

Our Spire

**Volume 42
Number 3**

April 2022

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



Pastor's Page:

You, glorious!!!

Glorious? Who actually identifies as that? You may feel good. You may have a great day on occasion. But glorious? Sure, there are glass half full people out there—you may be one of them—but who uses the word glorious to describe how they are?

I am suggesting we all should.

Yes, we experience struggles. We have hard times. I was speaking with a friend yesterday who currently has a lot on her plate. “Don’t even go there,” she seemed to say without using any of those words. She could be grumpy, sour, snarky or snarly. She had reason. But, like me, she is aware of how God sees her—and how God created her. A woman who commits to reading scripture daily, she will tell you what is true. She is glorious.

What makes her glorious is that she is in a covenant relationship with God. This covenant means many things to my friend, but one of the most important pieces is what I just mentioned. She is an enthusiastic Bible reader.

Together, we did discuss the lectionary text for Sunday, March 20. Isaiah 55, our Old Testament passage, presents what delights some and surprises others. Here God is speaking through Prophet Isaiah. God says, “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.... because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious (verses 3, 5 NLT).” Again, I do get it. Some of us rarely—if ever—feel glorious.

So, what is this about? In a world where too much goes too wrong far too quickly (and in this world we all fall short of the glory of God and sin (Romans 3:23)), how do we have the audaciousness to assert we are glorious? Shouldn’t we be humble? As we model our lives after Jesus Christ, who, as our example, entered Jerusalem on Holy Week not on a charging stallion but on a borrowed donkey, aren’t we be in a place of servitude?

Glorious? Really? Us?

Yes. Us.

But we never do this glory solo. In fact, we cannot do this alone.

What I’ve yet to unpack in this portion of Isaiah 55 is that the Lord is promising us the same covenant he promised David. It is through the Lord that we are glorious. Specifically, the Lord sees us, His children, as glorious. As the proud parent, the Lord showers this glory, this shine, and this delight, when with Him, we live out the covenant He extends to us.

Smile as you read this. The Lord sees us with delight, joy and pleasure. Of course, we are not perfect, but the Lord’s perfect love aligns, corrects, guides and uplifts us.

And this? Well, this is glorious!

Pastor's Page Continued:

Let me be clear. The world may never see a Christian glorious, triumphant, or even successful. There are messy moments in this faith. There are hard times. Hurt and heartbreak do not escape those who decide to pick up their cross everyday and follow Jesus.

But that's just stuff.

Any Christian who has been in practice and participation with Christ knows that the riches of this world are just passing delights. It's not that we cannot enjoy these delights, and, oh, yes, there ARE delights, but this isn't life. This life isn't **life**. Here I mean to say that we living for the Kingdom yet to come, not the world that **is**. And for us this is **glorious**.

My call and my challenge to the Christians reading this is to live a **glorious life**. Call the life you've been given by God glorious. Live the life you've been given by God gloriously, and that light—your light which is Christ within you—will light others.



A PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UKRAINE

Lord, Jesus Christ,

You said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27a). We join our prayers to those in the Ukraine who look to the heavens for peace and protection during this time of violence, devastation, and oppression. Boldly, we ask for Your mercy.

We ask—we plead, we implore—that You change the hearts and minds of those who have chosen the path of destruction, not the journey of love, Your love.

Amen.

Neighbors in Need Project

Ukraine

Sponsored by Missionary and Stewardship

Samaritan's Purse has established an Emergency Field Hospital on the outskirts of Lviv, in western Ukraine, to care for those suffering as war rages on. The initial patients arrived on March 14.

The mobile field hospital has two operating rooms, with capacity for 14 major surgeries or 30 minor surgeries per day. There are nearly 60 total inpatient beds, including four intensive care unit beds and four step-down beds. The emergency room can handle 100 patients per day. The facility also has a pharmacy and its own water and sanitation system and Disaster Assistance Response Team members including doctors, nurses, and logistics and other personnel. An additional DC-8 flight on March 8 and a chartered 747 flight on March 10 brought more materials for the hospital. A March 17 DC-8 airlift carried medical supplies destined for Ukrainian hospitals.

Samaritan's Purse is also operating a 24-hour medical clinic at a train station in Lviv, seeing dozens of patients a day at that location, which serves as a triage center and stabilization point. In southern Ukraine, Samaritan's Purse opened an Emergency Outpatient Clinic to provide basic medical services and triage. They are also providing hygiene kits, blankets, and other important items for refugee families and delivering food to local churches are distributing it to fleeing Ukrainians.

