

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



Our Spire

Volume 44 # 2

March 2024

Pastor's Page: With the lyrics, "Christ the Lord is Risen today..."

Easter is approaching. Soon we will sing, "Christ the Lord is risen today! Hallelujah!" You know this tune! What a rousing melody! Is this more than a melody though? Are we living the message that Christ HAS risen?" If so, where does this show?

Smile. These are not daunting questions. These are delightful questions!



Sometimes many of us can feel tight about living the life of a resurrected Savior. It's too challenging, we say. It's too awkward. Sure, it's a nice goal, but like a gym membership at the beginning of the new year (that quickly becomes something we do maintain), we simply shy away from saying and living the life of a people following the One who conquered sin and death not only for Himself, but also for each of us.

This news of conquering sin and death? Yes, this news deserves the word, "Hallelujah!"

Consider that the death of sin and resurrection of Jesus is the heartbeat of the church here in Harford. This IS the very identity of the church, the common (or I say the holy) ground on which we stand. Our risen Lord is what we can share excitedly, passionately, and completely.

And that's why I am asking you to invite at least five people to come to one or both of the Easter services this year. (The sunrise service is at 7 AM and our main worship is at 10 AM.)

Talk to your neighbors, coworkers, friends, family, and even strangers. With a warm and open heart, invite them to hear the good news. That's the mission. Specifically, that's our mission.

Hear yourself say these words. "Come to church with me." In the days ahead, hear these words over and over in your mind. Practice them. Own them. Become comfortable with them. Let them become a part of you. "Come to church with me."

Holy Week will be upon us. There is no other time when the evil one will seek to exploit our weaknesses and insecurities. He will agitate us, press us where it hurts and enflame our passions and our pride. He will find old wounds. He will open our fear of sharing our faith.

The enemy we heard of on February 18, 2024 (the first Sunday of Lent this year) will seek to divide us and stifle us. He wants to drown out the message of hope and eternal life that begins here and now. The enemy wants to push people back into the darkness.

Let's not do this. Let's not let this happen. Instead, let's hear that melody again. Christ the Lord IS risen today!"

Pastor's Page Continued:

Let's realize this risen Christ raises you! He lifts you!

How so? Christ Jesus brings new life to us through redemption and forgiveness. His awesome mercies are also new every morning. "If you confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Let us confess. With faithfulness, let us also share what arrives on March 31st this year, Easter Sunday. Christ the Lord IS risen! This is our celebration! This is Christ's victory in us and for us. Hallelujah!

In the Spirit that is Easter, let us pray for one another as this Sunday comes our way. What a gift this is. Pray for church revival and attendance. And for the spirit among us! Pray that each of us has the strength to stand and the confidence in the mission and kingdom of God.

Also pray for me, your pastor. Pray I will be strengthened in the Lord to resist the devil and to proclaim the righteousness of Christ to all who come. Pray that we would act in love and unity toward one another (1 Corinthians 1:10) and that we would be gracious towards outsiders (Colossians 4:5). Pray that we might be the display of the grace of God in Jesus Christ that we are meant to be as the church. Pray that we might resist the devil, that he would flee from us (James 4:7).

This hymn is so true, and this hymn is ours (and ours to share). Christ the Lord IS risen today!

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.

Very Tentative Lenten Schedule

All Services are at 6:00pm

March 6th

St. Mark's Episcopal Church hosts
Pastor William Hagenbuch preaches
Special Music—Harford Church



