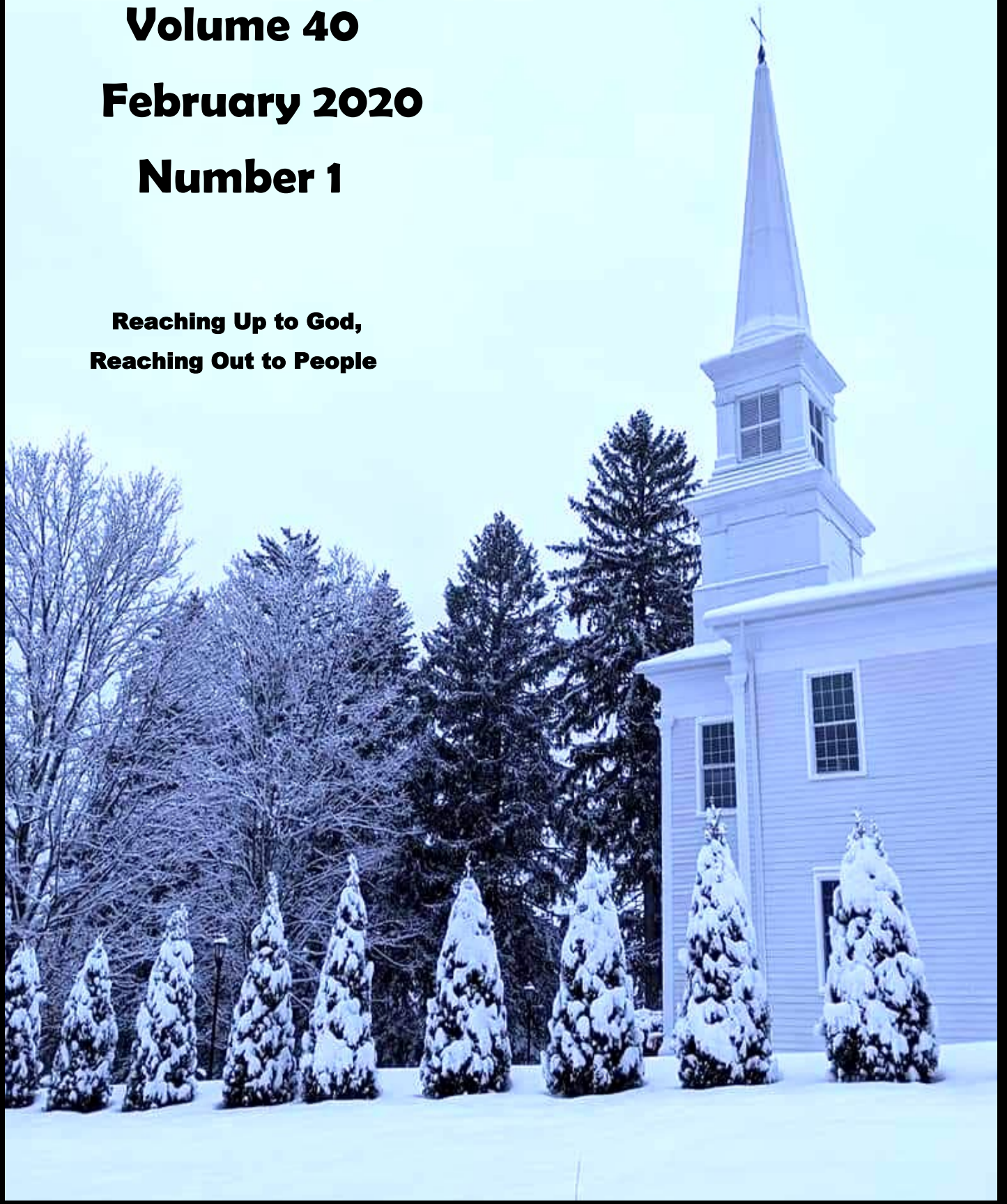


Our Spire
Volume 40
February 2020
Number 1

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



What these 5 kids coming mean for us as a church

In a column I write for *The Susquehanna Independent*, I shared this past fall that I have been trying to adopt children. I wrote of heartbreak at that time. Now it's time to share joy.



As many of you have heard my announcement on Christmas Eve and then again the following Sunday, I became a foster-to-adopt dad of five siblings two days before Thanksgiving 2019.