Samaritan's Purse has a partner network of 3,200 churches inside Ukraine. As conflict erupted, they were in the process of distributing 600,000 Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes. They remain in contact with ministry partners in the country to see how we can assist during this crisis. Please pray for God to grant them strength and protection.

The world is shocked and horrified by the images of death and destruction coming out of Ukraine, a catastrophe we have not witnessed in Europe since the Second World War. The United Nations reports that more than 2.5 million refugees, primarily women and children, have already left Ukraine seeking shelter in nearby countries. An additional 2 million are displaced within Ukraine.

Please join in praying for the people of Ukraine and for this conflict to end quickly.

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that Your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with the power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that You would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Harford First Congregational Church is collecting funds until April 17, 2022 to be directed to Samaritan's Purse for support of their Humanitarian Relief Program in Ukraine.

Please make checks out to Harford First Congregational Church and put Ukraine in the memo spot or give online at <https://firstchurchharford.com/give>. Select other and put Ukraine in the memo spot.

Christian Education

3-15-22

Letters have been sent to all Sunday School Parents with upcoming events and VBS information. See Spring Happenings at Harford First Congregational Church.

The Easter Sunday School Plan will be covering the Jesus' Resurrection and gift of Salvation followed by a group Easter Egg Hunt.

The Last Day of Sunday School will be May 15: Student recognition and Bible distribution to 3rd grade on up. Sunday School will participate in an all-church covered dish luncheon and cook out.

Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

Multi-Church Vacation Bible School program – summer 2022. We currently have five partners in this endeavor; Harford First Congregational Church, Hop Bottom UMC, Gibson – UMC, South Gibson UMC and Brooklyn Universalist Church.

Below are decisions to be made and some thought process.

Date: Local church's scheduled VBS (New Milford Baptist June 20-24

Bridgewater-Montrose end of July)

School ends the first week in June.

The best date seems to be June 13-17.

Time: There are pros and cons to each suggested time.

10:00-12:30, 1:00-3:30, 5:00-7:30

Survey: We have set up a survey to send to parents in our church to try and figure out the best time.

Link for Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D85ZHF2>

Curriculum: The curriculum needed to be faith strong and Jesus based. It needed to be fun and support staff well. After reviewing the options, we selected "Make Waves" by Orange. It is a water/beach theme with many crafts, games, songs and lessons that should appeal to kids.

The curriculum is set up for rotating stations but it can be modified to our likes. The stations are:

Music, Crafts, Games, Mission, Snack

Staff: We will need two teachers for each station. The mission teachers will accompany the children to every station....like homeroom teachers.

It would be nice to get youth involved to help with the VBS.

Location: Harford First Congregational Church is willing to host the VBS.

Next Steps: Select 1-2 Representatives to help plan the week-long VBS

Find out how many volunteers you can add to the mix

Send the survey out to your parents (only takes about 2-3 minutes to fill out)

All church VBS reps will meet to get this show on the road!!

**Multi-Church
Vacation Bible School**



June 13-17, 2022

Time TBD

Please take the survey to help us pick the best time:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D85ZHF2>

Harford First Congregational Church

Hop Bottom UMC

Gibson UMC

New Milford UMC

South Gibson UMC

Universalist Church - Brooklyn

Deacons
3-20-2022

Attending: Kay Gow, Holli Chichester

(via zoom: Linda Lindsey, Gail Batzel, Will Hagenbuch, Craig Stout, Nancy Burris, Katherine Dolittle)

Fellowship Time: Started up again and is doing well. Supplies are set up prior to Sunday School. Snacks are put away after Sunday School and Coffee supplies are put away after the congregation leaves for the day.

Linda suggested that we leave the hot drink supplies out all week for anyone that would like coffee, tea or hot chocolate. It was discussed and was felt that we should always offer hospitality who any who need it. We will leave the drink supplies out 24/7.