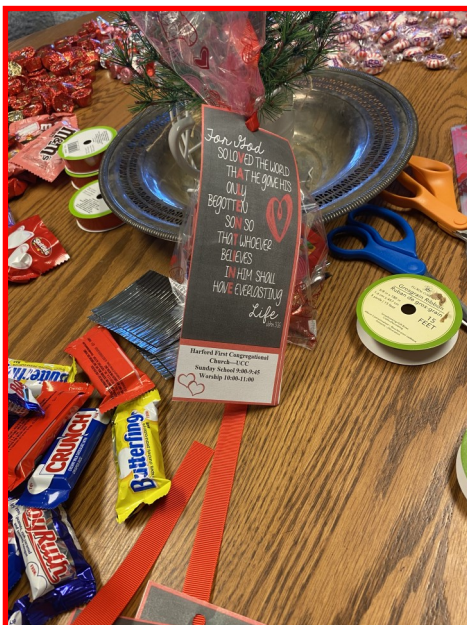
March 13th

First Church Harford Congregational-UCC hosts
Pastor Annette Zrowka preaches
Special Music—?

March 20th

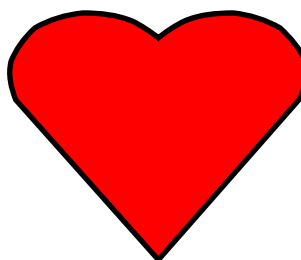
New Milford Methodist Church hosts
Pastor Lou Divis preaches
Special music —Gibson Methodist Chior

**Because of the tentative nature of this schedule... please check on the location prior to leaving for the service



Deacon's Valentine Outreach.

Each church attendee on February 11, 2024 was encouraged to take a Valentine Goodie Bag to share with someone that needed a little love!. The Harford Village Apartment residents each received a goodie bag.





Praising God for a new record of shoebox gifts in 2023!

The numbers are in! Join us in praising God for 11,330,126 shoebox gifts collected worldwide in 2023, and 10,051,570 in the U.S., the most that have ever been packed and donated nationwide. Each of the 11,330,126 shoeboxes represents a child and a Gospel opportunity made possible through your partnership in ministry. We praise God for you!

Millions of these children will go on to complete The Greatest Journey discipleship program, learning from faithful Ministry Partners in their region about how to follow Christ and share the Gospel with friends and family.

Connect Volunteers, God has blessed your sacrifices of time and service this past year. We thank Him for using your many hours of hard work to raise up a record-breaking collection of Gospel opportunities that are now headed to over 100 nations around the world!

Please continue to pray with us. We are asking God to open the hearts of these children and their families to receive the Gospel in faith. Please also pray for the Ministry Partners who will be leading outreach events and teaching discipleship classes throughout the year.

We eagerly anticipate seeing how God will advance His Kingdom through these shoebox gifts this year. It is a privilege to serve alongside you in this ministry.

Missionary Minutes— 2-20-24

Attending: Karen Jones, Ellen Holdredge, Laurie Grant, Sherry Decker, Linda Van Gorden, Wendy Phillips, Kay Gow, Priscilla Allen

Opened with Prayer: Karen Jones

Council Minutes Report was Read.

Treasurer's Report: Sherry Decker Least Coin and Dues: in \$101.00
Out: Senior Food Box \$500
Total: \$8003.05

Least Coin: Wendy Phillips The Least Coin Website has not been updated in a while. Prayers given for Ukraine and the emergency at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Correspondence: In: Daily Bread, Samaritan's Purse

Out: Ainsley Allen, Sandy Zupanovich, Healy Family

New Business: Sandy Zupanovich has a list of items still needed to replace items lost in the explosion. It was voted on and passed to donate \$500.00 to help her with these things.

The Healy family had a **home fire** and has no insurance. None of the furniture for the yard sale is appropriate to their needs. Missionary voted to provide \$500 to the family.

Shower of Blessings (Women' Resource Center): April 17, 2024 at 7pm. North Harford Willing Workers.

Bountiful Blessings: Interfaith – sends Easter items to over 1000 families. Missionary will donate \$100.00

Packed Military Care Package for Ainsley Allen.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2024

Other Council NEWS

Tech: Council voted to get a digital mixer for the sound box with Bluetooth controls operated from the balcony. Memorial money will be utilized. The pastor's microphone has not worked the past three weeks. New rechargeable batteries will be purchased to determine if that is the issue.