But that's not where this story starts. Five years ago, I returned from a one-week mid-December trip to Iowa. There was an adoption potential there in Iowa that crushed me. Literally. Truly.

Coming back to the church on a quiet, dark, lonely winter Monday, I hurt badly. [This is an understatement, fyi.]. As I entered the church's single back door, I repeatedly heard this single word, "Fine".

Nothing was fine. That word burned so deeply. After minutes of searching, I figured out the sound was coming from the one place I didn't want to enter under any circumstances—the nursery. In one corner, where our crib now rests, a wooden puzzle that involved numbers and animals rested among other toys.

As I pulled the puzzle out of its hiding place, the word was no longer "fine", it was five. At that point, free in my hand, the puzzle repeated these two words: five cats.

I wrote a fictional novel titled *Jesus Cloned*. (We should read this sometime). I mention fiction here because you don't make this stuff up. Five cats. Five kiddos.

There's more. Before Thanksgiving this past year, I saw the Mr. Rodger's movie, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Beyond the last credits, a clip is shown of Fred himself. He is singing and holding a similar wooden puzzle with five pieces.

The five cats are coming here in stages as they have been in three different foster homes. I shared when I was interviewed by a team of social workers on November 7th that all those pains over all those years will be answered if they allow me the gift of these five who, at the time, were under the age of 7.

For 7 long years I've been in the adoption or foster process. It was horribly painful to watch other families grow with their young children when I was empty-handed.

If this ends tomorrow, if a phone call changes everything, I have had today, and I am the most joyful, blessed guy you'll meet because of it.

And this, dear congregation, affects you in what I see as one of the best possible gifts that has come our way since I've been your pastor. What's the gift? New life. New hope. New ways of connecting. New ways of being.

I've never been happier, and it's been years since I've slept this well. Why? Because I know and preach what is true—that our God is good, so very good! Even when we can't see it, our God is working to bless us on His behalf. His plans are perfect. His timing is perfect, too.

It was hard to preach on my brokenhearted Sundays, and there were a couple of those over the years—if I can be honest. Yet I held to what those who are suffering can hold to, which is that our God never leaves or abandons us. I always had someone to turn to and cry to (and I did). You can, too. He is waiting. He is listening, not distantly, but with love.

Let me tell you what is true. Our God *is* there, and our God cares beyond measure.

The future is unclear for any of us. For me, adoption may or may not happen. I can't share more on this, but close with what we all need to know—that in walking through uncertain times we all have a certain God, and that **God is good**.

Our Goals – The First Year Review

Awesome. Great. Humbling. These are a couple words that came to mind when I sat down to review our goals for 2019. Take a look at that list! Yes, we may not have completed them all, but we made Great strides in some, completed some, and started working on some of the future years goals. And we couldn't have done any of it without the commitment of you, your prayers for the direction of the church, and our trust in God that he would lead us. Now we ask that you review these goals for the future and let us know what you think for 2020 and beyond. Are there some goals we need to finish? Are there some goals we need to change? Are there new ideas or direction that you think we should go? Now is the time to speak up and speak out!

This will be sent out by email, posted on Facebook, and put on our website. Do you know anyone that won't get this any of those ways? If so, we will mail as necessary! The Stewardship Committee looks forward to hearing your input! This is going to be our main agenda in February. We will meet on February 20 in the pastor's office. If you could get your thoughts back to us by Monday, February 17 by dropping your ideas in the collection plate, email me at crstout61@gmail.com, call me at 570-396-7080, or see any member of stewardship and have them bring your thoughts to the meeting. We value everyone's input and want to keep moving this church forward!

Spend some time in prayer about these goals and the blessings that God has brought forth to us through these goals. Ask him our next steps and then share with us so we can work together to set and attain these future goals! I personally thank God for this congregation, all the service that everyone puts forth, and the fellowship and love that we can all enjoy from working together for the common goal –To serve our most powerful God and share our time with each other! We serve an awesome God and he continues to pour out his blessings on this church.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Craig Stout

Stewardship Chairperson

Note: A Congregational Meeting will be scheduled after Stewardship has reviewed and compiled your suggestions for our future goals.

Our Goals

Goals for every year:

Increase attendance and continue to develop the church to reach the unchurched

Continue to walk with God and look for his guidance in all we do

Stewardship role in the goals is to be the driving force behind them

Committee goals are to strive to help make these goals come to fruition

In your walk in faith with God as individuals, keep the goals and the church, in your prayers.