Communion: Need to order more gluten-free communion cups

Lent:

March 16: HOST CHURCH—South Gibson UMC

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

March 23: HOST CHURCH—First UMC New Milford

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

March 30: HOST CHURCH—Harford First Congregational-UCC (live streamed)

Willing Workers supply Donuts, Coffee, Tea
Pastor John Shaffer preaching, Gibson and South Gibson UMC
First Universalist Church Brooklyn, special music

April 6: HOST CHURCH Great Bend UMC

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

April 10: Palm Sunday (Palms have been ordered)

April 14, 2022 - Maundy Thursday: Passover Meal - 6:00pm - Lecture Hall

Kay (lentil) and Katherine (chicken vegetable) will make soup for the Passover meal.
Holli will supply bread and butter. Grape juice, Coffee, Tea and Water will be supplied.

April 17: Easter: Sun Rise Service 7:30am (Holli and Kay)

Regular Service (need one more usher)

Easter Egg Hunt (Judy sponsored by CE during Sunday School time)

Deacons—Continued

New Member Class: Postponed

Will continue to try and attract new members

Spire Ad

Bible Study: Sunday morning 8:45-9:45

Monday Evenings 6:30-8:00 pm

May 15, 2022: Last Day of Sunday School

Church Covered Dish Picnic and Cook Out

Church Supply - (Hot Dogs and Hamburgers)

Details discussed next month

Celebration Cake

Advent Readings: Will wanted assistance with the Advent Candle Liturgy.

Kay will begin work and submit for discussion as Advent nears.

Flowers for the Alter: Currently Kay Jean Bonham are supplying all the Alter Flowers. It was suggested that perhaps we could offer Alter Flower Sponsorships for \$15-\$20. People place the money in the collection with the week they want to sponsor. We get the flowers. More discussion is necessary to work out the details. Tabled until next month so that we can think about it.

Next Month: Bicentennial of the main Sanctuary: June 2022 200 years old

Stewardship wishes to have previous pastors present if possible

Review of First Church Traditions

(roll call, pay for pew, high pulpit)

Pictures, Cake

Next Deacon Meeting: Sunday, April 24 at 6:00 pm (zoom and in person)



Spire Sponsor

**In Honor of
Carolyn Tripp Loch
and Gus E. Loch, Jr's
60th wedding anniversary
on April 28, 2022
-Carolyn Loch**

Pastor's Report: I have become the chairperson of the Route 11 Ministerium as it is back from its hiatus due to Covid. The ministers in the churches that comprise the group are as follows:

Pastor Laura Kincaid, First UMC New Milford
Pastor Deborah Borrelli, Hop Bottom and Kingsley UMC
Pastor Ho-Shik Kang, Great Bend United Methodist Church
Pastor John Shaffer, Gibson and South Gibson UMC
Pastor Lucas Taylor, First Universalist Church Brooklyn

Our concerns about Covid marked our first virtual meeting, which we held in late February.

Due to snowy weather, our first ecumenical Wednesday evening worship service scheduled for March 9th was cancelled. I was to preach then. I was requested to preach the following Wednesday, March 16th, and did so. Our choir sang that evening.

At the time of this report, the ministerium had its second Wednesday evening worship service at the New Milford Methodist church (March 23). It was very well attended. A joy of mine—and I imagine everyone else's—was to sing dear, treasured hymns around a sermon by Ho-Shik Kang that calls us to wear the marks of Jesus on our hearts.

I believe (and have experienced firsthand) that membership in a church is a way to cultivate Christian faith. This commitment to Christ strengthens the relationships we have with Christ, the church, and each other. Our church is in the process of growing Christians in an age where faith formation (and faith information) is readily found from many sources—podcasts, links, radio, social media, etc. Add to this that commitment now doesn't mean what it did 20 to 30 years ago. What, then, does commitment mean today? I believe we at Harford First Congregational-UCC need to remain committed to reaching people who come to the church with Christ's love. How do we do this? One, we return to church if we have been absent. Two, we keep in our prayers those who are close to membership. Three, we pray that God draws potential new members to us. Four, we foster and encourage those who come to church to the faith we have. And five, we trust prayer! It works!

It is my prayer that a new membership class happens as Covid cases lessen and social gatherings are safe. I have asked individuals if they are interested in joining the church as members. We remain in conversation about this and trust God's timing.

Covid and the concerns around it are quieting down. Safe and socially distant visits with shut-ins is easier now.

Two differences mark Lent at the pulpit this year. First, I have been wearing Mark Allen's minister's robe during Lent. This robe has been a gift to me. Second, I have been reading the scripture during worship. This change reflects our church's longstanding history and the reverence of Lent.

