a soup sale on November 21, 2021 after worship service.

The sale of the soup will be by **pre-order only**. **Order by November 14, 2021**. Cost will be \$8.00 a quart.

The following soups will be offered at our November 21 soup sale.

Chicken vegetable

Creamy loaded potato

Hot sausage tortellini

Taco soup

Please email Judy or call Judy-570-434-2716 or 570-396-8184

jmm@nep.net with your order.

Men's Breakfast

October 12, 2021

at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.



The second Tuesday of each month.

Calling All Gardeners

The Memorial Garden has been adopted by

Dick and Delores Berish! Thank you!!!

The front landscaping around the church still needs love!

Please call the office if you are willing to

help beautify our Church Grounds. 570-434-2260



Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 2 Ken and Betty Lou Bennett
Brandon Zick

October 4 Cathy Anderson
Wayne and Kandy Wellman

October 7 Dale Ferger
Matthew and Elissa Mitchell
Gary Phillips
Gary and Wendy Phillips

October 10 Ben and Bridget (Zick) Sherring

October 11 Kurt and Titiana MacDowall
Paula Millard

October 12 Craig and Tammy Stout

October 13 Laura Jane Moser

October 16 Buddy and Susan Greene

October 20 Kelly Feduchak
Sharon Kinney
Michelle Masters
Rev. Ghulam Nasrani (93 yrs) see
below for his address

October 23 Rebecca Gardner

October 26 Chad Batzel

October 27 Laurie Grant

October 28 Joyce Berish

October 30 Maureen Warren



Rev. Ghulam Nasrani
31 Federal Hill Road
Oxford
MA 01540-1301

Greeters and Ushers

Oct. 3 - Linda Robinson (greeter)
Loren Robinson (usher)

17 - Kay Gow
Dee Archer

31 - Susan Green
Buddy Green

10 - Leanne Colwell (greeter)
Karen Jones (usher)

24 - Sherry Decker
Karen Jones

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





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

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 November to be included in the Spire to:
Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of October 2021!

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 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.



October 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7:30am Breakfast (Fire) 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Service	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO)	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)		10:00am Pastor in office		7:00am Brooklyn Universalist dinner
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Service 11:05am Membership	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)		10:00am Pastor in office		South Gibson Harvest dinner 9:00am Book Sale (Orphan School)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch (Binghams)	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm Missionary (LH)	4:00pm Clifford Meth (Chick/Bis)	10:00am Pastor in office 6:30pm Stewardship (LH)	4:30pm Weinberg-pick up	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Service 12:00pm Fire Co.	Pastor-vacation 12:00am No Quarterback mtg	Pastor-vacation 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH)	Pastor-vacation 1:00pm Blood Drive (Fire Company)	Pastor-vacation 6:00pm Council (LH)	Pastor-vacation	Pastor-vacation
31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6
Pastor-vacation 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship time 10:00am Service						



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