Goals for 2019:

Increase use of existing church facilities

Complete sign project

Finish concrete/paving of parking lot, look into possibility of volleyball/basketball options at that time.

Bring back Bible study

Website up and running

Study feasibility of a community space or building

Information about A.R.C

Goals for 2020:

Level part of field behind memorial garden for play area-possibly building

Graduation party

Landscape work on front and side entrance

Continue to feed the community for free

Support new Game-On ideas and projects

Meet yearly to discuss goals

Goals for 2021

Senior activity/ ministry /food

HVA transportation

Review goals to fill 2022-2023

Goals for 2022

Community area under construction

Review goals to fill 2023

Goals for 2023

Community area completed and dedicated

Set new goals



2019 Christmas
at
Harford First Congregational
Church—UCC

Children's Nativity Play
December 22, 2019



IT'S OFFICIAL! THE SIGN IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

On December 22, we were finally able to have a dedication of the sign. After about three years of planning and raising funds to cover expenses, Stewart Sign installed the new digital sign in the front yard of our church. We are truly excited to have this be a tool to get information about what is going on with groups in the church as well as other groups that are in the community. We feel that this will also be a great tool to spread the word of our Savior. Our dedication on December 22 was another first in technology in the church as we were live streaming on YouTube and we also did FaceBook live into the sanctuary so the congregation could see the official unveiling and the dedication with Pastor Will at the sign. Before he officially dedicated the sign, Pastor Will said " This is the day of new beginnings. This is the day that hope spreads it's message through this sign board. He then offered the following prayer. "Heavenly Father, We ask for your blessings upon this sign, that it becomes sacred, that it is your instrument in your world to bring peace and love and light and joy and together we say, Amen". The total projected cost of the sign, concrete, electrical, and permitting is \$34,661.00. It was decided by council to cover the electrical part of the cost as it was a capital improvement. The golf tournament committee also wanted \$4,000 earmarked for the sign. At that point, there would be a surplus in the sign fund of about \$2,400. It was also decided at council that any funds left after the sign is complete will revert back to the capital fund. There is still some stone and landscaping finish work to be done in the spring. After the project is totally completed, there will be a final report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and their faith that this sign project could come to fruition and be a vital part of the landscape of the front of our church. God 's work isn't always easy and this sign project was a testament to that, but the reward will be great as this is another step into the future of Harford First Congregational Church - UCC !



Weinberg Food Bank is coming to Harford First Congregational Church

**The 4th Friday of each month
Starting February 28, 2020
3:30-5:30**

**Any income can apply
Preregistration is required:
See attached application or
complete the form online firstchurchharford.com
or call Teresa @ 570-756-2752**

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



**Our Ash Wednesday service will take place at 6 PM on February 26th.
Our church will host the first 7 PM Wednesday Ecumenical Worship service on March 4th.
Please join us. The rest of the Lenten schedule is not yet set.**



2020 Spring Conference Meeting

April 24 and 25

The Chateau at Camelback, 475 Camelback Rd., Tannersville, PA

The meeting will be one overnight, dinner on Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday.
Starts at 4PM on Friday and concludes at 4PM on Saturday.

The Installation of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates as the
Fourth Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference
of the United Church of Christ

on

Saturday, April 4, 2020

2:00 p.m.

UCC Greenawalds, 2325 Albright Avenue, Allentown, Pennsylvania
There will be a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.
There will be a procession of clergy; please wear red.



**Harford First Congregational Church and Note A Bell offering
two songs at the Funeral
for Catherine Escandel.**



**December 22,2019
Baptism of Wyatt Jeffery Parsons
Parents: Ashley and Josh Parsons
Brothers: Cody and Landon Parsons
Godparents: Nicole and Jason Stephens**



This past Saturday I had the privilege of directing a three octave handbell choir (the members of which were determined to be there in spite of the snowstorm) at the Celebration of the life of Mrs. Catherine Escandel, who was one of the founding ringers in the Harford Handbell Choir. We couldn't have done it without our guest ringers from the Note a Bells. Pictured here is one of the cases from the third octave, added in 2002 along with a pair of small white gloves that she might have worn if she had been ringing with us. It was an honor to have been a part of this tribute to a very special lady.

Catherine was a nurse at Mountainview, sang in Harford Congregational choir for 30 years, play in the Hand Bell Choir for 17 years and donated a portion of our current Hand Bells. She was a Sunday School teacher, the secretary of the Missionary Group and she planned and executed our Mother-Daughter Teas.