Color Printer: Our printer is on its last legs and will need to be replaced in the next few months. Our printer rep is looking for a good condition used color printer.

Other: The front doors of the sanctuary will remain locked for the time being as they are flung open by the wind. A sign will direct persons to the double-glass doors.

Willing Workers: Purchasing knives for the fair. Donated \$200 to the Senior Box Program. Willing Workers we host the March 13,, 2024 Lenten service refreshments. Next meeting May 1, 2024.

Choir: The choir will perform at the Feast of the Pascal Lamb on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 3:00.

Missionary Minutes - 1-30-24

Attending: Ellen Holdredge, Karen Jones, Laurie Grant, Michelle Estabrook, Sherry Decker Kay Gow, Sharon Kinney, Priscilla Allen, Holli Chichester, Wendy Phillips

Opened with Prayer: Karen Jones

Minutes: Read and Accepted - Holli Chichester

Treasurer's Minutes: Read and Accepted – Sherry Decker

\$300 to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

\$300 Interfaith Fuel Fund

In: Dues and Least Coin + \$48.00

Least Coin: Wendy Phillips. The World Council of Churches and Just Community of Women and Men – Program on Sexual Exploitation.

The Grant level has increased from \$3000 to \$4500 for approved programs.

Correspondence: Thank You note and check from Mrs. Maza.

Thank you from The Women's Resource Center and Interfaith.

Correspondence out: 5 notes to persons

New Business: Senior Boxes: A Weinberg Program for those over 60 years. Food is considered ready to heat and eat. The Summer Lunch Box staff will host a local distribution site and provide delivery for persons in the Harford Village Apartments, Kime Apartments in Great Bend, Emerson Apartments in Hallstead and Creekside Apartment in New Milford. Voted to donate \$500 for extras.

Shower for Women's Resource Center in April 17. Voted to provide 12 - \$25 gas cards to Pump and Pantry.

Military Care Box: For Ainsley Allen :Amazon Card, Nerds Gummy Clusters, Mac and Cheese, Cheetos,
Art Supplies, Animal Crackers

Council Rep: Peg – February

Next Meeting: February 20

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.

January	2023	January	2024
Income:	\$14,243.41	Income:	\$13,810.16
Expense:	\$15,142.53	Expense:	\$10,724.97
Total:	-\$ 899.12	Total:	\$ 3,085.19

Year to Date 2024–General Fund:	Income:	\$13,810.16
	Expense:	\$10,724.97
	Total:	\$ 3,085.19

Pastor's Report:

THE ROUTE 11 MINISTERIUM: Pastors in the ministerium have met three times by Zoom to discuss how to go about meeting the needs of those in our area who come to us for financial help. We also discussed our Wednesday evening Lenten theme. With prayer, we decided on "Being a Part of the Crowd: we are still on our way to the cross." Each week, pastors delivering the sermon will center their time at the pulpit with different characters that contribute to Holy Week. Pastor Laura Kincaid takes the role of Simon. Pastor James Kincaid takes the role of the Roman Centurion. I take the role of Judas. Pastor Annette Zrowka takes on the role of Mary, Jesus' mother. Pastor Lou Divis takes the role of the woman who wipes Jesus' face. I will preach on Wednesday, March 6th at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in New Milford. Rumor has it some great donuts will be served following the Wednesday night service in our church on Wednesday, the 17th. The fellowship of the group is now like the groups of the past. We enjoy each other's company personally and pastorally.

PASTORAL RELATIONS: We never go into any public detail into what we discuss at our monthly meetings. We can't do this, of course, but I can share that I value this group for its caregiving for you, the congregation, and me, the pastor. The nature of our business can be very personal, and I want to share that the team at the table approaches all matters with love, concern, and consideration. I feel this is a great team because the team has the best interests of the congregation in mind. They also have the best interests of me in mind. I experience this group to be thoughtful, patient, discerning, sensitive and, above all, caring.