I'll be preaching at both the sunrise and 10 AM Easter Sunday service. The 7:30 AM sunrise service is a special, meaningful one. The 10 AM service presents great opportunities to witness, preach and teach Jesus' unending, rise-from-the-dead love. My prayer is that this Easter Sunday we move our own stones from personal graves we have been behind and return to Christ with appreciation, dedication, and celebration.

I will be taking an online class called "The Balancing Act: 3 Tensions Facing Churches this Easter." This course speaks to church leaders and presents opportunities to reconnect and rebuild church life in the wake of the pandemic. The course promises to share practical tips about reaching people online and engaging Gen Z.

I close this report with prayers of appreciation to our council and to our congregation. Let us continue to love as Christ loves us.

Finance Report:

To make expenses every month (electric, payroll, office, programs, etc.) we need \$122,968.75 in 2022.

	2021	2022	YTD
February Income:	\$7,973.50	Income: \$16,320.45	Income: \$39,349.18
		** Income includes a one time \$10,000 donation	
Expense:	\$9,482.85	Expense: \$9,427.27	Expense: \$19,507.04
Total:	-\$1,509.35	Total: \$6,893.18	Total: \$19,842.14 (includes \$10,000 donation)
		** Total includes a one time \$10,000 donation	

Missionary—3-15-2022

Attending: Ellen Holdredge, Maureen Holdredge, Kay Gow, Wendy Phillips, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Sherry Decker, Karen Jones

Opened Meeting in Prayer: Priscilla Allen

Next Council – March 24, Rep- Sherry Decker

Care Package: Mailed Evan Clarkson’s Care Package

Note for next time: Overseas packages must be itemized.

Treasure’s Report: \$1266.08 starting

+20 (15 dues, 5 Least coin)

Least Coin: Wendy Reported on Least Coin in Serbia. \$3370 from Least Coin went to give 55 women Gynecological exams and mammograms, 130 lab exams.

In France: 93000 Afghan refugees.

Correspondence: In: None, Out: 5 get well

Soup Ministry: 1 out

Ukraine: Stewardship wants to join with Missionary in sponsoring an aid program. Samaritan’s Purse has launched a Mobile Field Hospital to Poland with many mobile field clinics. Samaritan’s Purse is a four-star Charity with their own ability to transport supplies.

Stewardship will launch the Neighbors in Need program to bring in funds. These funds will be channeled to Samaritan’s Purse in one month. March 20 -April 17.

Will Give \$500 to Samaritan’s Purse.

Future Events: May 17th Bake Sale

Closed in Prayer.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2022

Trustee Minutes March 14, 2022

The trustees met with 5 members in attendance: Gary Housel, Harry Gardener, Irv Needham, Bill Chichester, and Kandy Wellman.

Parking Lot: We are on the schedule to have additional parking areas completed this summer. We are going to seek advice on redesigning the parking layout.

Lighting: Gary installed a new porch light on the side entrance. It provides much more light onto the driveway for safety of those walking to their cars at night.

Cameras: There is an issue with wiring the security cameras to the monitor. We are working on resolving them.

Lecture Hall Porch: The porch is in need of repair. We will be seeking bids to have the porch deck replaced with composite planking.

Spring Cleanup: A reminder that spring cleanup is scheduled for April 23rd with a rain date of April 30th. Gary has put in a request to the fire company to hose off the stones from the driveway and parking lot area.

Stewardship Minutes 2-17-22

Attending: Shirley Masters, Joe Metzler, Wendy Phillips, Connie Breeses, Julia Gardner, Ellen Holdredge, Peg Empet, Will Hagenbuch, Michelle Estabrook, Kay Gow

200 Anniversary of the Sanctuary—June. Celebrate gifts of the past, present and future generation of congregants. Possibly invite past ministers. Date June 26, 2022

Reviewed income and expenses—Julia Gardner

Officers: Chairperson—Shirley Masters
Secretary—Kay Gow
Rep to Council—Michelle Estabrook

Vice-Chair—Michelle Estabrook
Asst Sec—Wendy Phillips

Next Meeting: March 21, 2022

Stewardship Minutes—2- 21-22

Present were Shirley Masters, Ellen Holdredge, Michelle Estabrook, Connie Breese, Joe Metzler, Julia Gardner, Rev. Dr. Will Hagenbuch, and Kay Gow.