She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.! Bob DeLuca



The HVA receives a gift of music from our choir on December 15, 2019

The choir hosted a lively, meaningful Christmas Carol Event at the HVA . Robert Fisher organized thoughtful, spirited, fun, and engaging music selections where the choir sang some numbers from their Christmas list and also familiar carols were sung and enjoyed by all. Wendy Phillips opened the evening with some lively jokes. Ellen Holdredge offered a meaningful rendition of the birth narrative using the King James Version of Luke 2. Michelle Estabrook read from a childhood favorite of hers, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Pastor Will celebrated with the community present in a closing prayer.

The residents, the choir, and a few special guests that evening enjoyed fellowship, fun, and food. Following the music, all gathered around the table for some Christmas goodness with sweets and some good, healthy choices.

A Merry Christmas night was had by all!



Game-On



18 kids attended a special all-night party held at the church on New Year's Eve. The party began at 6 PM and ended at 9 AM the following morning. 17 kids stayed over with great food, fun and games throughout the night and into the morning hours. (Will's foster son, who is seven, left for an early night at home.)

The youth enjoyed Christian fun and bonding with movies and good times together. They watched the ball drop from Times Square at midnight on a TV in the Lecture Hall and the boys rang the steeple bell 20 times to represent the 20th year in the new decade. Kandy Wellman prepared her famous breakfast casseroles for the kids to have in the morning, which, of course, was a favorite.

We are blessed as a church and a community to have a good, safe, healthy place for our youth to go and be a part of the celebration of a New Year. Many thanks to ALL who helped make the night/morning a success. We are a fortunate congregation because we hear and respond to the needs of those around us, including our youth.

GAME ON thanks you for your prayerful support through the activities we offer that build Christian character with our youth within our church and around our wider community.

Keep posted for more new and fun things to happen here in 2020, our church's vision year.

Happy New Year from GAME ON to you!



Deacon Minutes

12-9-19

Kay opened the meeting with Psalm 144:12-15

Tree Lighting details were discussed for next year.

Discussion will continue on how to repurpose the ornaments that were hung on this year's tree.

Christmas card signing went well this year. Discussion was about how to help make the flow go more smoothly next year and also possibly having the event be more of a festive occasion with Christmas music during signing.

Will closed the meeting with prayer

Next meeting will be **Sunday, January 12th**, immediately after worship.

Missionary Minutes

12-17-19

Annual Report approved as read.

Disaster Kits: 70 Hygiene Kits and 30 Clean Up Kits were assembled. The UCC matched our fund to \$250. The corresponding completion form was submitted to UCC.

Treasure's Report: 2 Christmas boxes: \$82

Disaster Kits: \$114.68

Samaritan's Purse Christmas box Mailing: \$210

Supplies to mail: \$20.78

In from Yard Sale: \$2359.00

Least Coin: Ginny Ahearn Horizons of Friendship: implemented 1385+ projects and 130 + organizations in Mesoamerica aimed to improving lives of the most impoverished and marginalized in terms of health, education, food, security, migration, violence against women and Indigenous rights.

Correspondence: In: CHE – End of year summary

Thank You's Out: 11

Other Out: 12

Made Chicken Vegetable Soup: For Soup Ministry

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

to

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of February 2020!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Council Meeting was held too late in the month to be included in this edition of the Spire. Below are the reports received for January.

Financial Report:

To make expense every month in general (ex. Electric, payroll, office and programs), we need \$12,597.92 a month to meet our 2020 budget.

Here is the income and Expenses for December 2018 and 2019:

December 2018	December 2019
Income: \$10,687.75	Income: \$11,123.75
Expenses: \$13,716.80	Expenses: \$12,488.40
Total: -\$3,029.05	Total: -\$1,364.65

Christian Education: 1-6-20

-We welcome the addition of Charleene Martens and Holli Chichester to the CE team. Praise the Lord for their willingness to come board.

-The primary topic of discussion was how to have Sunday School during worship. It was felt that the children attending Sunday School should sit in the front pews and after the Children’s time, they would leave worship to proceed downstairs for Sunday School

-The theme for the time being is “Famous People of the Bible”. We began with the story of Moses and will finish his story in a few weeks.

- Charleene and Holli will be in the nursery and show Christian videos on a television which Holli has purchased. CE will reimburse her cost of the TV and the mount. The TV will be mounted on the wall so as to prevent any damage being done.