THE WHAT'S LOVE SERMON SERIES: The 4-part February sermon series just concluded. I found this to be challenging series for you, as a congregation, and me, as a pastor. WHAT does love do? Together, we grappled with other challenging theological questions to help us understand that God, who is Love, creates opportunities for us to do His love, speak His love, and live His love. We learned that love has a presence, and even a personality in that it seems to speak into situations where wrongs can be made right, or injustices can come to peace.

THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: The deacons decided to have a Good Friday service this year, which will take place at 6 PM. I will preach this night. Join us for this meaningful service of power, passion, and a love of Jesus we will not only receive but also value each day forward.

EASTER SERVICES AT 7 AM AT 10 AM: I will also preach at both the 7 AM and 10 AM Easter morning services. I find this an incredible and beautiful challenge. My prayer and goal each year always stays the same: to bring the living Word of God to God's people in a way that makes eternal life with our Savior obtainable, understandable, applicable and wonderful. This is not a tall order. It's a gift not just to me, but to us all.

EMAIL BOTCHES? Sometimes my gmail address works. You receive email from my gmail address (pastor.will@firstchurchharford.com). Sometimes my gmail does not reach you. We are working on fixing this issue.

HOW TO CHURCH VIDEO: Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates asked me directly to be a part of an evangelical video project appropriate for today's church. Recently, I worked with two UCC pastors in our conference who created a platform to discuss ways churches respond to communities in Christian love through outreach. My part of the project was to video record my responses to three questions that engage the topic of "how to church." My video was sliced and integrated into a live panel discussion with four Penn Northeast pastors that became a YouTube video. The link to this video can be found at [How to Church... I Wish I Knew More About Community Engagement \(youtube.com\)](#).

PRAYERS TO OUR PEOPLE: We each carry a cross. Burdens belong to each of us each day. The joy of prayer and a connection to each other through Christ also belongs to us. The strength of a congregation this size is our care and ability to genuinely reach out to others through conversation and prayer.

As we move closer to the meaning of Jesus' cross and the empty tomb, take a moment now (as in right now!). Pause and pray for this church family and others you know who need to experience the love of our Savior today. May the Lord draw you closer to our Savior who does just that, saves.

Harford First Congregational Church-UCC

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Harford First Congregational Church-UCC was held in the sanctuary following church on Sunday, January 28, 2024 beginning at 11:10AM. Before called the meeting to order, moderator, Dave Schulte explained that at last year's Annual Meeting he asked about live streaming the meeting. Dave then asked the group, "All in favor of live streaming the annual meeting, vote with a show of hands." 16 or so voted yes, 1 voted no, the rest abstained. Passed. At that point, Tammy Stout began the live streaming. There were 29 signatures on the sign-in attendance sheet.

Minutes of last year's meeting: A motion was made by Kay Gow with a second by Sue Needham that the minutes be accepted as printed. Passed

Auditor's report as submitted (read by Sharon Decker): "The financial records of Harford First Congregational Church were audited on January 20, 2024 for the year 2023. They have been found to be in perfect order. Treasurer Julia Gardner and Assistant Treasurer Connie Breese are to be commended for the outstanding job."

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Feduchak, Auditor & Bonnie Phelps, Assistant Auditor

Pastor's Report: No additional comment.

Financial Secretary: Judy Mitchell distributed a breakdown of the 29 pledges that have been submitted for 2024. Pledges to: General-\$104,210; OCWM-\$4,260; Capital-\$2,180; Technical-\$120; Music-\$60; Flowers-\$60; Office Equipment-\$780, Building-\$260. She commented that "people seemed to be digging deeper in their pockets this year."

Treasurer's Report: Church treasurer, Julia Gardner, distributed a new Financial Summary as of 12/31/2023 report. There were several changes to the one in the 2023 Annual Report. Changes Noted: In the Liquid Assets Section, Memorial Fund total changed from \$19,157.86 to \$19,508.64. Equitrust 1 interest changed from \$485.81 to \$924.90. The Memorial Fund at Peoples had changes: Contributions were changed from \$7,871.00 to \$8,221.00. This changed the balance from \$19,157.86 to \$19,508.64.