The meeting opened in prayer with Will reading Psalm 32.

Will brought the idea of the Stewardship and Deacon committees being more glorious to the community. Also he told us that our conference minister, Rev Dr. Bonnie Bates, can come and speak to the congregation on May 22nd. It was also decided that the Stewardship and Financial Committees should have a meal with her after the service. Some of the things we thought might be able to discuss with her were finances and legacy and perhaps get some ideas for the Fall Campaign. Shirley asked us to think about any other ideas we would like to discuss and bring them to the next meeting.

We also asked about what the financial committee had come up with to help with the church's financial situation. It was reported Will and have him call Cindy Beeman and see when in September she can come.

The next two meeting dates were set. April 20th and May 18th @ 6:30.

More Council Minutes:

Choir: Practicing. Singing at the Masonic Temple April 2, 2022.

Church Cupboard: 1 Family

Cradle Roll: 2 Families served

Historian: February averaged 40 persons, March averaged 34 persons

Pastor Relations: No Meeting. Pastor Relations needs 5 persons on the committee. With one rotating off every year and one new person coming on board. They currently have only three. Efforts will be made to correct this situation.

Tech: Gus Ferrara is working on getting and installing a directional microphone for the choir.

Shane Toolan and Mikaela Stout have been invaluable in running the Sunday Worship live-stream and sanctuary monitors. Thank you !!!

Willing Workers: Roast Beef Dinner is April 9, 2022 3:00-5:30 pick-up. Still need bar cooky makers.

Lenten Service is at Harford April 30, 2022. We are supplying refreshments.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2022 at 6:00.

Church Spring Clean Up Day



April 23, 2022 9:00am

***rain date April 30th

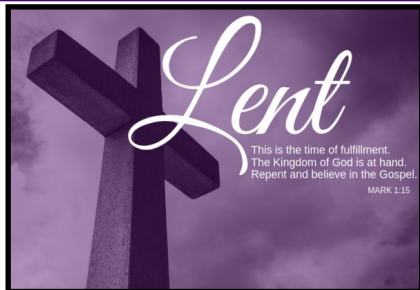


Dinner and a Show!



Saturday, March 19th there was an Irish Dinner and Dance in the lecture hall. There were two shows, one beginning at 3:30pm and the other at 5:30pm. The Windwood Hill Dance Academy held the event. It began with an Irish dinner of Ham, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread and an array of desserts. Then the Irish dancers took over, ranging from elementary through high school age. They did a total of twelve different dances and the Dance Teacher, Bobbi Jo Kelsey, sang an Irish number accompanied by her sisters on banjo and guitar. The Dance academy crew was very thankful to the church membership for allowing them to have this event at the church. Our own Chelsea Empet and Mikaela Stout are part of the Irish dance group!





Lenten Service Schedule

The Route 11 Corridor Ministerium returns! This year we pick up the tradition that was cancelled last year due to the severity of Covid. The churches and the pastors have set out a schedule for us during the weeks of Lent. Each church hosts its own Ash Wednesday service. The following five Wednesdays we will be meeting in the churches that comprise the ministerium. Each Wednesday night service begins at 6 PM.

Masks are strongly encouraged. Each church will have what we're calling a "Safety Zone" where everyone in this section of seating will be wearing a mask. The pastors also decided that there will be light refreshments following each service.

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

- March 30: **HOST CHURCH**—Harford First Congregational-UCC
 Pastor John Shaffer preaching, Gibson and South Gibson UMC
 First Universalist Church Brooklyn, special music
- April 6: **HOST CHURCH** Great Bend UMC
 Pastor Laura Kincaid preaching, First UMC New Milford
 Special music - Open to where the Spirit leads!
- April 10 Palm Sunday 10:00 Harford
 April 14 Maundy Thursday—Passover Meal and Communion 6:00 Harford
 April 17 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 Harford
 Sunday School 9:00
 Worship 10:00

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



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



New Members Class

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

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

Pastor William Hagenbuch and a Deacon will lead the classes with representatives from many of our groups and committees. There will be five classes . Lunch will be provided.

Topics: History of UCC, History of Harford First Congregational

Structure and Operation of our church, Sacraments and Rituals

Embracing the Differences and Coming together in Love

Personal Faith Journey

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



Join Us for Ugly Quilts

Tuesdays 9:15 - 1:00

No Sewing skill require



Fun, Friends and Fulfillment as we make sleeping bags for the homeless.