-Kay and Payton are teaching the younger children, while Bonnie and Kandy continue with the older children.

-We will have a copy of rules posted for the children to follow. We will start with songs and then have a craft or a game. Snacks will also be provided.

-As we try this new plan for Sunday School we pray for guidance and for God’s word to reach the children.

-Next meeting will be February 2, 2020 @9:00 in the lecture hall.



**Help!! We need all types of fabric for craft projects
for the log cabin next year!
Please call or text Holli Chichester
at 301-643-1775 if you have fabric that you could
donate.**

Deacon Minutes: 1-12-20

-The meeting opened with singing of "This Little Light of Mine"

-Plans for next year's tree lighting were discussed. The theme of the tree will be angels and stars.

-Kay suggested the idea of decorating the front lawn tree for each holiday. It was decided that lights only will be put on the front lawn tree as decorations. The tree in the Gathering Room will be decorated by the SS students for holidays. Possibly blank ornaments could be placed by the Gathering Room tree with a note asking to please place the name of someone who needs prayer on the ornament and then hang on the tree? This idea will be revisited later on.

-Deacons will host a lasagna dinner at the HVA on February 22nd from 5-6 pm. Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, Jello and drinks. Kay will make lasagna. Deacons will decide next month who will get what. Kay will get a sign-up sheet to the HVA.

Christmas Eve 2019:

-David shared concern of signing unfamiliar versus of hymns.

-A deacon needs to be aware of turning Robert's light off during *Silent Night*.

-Christmas Eve service 2020 will be at 7 pm.

-David brought up the idea of a "suggestion box". This could be used for the congregation to drop thoughts and suggestions in. We will revisit this next month.

-It was decided to move the announcements to the beginning of worship again.

-Discussion of the sign and its legibility were discussed. Tammy welcomes input on what works and doesn't work on the sign.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Trustee Minutes: 1/13/20

Old Business:

-Coded door locks have been installed on the Office. For Security purposes, the code for the door lock should be limited to only those who need it.

-Installation of security cameras is ongoing.

New Business:

-Rick will have someone fix the broken lamp post next to the driveway.

-Harry called the fire-alarm service company. The alarm goes off anytime the power goes off. They instructed Harry to check the back-up batteries which were good. He was informed that the panel is outdated and Harry is awaiting a price on a new panel.

-The railing in the gathering room that leads down the steps to the lecture hall needs to be tightened.

-The exterior door of the gathering room on the west side which leads to the old driveway needs adjustment.

-Steel doors on the building should be painted this coming summer.

Missionary Minutes: 1-21-2020

Treasurer's Report: December: Dues	+10.00
Least Coins	+6.55
Donations	+695.00
Yard Sale	+2359.00
CHE -Partnership in Hope	-2359.00
Postage	-13.50
Soup Containers	-19.07

Least Coin: Ginny Ahearn - Nutrition Support of women to prevent anemia.

CHE Update: Tutored and taught Children's CHE to 1620 children

- 84 people trained in microenterprise skills
- 15 women have started sewing businesses
- 10 women have started baking businesses
- 6 young men have been trained as electricians
- 45 women are in Discipleship programs
- 41 participants in Bible Studies
- 80 families trained in animal husbandry
- 150 latrines have been installed
- 100 smoke reducing stoves placed in homes
- 400 families have installed water biofilters
- 35 persons have given their lives to Christ
- 4 new CHE communities have been initiated

Operation Christmas Child: First Congregational Church's Christmas boxes went to Malawi in East Africa.

Penance Calendars: done every other year (2021)

Weinberg Food Program: Teresa Lamberson

- Weinberg Food Program is supplied through government supplies and donations.
- All persons are invited to receive food if they need it.
- No one is discriminated against. There is no income requirement, only the person must live in Susquehanna county.
- Persons in need are encouraged to go to many Weinberg Food Distributions.
- Our church has been approved as a distribution site.
- Teresa Lamberson, Tammy Stout and Holli Chichester took training necessary.
- Distributions will start February 28, 2020 from 3:30-5:30 and then every fourth Friday of each month..
- Ingrid, from Weinberg Food Bank, will speak to the church January 26, 2020 and Teresa will sign-up volunteers after church.
- We will need an unloading crew from 11:00 to 12:00 of 6-8 persons (heavy lifting)
- We will need a set up crew from 12-2 of 6-8 persons (light lifting)
- We will need a distribution crew from 3:00 – 6:00 of 6-8 persons
- The youth will help after school by helping take bags to the cars for participants
- Dave Schulte is donating reusable grocery bags for distribution, people will be asked to bring them back to the next distribution.
- HVA will be contacted about the program and encouraged to volunteer.
- All volunteers will be encouraged register to receive food so that no one is singled out.