Bell Choir: Earl Cottrell added to the report that recently council had agreed to use Memorial Fund money to buy tone chimes to expand the scope and hopefully incorporate some children into playing bells. David mentioned that the church had spent a considerable amount to have bells refurbished and he was excited that they were in use. He mentioned that "Ginny Ahearn would have been thrilled as she liked it most".

Choir: Kandy Wellman added that choir has fun and often some sweet snacks.

Christian Education: No additional comments. Dave thanked Holli for her untiring work.

Church Cupboard: No additional comments.

Clerk: It was suggested that in addition to telling who got married, the report either tells where it happened or at least if the marriage was performed at the church.

Council: No additional comments.

Cradle Roll: No additional comments.

Deacons: No additional comments.

Game On: Inactive

Historian: No additional comments.

Missionary: No additional comments.

Nominating: Wendy Phillips announced that Donna Schulze and Dee Archer have agreed to serve on Stewardship and Marge Tator will be the brand new person on Deacons. Dave asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. He asked 3 times as per the bylaws. Hearing none, he declared the nominations closed. Ellen Holdredge, as acting clerk, declared the nominees elected. Dave thanked people for their willingness to serve but reminded them that they needed to attend the meetings.

Pastoral Relations: No additional comments.

Stewardship: No additional comments.

Technical: No additional comments.

Trustees: Maureen Warren had contacted Kandy Wellman (as a member of Trustee committee). Maureen was concerned that working on the main outside front doors would detract from the historical nature of the church. She wanted those present at the annual meeting to vote on the issue. Council had already voted to approve the work but the matter was opened up to explanation and discussion. Harry Gardner explained that the front doors are warped and do not shut securely. The plan is to use the doors that are there but make the working part of the doors shorter. Irv Needham mentioned that the plan is to straighten and tighten the doors. Kandy Wellman made a motion to repair the doors using the original doors. Second by Nancy Burris. Passed.

Quarterback: No additional comments.

Ugly Quilts: No additional comments.

Weinberg: Dave commended Tammy for doing a great job.

Willing Workers: No additional comments.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dave thanked Judy Mitchell, Julia Gardner, and all others who had a part in putting the Annual Report together.

Kay Gow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Burris second. Passed. Pastor Will offered a prayer. Meeting Adjourned at 11:31.

Respectfully Submitted, Ellen Holdredge, Acting Clerk

CHORAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES LENTEN CONCERT

In a 75-year tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through music, the Catholic Choral Society will present their annual Lenten concert at St Martens Church, Jackson, Pennsylvania. The concert will be held on Sunday, March 10 at 4 PM at. The pastor of the church is Reverend John C Ruth.

The concerts are open to the public free of charge. There will be a goodwill offering.

Brenda Grunza and Lois Ostrowski are co-presidents of the Catholic Choral Society. Ann Manganiello is the music director of this group while Linda Houck is accompanist. The group, marking its 75th season, is composed of members from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. They will perform inspirational music in the Lenten tradition at the March concert. Further information may be obtained by calling 570-575-1040 and also at www.catholicchoralsociety.org.



Bake Sale & Baked Potato Sale

North Harford Willing Workers
at Harford Vol Fire Dept. BBQ



Cupcake Decorating Class By Kandy Wellman



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!!



Trustee Meeting Minutes February 5th, 2024

Harry Gardner, Kandy Wellman, Randy Decker, Irv Needham and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Old Business:

Kandy is still researching energy rates from suppliers. Trustees have some time to decide if it's best to lock in a lower price for one year or go with a longer term price. Kandy would like to discuss the pros and cons with Gary Housel. The decision does not need to be made until April

New Business:

Harry brought up several projects he'd like to see accomplished this year. The siding on the church needs to be pressure washed this Spring. Windows in the Lecture Hall need to be replaced and a decision needs to be made on a door solution for the front of the Sanctuary.