It's a Girl!!!

Congratulations to proud parents
Josh and Melissa Wallis

on the birth of their baby girl Willow Rayne.

Willow arrived on February 3, 2022 weighing 7lb 15.8 oz
and 20 inches long.

Congratulations also go to the proud grandparent Gina Yarrish.

Directory Update



Katelyn Briggs/Zack Smith and
Bristol Laine Smith
767 Richardson Road
New Milford, PA 18834

Mr./Mrs. Jack/Caroline Allen
1280 Cudo Road
Montrose, PA 18801

Dale and Kathi Ferger
1439 Whispering Pines Loop
Frostproof, FL 33843
dferger01@gmail.com

Martin and Kathy Brown
10 Mountain Vista Lane
Great Bend, PA 18821

Cathy Megivern
99 Jackson Street
Thompson, PA 18465
570-442-1332

Stacy Decker
681 Schoolhouse Road
Clifford Township, PA 18470
570-650-9199

Spring Happenings at Harford First Congregational Church

April 9, 2022	Roast Beef Dinner pick up 3:00-5:30
April 10, 2022	Palm Sunday
April 14, 2022	Maundy Thursday Service and Meal 6:00pm
April 17, 2022	Easter Sunday Sunrise service 7:30am Sunday School 9:00am Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School Worship 10am
May 8, 2022	Mother's Day—No Sunday School
May 15, 2022	Last Day of Sunday School 9:00 Sunday School Recognition and promotion Church Picnic 11:00 – 1:00 3rd Grade on up receive Bibles
June 11, 2022	Golf Tournament—Tall Pines
June 13-17	Make Waves VBS –Time TBD



Soup Ministry

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

Attention Snow Birds and Travelers!!!

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



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

Bible Study

Meeting the Spirit — Bible Study

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

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you! Sundays at 8:45am.

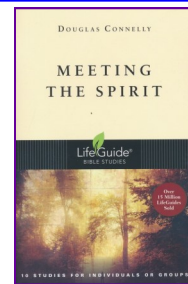
You can enter the Bible Study at any time so newcomers are welcome!

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

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

Tel.570-434-2260

Email: firstch@nep.net



Correspondence

Dear People,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers! They are my favorite!

I read the Pastor's page all the Time in the Independent.

Thanks again. God Bless, Joyce Hilton

682 Church Street Apt. 301

New Milford, PA 18834

Cradle Roll,

Thank you so much for the beautiful hand-made blanket for Lydia Jaye.

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Kari and Michael Zeshonski

First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for the hand-made blanket. Matteo has already used it to stay warm! The Blanket is wonderfully knitted and will surely be in Matteo's life for a long time to come.

Thank you for your support!

Matteo, Gia and Mark (Wendy Phillip's son and family)

Dear Everyone at Church,

For all the special things you do, for all the wonderful things you are-

Thank you.

The flowers from the "Secret Donor", were just beautiful! God Bless!

Lynnette Millard

Yard Sale



We are collecting yard sale items for our huge yard sale fund raiser September 2-3, 2022.

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

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

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

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



Celebrate the joys in life!

Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births, graduations and let us celebrate with you!

Contact Tammy at 570-396-7081

for more information or to request your celebration sign.

Problems or Issues regarding

Harford First Congregational Church—UCC?

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

Attention!

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

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

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

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

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



Men's Breakfast

April 12, 2022
at 7:30am

at Bingham's Restaurant.

The second Tuesday of each
month.



Calling All Gardeners

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

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

570-434-2260



Home Bound



Lynola Carey

Barbara Pease

Martha Jenkins

Dorothy Greene

Joanne Connolly

Norma Carey

Helen Foster

Lou and John Zimmerman

Prayer Concerns



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

-We pray for our national and local leaders

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

-Craig Stout and Family

-for those with medical issues large and small

-for those affected in anyway by the COVID virus

-David and Brandy and family

-Those with Alzheimer's and their families

-those experiencing financial pressures

-those fighting addiction

-Lois Gibson and Helen Foster and all those in nursing homes along with their families