Bake Sale: We will be having a Bake Sale April 28, 2020 during the Primary Voting.

Next Meeting: February 18, 2020 at 1:00

**Harford First Congregational Church-UCC
Nominating Committee Report**

Position	1-Year Term Offices—Leaving 2019	Nominee—2020
Moderator	David Schulte, Jr.	David Schulte, Jr.
Church Clerk	Betty Lou Bennett	Betty Lou Bennett
Financial Secretary	Dorothy Hagenbuch	Dorothy Hagenbuch
Assistant Financial Secretary	Judy Mitchell	Judy Mitchell
Treasurer	Julia Gardner	Julia Gardner
Assistant Treasurer	Connie Breese	Connie Breese
Historian	Alyssa Clarkson	Alyssa Clarkson
Auditor	Ginny Ahearn	Ginny Ahearn
Auditor	Kelly Feduchak	Kelly Feduchak
Alternate Auditor	Sharon Decker	Sharon Decker
OTHER OFFICES		
Deacons (3 year term) (2 term Max) Must be a member to serve	Kay Gow (2 nd term) 18-19-20 Bonnie Love-Colwell (1 st term) 18-19-20 Leanne Colwell (1 st term) 18-19-20 Melissa Clarkson 19-20-21 (2 nd term) Tammy Stout 19-20-21 (2 nd term) Ginny Ahearn 19-20-21 (2 nd term)	Nominees 2020 Katherine Doolittle (2nd term) 20-21-22 David Schulte, III (1st full term) 20-21-22 Teresa Lamberson (1st full term) 20-21-22
Stewardship (3 year term) Does not need to be a member	Michelle Estabrook 18-19-20 (1 st full term) Craig Stout (2 nd term) 18-19-20 Sharon Kinney (2 nd term) 18-19-20 Peg Empet (2 nd term) 19-20-21 Joe Kulyeshie (2 nd term) 19-20-21 Kandy Wellman (1 st term) 19-20-21	Nominees 2020 Connie Breese (1st full term) 20-21-22 Nancy Burris (1st full term) 20-21-22 Alyssa Clarkson (1st full term) 20-21-22
Trustees (3 year term) (2 term max) Must be a member To serve	Harry Gardner (2 nd term) 18-19-20 Wayne Frederici (1 st term) 18-19-20 Rick Masters (2 nd term) 19-20-21 Rich Masters (1 st term) 19-20-21	Nominees 2020 Gary Housel (2nd term) 20-21-22 Bill Chichester (2nd term) 20-21-22
Nominating Committee (2 year term)	Melissa Clarkson 19-20 Gail Batzel 19-20	Nominees 2020 Wendy Phillips 20-21 Gary Phillips 20-21

Craft Group: Stands as written.

Deacons: Stands as written.

Game-On: Stands as written.

Hail Damage Report: The overall cost to the church was \$20,262.14. This was significantly less than the amount budgeted to replace the siding and windows without the insurance coverage.

Historian: Report stands as written.

Land Gift: Report stands as written.

Missionary: Report stands as written.

Nominating: See previous page. All nominees approved and voted in.

*Discussion about the By-Laws stating that the Annual Report must be in the mail 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Many did not receive the report until quite late. Council will review.

Pastoral Relations: Stands as written.

Sign Report: Stands as written.

Spire Report: Stands as written.

Stewardship: Stands as written.

Trustees: Stands as written with one addition. The roof company came this weekend and repaired the leaks.

Ugly Quilts: Stands as written.

Willing Workers: Stands as written with one addition: Big Group Meeting is Feb. 12 at 1:00.

Old Business: none.

New Business: *Do we need a generator at the church?

*Do we need an ADT at the church?

*Reimbursement checks will be issued at the end of the month unless specifically requested earlier. Vote taken and approved.

Fellowship !!



Christmas in Montrose Yard Sale
to support our Nicaraguan Missionaries'
Sustainable Food Program
We collected \$2359!