Harry suggested talking to Conner Freytag and Mark Page as options to replace the windows in the Lecture Hall. Rick will talk to Matt Thomas for an additional quote.

There is an electrical box near where the choir sits in which cold air comes through. We will get some double sided gasket material to seal the covers.

Rick will sweep the parking lot once winter is over.

Trustees will choose a date for annual spring clean-up next month.

Kandy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Irv.

Respectfully submitted,

Tone Chimes

The Tone Chimes have arrived! The first practice with the chimes took place last Sunday. The current hand bell choir and three new members ages 8, 9 and 11 joined in the fun!

We hope to introduce the Tone Chimes to the congregation during Lent.





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 April to be included in the Spire to:

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of March 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 Loving Memory of Parents from Nelson and Lucrecia Jesse

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.



Directory Updates

Lois Gibson
Room #139 Saint Louise Manor
861 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905

Fred and Denise Vanderburgh
2326 Holland Creek Road
Louisa, VA 23093

Spire Sponsor

In Loving Memory of Bradley Davin Conklin

From his family

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

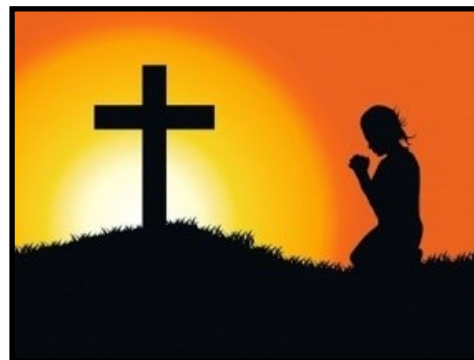
Norma Carey
Vivian Rutherford
JoAnn Titus

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
 - Will's kids
 - 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)
 - Vivian Rutherford
 - Lois Gibson
 - Gebo children
 - Diane Stewart (friend of Donna Schulze)
 - Andy Granick
 - Charleene Martens sister
 - friend of Shirley in Israel
- Millie Tingley
 - Phil (Schulte's son)
 - Abby Toolan's dad (Ben Heckman)
 - Norma and Lynola Carey
 - Robert Lane
 - Ron Phillips
 - Wayne Wellman
 - Donna's mom - Nancy
 - Don Lindsey
 - Steve Holtsmaster
 - Lynn—friend of George Lotter
 - Cheryl Augustine
 - Ben Owen
 - Ed Lindsey
 - Joe Cowan
 - Skip Borrows
 - Ruth Taugher
 - Stella Jerauld
 - Trudy Butcher
 - Rhonda (kidney transplant)
 - John Zimmerman



March

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 1	Barbara Weideman	March 11	Cindy Millard Galambos Judy Mitchell
March 3	Katherine Masters Doolittle Kassandra Lamberson Ford	March 12	Scott Muller Lyra Brosius
March 4	Dorothy Greene	March 13	Shane Toolan, Jr.
March 5	Erika Lewis Gething	March 14	Harry and Julia Gardner Ethan Rodriguez
March 10	Nicholas (Weideman's grandson) Peg Empet Ridge Bernosky	March 22	Liz Grant
		March 25	Gus Ferrara
		March 26	Susie Chidester



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

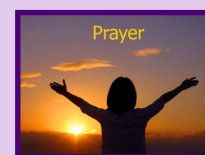
What a wonderful way to teach your child to love book reading! Enjoy.