-Will's five foster kids

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

-Sandy Zupanovich

-health or loss of family pets

-Connie Schulte's son Phil

-Gregg Symuleski and family

-Nancy Marr

-Makel Silfee

-law enforcement officers

-emergency volunteers

-hospital workers

-fire personnel

-George Weideman

-Jim McDonald

-Nicole Rosa

-Small businesses struggling

-Patrick Simons

-Linda Lindsey

-Sal Armetta and family

-Steve Holtsmaster

-Karen Jones relative

-Lola and John Zimmerman

-Joe McGivern's family

-Lynn Hernandez

-Braxton MacDowell

-Karen Doolittle

-Earl Gow

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

-Paula Adams

-Chris (Paula Smith's brother)

-Family of Maryanne Oakley

-Mandi Batzel

-Ginny and Charlie Ahearn

-Gift of Life Program (Organ Donation)

-Hunter (Gail Batzel's grandson)

-Aubrey Daniels daughter Harper

-Andy Granick

-Mark Gregory

-Scott Mitchell family

-Family of Ted Kittrinos

-Family of Jesse Manzer

-Brooklyn Universalist Church

-Richie Masters

-Margaret Frederick

-Willard Tingley



Weinberg Food Bank

Harford First Congregational Church

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

Next distributions Friday, April 22, 2022 rom 4:30-5:30

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



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



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

April Greeters and Ushers

April 3 - Randy Decker (Greeter)
Karen Jones (Usher)

April 17- Bill Chichester (Greeter)
Kay Gow (Usher)
Doolittle Family Narthex

April 10- Priscilla Allen (Greeter)
Nancy Burris (Usher)

April 24- Sue Needham (Greeter)
Irv Needham (Usher)

Spire Sponsors

We **need Sponsors** to help us cover the cost of printing and mailing the Spire. Please let us know if you can help. The sponsorship can be in Memory or in Honor of someone or just a donation.

Mailing costs approximately \$75/month. Please send to: Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

PO Box 217

Harford, PA 18823

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

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of April 2022!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Memorial Plaque Information

Are you interested in having a plaque attached to the memorial stone in the memorial garden? One may have a plaque ordered by doing the following:

Cost---\$25.00

Send check (made out to Harford First Congregational Church -UCC) along with name of person and the year of birth and the year they passed away to the office.

The office will then proceed to order the plaque and have it placed on the stone. Thank you.



Harford First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2022 9am



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



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

Holli Chichester: hollischichester@gmail.com

570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775

To benefit First Congregational Church





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

Saturday June 11, 2022 9am shotgun start



Hole Sponsor/Memorial Level:

GOLD-\$200

SILVER-\$100

BRONZE-\$50

Your Name _____

Address _____

Information for the Sign _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN



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

Saturday June 11, 2022 9:00am shotgun start



Golf Team Registration

Team Captain _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Team Players: _____

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

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENTER A TEAM AND

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN

\$95 per Golfer = \$380 per Team

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament



Harford First Congregational Church
Willing Workers
Harford, PA

ROAST BEEF DINNER

April 9, 2022



Roast Beef and Gravy
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Roll
Large Bar Cookie



Presale/Take out only

Order by April 2, 2022

Drive by pick up from 3-5:30 pm

Call Holli at 570-851-5109 or
text 301-643-1775 to order tickets.

Make checks payable to "Willing Workers"

Adults: \$14.00

Children under 12: \$6.00

April 2022

May 2022

April 2022

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

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
7:30am Fire Co. 8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service	9:30am Quarterback 4:00pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Mtg-Justice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Harford Fair mtg	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir	6:00pm Lenten Service (Great Bend Community)	10:00am Pastor in office	8	3:30pm Pascal Lamb (Masonic Temple)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Trustees (PO)	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Binghams) 9:00am Pastoral 9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm Choir	10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Passover supper (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Passover supper (LH)	15	3:00pm Roast Beef Dinner (drive by//pick up)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7:30am Sunrise Service 8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 12:00pm Ladies lunch 4:00pm Bell Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	9:30am Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm Missionary (LH) 6:00pm Choir	6:30pm Stewardship (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office	22	9:00am Church Cleanup
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	9:30am LAST Ugly Quilts til Sept (LH) 6:00pm Choir	10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	10:00am Pastor in office 6:00pm Council (LH)	29	Rain date-clean up
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45am Bible Study 9:00am SS (LH) 9:30am Fellowship Time 10:00am Service 6:30pm Deacons (PO)	9:30am Quarterback mtg (PO) 4:00pm Bell Practice (Balcony) 6:30pm Bible Study					



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