**Interfaith Hot
Chocolate
Collection**
We collected
well over our
150 box goal!!
Thank You for
your support!



Gift Wrapping for Cerebral Palsy Youth and Outreach Project



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



Spire Sponsor

*In honor of all of the church's
volunteers!*

From Cindi Morrison



Home Bound

The Carey Family

Dorothy Greene

Catherine Escandel

Barbara Pease



Bell Choir Rebirth!!!!!!



Bob DeLuca has graciously volunteered to conduct a bell choir. The Bell Choir will meet Mondays at the church balcony at 7:30.

We need 3 more people to complete our 3 octave bell choir. Please call or email Bob if you would be interested in participating.

570-498-7090

gepetto@nep.net



Prayer Concerns



Family of Catherine Escandel
Nicholas (Great Grandson of the Weidemans)
Patrick Simons
Scott Klenk
Heather Warren
Sandy Zupanovich
Christian Kuhar
Mary Jane Genneken
Sandy Paolucci
Brandi & Dave
Larry Herbert
Helen Foster
Helen Castronova (Judy's Sister-in-law)
Betsy Jones
Shawni Vietri
Joshua (Vietri's foster son)
Karen Jones' Family Members
Joann Titus
Gary and Wendy Phillips
Jerilynn Watson
Family of Doup Pascoe
Ellie Miller

Evan Clarkson
Family of David Beavers
Carol Beavers
Pastor Will's growing family
Hunter's big sister
Karin and Art Doolittle
Sabrina and Jim Hayes (Nancy Burris' daughter)
Ray Bolcavage
Roy Matthews
Greg Symuleski
Rock Estabrook
Richard Arnold
Joe Batzel and family
Jessica Miller
our nation under God
our government
Aspen Batzel
Barbara Weideman
John Butler
Corinne Chichester and job search
Sharon Frantz
Weinberg Food Bank
Carrie Gettle (Judy's cousin)

Directory update:

Julie Rizzo
13 Kirsten's Way
New Milford
PA 18834

(For the months of January, February, March)
Ken and Betty Lou Bennett
1844 Avian Court
Naples
FL 34119

Jonathan Bennett
Apt. 129
620 Fayette St.
Alexandria
VA 22314



February Birthdays

February 04	Dana Empet
February 14	Charlie and Missy Heller
February 15	Kim Bridgeman
February 18	Charlie Grimes
	Doug Higgins, Jr.
	Justin Moser
February 23	Lynette Muller
February 25	Jim and Gail Batzel
February 27	Charline Hudson
February 28	Kay Gow



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.

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.



LET'S
SKATE

Saturday, Feb 1st

1:30-3:15

@

**SUNY BROOME ICE
CENTER**

\$5/ skater

**Please contact Tammy
Stout 570-396-7081 if
interested**

ALL ages welcome!

ALL YOU CAN EAT

PANCAKE SUPPER

SATURDAY, FEB. 8TH

4:30-6:30PM

TAKEOUTS AVAILABLE!



Harford First Congregational Church

KIDS 6-12 \$5. ADULTS \$8

***ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL YOUTH AND
OUTREACH***



*Ziti with Your
Sweetie*

Dinner Theater

*Hosted by Clifford Community Youth Group and
Friends*

Sunday, February 16, 2020

2:00 PM

Clifford Fire Hall – Route 106, Main Street, Clifford, PA

Salad, Ziti with Meatballs, beverage and dessert will be served while
youth present

“And So They Had None”

Donation \$10.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

Tickets available by contacting any participating youth member or by
calling Robin at 570-222-4344. There will be a VERY limited amount of
tickets available at the door. Thanks for your support.

Correspondence

Dear Pastor Will,

On behalf of CHE Nicaragua, thank you so much for all your help with the yard sale in Montrose. We are thrilled with the results. The First Church Mission Group is a powerhouse!

Blessings,

Anne and Bill Thompkins

Hi friends,

We made it to 2020! In celebration of this new year, I want to share an encouraging highlight from 2019. Because of your compassion last year, CWS shipped nearly 95,000 kits into the hands of families who desperately needed each hand-assembled package of supplies (you can see the full report here: cwskits.org/stories-and-reports). Thank you!

I'm praying that this new decade is even further defined by an outpouring of love. With your help, it will be.

Will your congregation commit to making that a reality in 2020?

If your answer is yes, I encourage you to visit cwskits.org/help . This page was made to help congregations plan ahead for your hands-on kit ministries in 2020. Your ministries build out prayerful responses to disasters, poverty and hard times. And your kits remind families that they are not alone.