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: March 22, 2024

April 26, 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!**

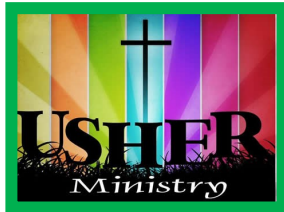


Bring a Friend

Greeters and Ushers

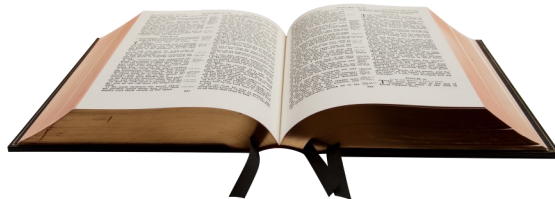
March 3- Sue Needham and Irv Needham
March 10- Marge Tater and Shirley Masters
March 17- Bill Chichester and Karen Jones
March 24- Chris Manley and Peggy Empet
March 31- Kay Gow and Chris Manley

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



Lay Readers In February

Mar 3rd- Ellen Holdredge
Mar 10th- Peg Empet
Mar 17th- Wendy Phillips
Mar 24th- Sue Needham
Mar 31st- Earl Cottrell



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.



Save the Date!!!!

Multi- Church Vacation Bible School



June 10-13 10:00 – 1:00

**At Harford First
Congregational Church**

**Harford First Congregational Church
Golf Tournament**

Save the Date



Saturday, June 8, 2024 9am



**Holli Chichester: hollischichester@gmail.com
301-643-1775**

To benefit First Congregational Church

2024

LILY ORDER FORM *Deadline March 18, 2024*



Please order:

_____ lily plants at \$ 7.75 = \$ _____ (total price)

I would like to donate these lily/lilies to shut-in outreach Yes No

Given By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of _____

Other _____

2024

LILY ORDER FORM *Deadline March 18, 2024*



Please order:

_____ lily plants at \$ 7.75 = \$ _____ (total price)

I would like to donate these lily/lilies to shut-in outreach Yes No

Given By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of _____

Other _____

MARCH

25

27

28

29

Mar 1

2

First Day of Women's

3

- 7:30am Fire Co Brek
- 9am Sunday School
- 9:30am ♡ Gatherin
- 2 more

4

- 9:30am AM mtg
- 7pm Trustees
- 7:30pm Fair Mtg

5

- 9:30am Ugly Quilts
- 6pm Choir

6

- 6pm Lenten service
at St. Marks

7

- 10am Pastor in offi

8

- LH in use
- SET CLOCKS AHEAD

9

10

- Daylight Saving Time
- 9am Sunday School
- 9:30am ♡ Gatherin
- 3 more

11

- 9:30am AM mtg
- 3:15pm Girl Scouts

12

- 7:30am Men's Brek
- 9am Pastoral Relat
- 9:30am Ugly Quilts
- 6pm Choir

13

- 6pm Lenten Service
at First church

14

- 10am Pastor in offi

15

- LH in use

16

17

- St. Patrick's Day
- 9am Sunday School
- 9:30am ♡ Gatherin
- 2 more

18

- 9:30am AM mtg
- 12pm Ladies Lunch

19

- 9:30am Ugly Quilts
- 1pm Missionary
- 6pm Choir

20

- 6pm Lenten Service
at Gibson

21

- 10am Kingsley WW
- 10am Pastor in offi
- 6pm Stewardship

22

- 10:30am Weinberg
- 4:30pm Weinberg D

23

- 3pm Eastern Star-c

24

- 9am Sunday School
- 9:30am ♡ Gatherin
- 10am Worship

25

- 9:30am AM mtg
- 6pm Council-LH

26

- 9:30am Ugly Quilts
- 6pm Choir

27

- 10am Pastor in offi

28

- 6pm Good Friday S

29

- 10am Pastor in offi

30

31

- Easter Sunday
- 9am SS & 9:15 Egg
- 9:30am ♡ Gatherin
- 10am Worship

Apr 1

- Easter Monday
- 9:30am AM mtg
- 7pm Trustees
- 7:30pm Fair Mtg

2

- 9:30am Ugly Quilts
- 6pm Choir

3

- 10am Pastor in offi

4

- 10am Pastor in offi

5

- 10am Pastor in offi

6

Non-Profit Organization

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5016 Creek Road
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Harford, PA 18823
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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