Thank you for blessing this new decade and each family we reach out to together,

Matthew Stevens
Director of Congregational Giving, CWS

Dear Congregation,

Your kindheartedness at Christmas time truly touches me. I'm sincerely humbled and grateful for your thoughtfulness. The card is in a dear place and your signatures on it is a blessing. Your gift, as you have read, was used for two car seats for the littlest ones who are one and a half and two and a half years-old. The littles (as I call them) are not officially here yet (we have had visits so far), but I will thank God for you each time I click their seatbelts on!

So yes, thank you! Thank you!

I'm blessed to be your pastor, and am awed to have received God's love from you.

Will

December 12, 2019

Dear Harford Church,

How is everyone doing? I'm doing so very wonderful. Everyone is in my prayers and thoughts daily. If I have offended anyone in the church in anyway, I sincerely apologize for anything I have done to hurt anyone's feeling in church. I saw the Parole Board 3 weeks ago and tomorrow I will find out how big of a hit I got when I get my greensheet form from Parole. God bless everyone in the church forever. I'm currently taking a auto technology class here and I'm learning a lot about working on vehicles and their systems. I'm still reading my bible and daily bread every morning. I can't wait to help the farmers in my area with their field work and maybe help milk their cows when I get out. I also can't wait to be home with my mother and Dianna, I know that I've never been a perfect son to my mother and never a perfect person by the ways I've acted in my life. I fight a daily battle with myself to forgive myself for my actions and choices that I've made in my life because it is so very hard for me to forgive myself for what I've done. I'm looking forward to marrying Dianna Marie Henry when I get out. God has truly blessed me with so many wonderful people in my life. God has also truly blessed me with a wonderful country woman in Dianna Marie Henry. I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

Love in Christ,

Your Farmer Friend

Earl Russell Gow

Smart Communications/PADOC

SCI-Forest

Name Earl Russell Gow

Number LN8680

PO Box 33028

St. Petersburg

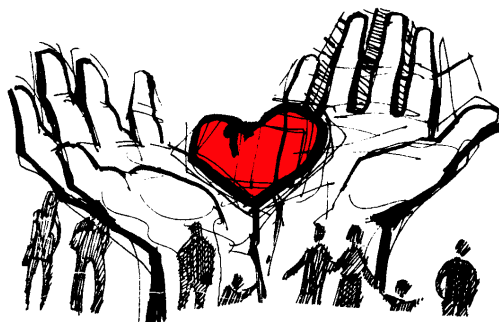
Worship Assistants– February

Greeters

February 02, 2020	Boy Scouts
February 09, 2020	Priscilla Allen
February 16, 2020	Dorothy Hagenbuch
February 23, 2020	Holli Chichester

Readers

February 02, 2020	Bailey Millard
February 09, 2020	Dave Schulte, III
February 16, 2020	Shirley Masters
February 23, 2020	Charlene Batzel



Ushers

February 02, 2020	Boy Scouts
February 09, 2020	Gus Ferrara and George Lotter
February 16, 2020	Nancy Burris and Theresa Lamberson
February 23, 2020	Ginny Ahearn and Bill Chichester



Children (0-17) _____
 Adults _____
 Seniors (60 and up) _____

Bureau of Food Distribution

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

"Self Declaration of Need"

Effective July 1, 2019 to Jun 30, 2020

 Recipient Name

 Agency Representative Signature Date

 Street Address

 Distribution Site Name Number

 City State Zip

 Distribution Site Location

The Emergency Food Assistance Program is operated in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Eligibility is based upon the income guidelines listed below. The recipient circles the entire line that applies to their Household Size, understanding they must be at, or below, the income level indicated to be eligible for program benefits.

Total Household Income (based on 150% of Poverty)							
Household Size	Circle One	Annual		Monthly		Weekly	
		1	\$	18,735	\$	1,561	\$
2	\$	25,365	\$	2,114	\$	488	
3	\$	31,995	\$	2,666	\$	615	
4	\$	38,625	\$	3,219	\$	743	
5	\$	45,255	\$	3,771	\$	870	
6	\$	51,885	\$	4,324	\$	998	
7	\$	58,515	\$	4,876	\$	1,125	
8	\$	65,145	\$	5,429	\$	1,253	
For each additional family member add:		\$	6,630	\$	553	\$	128

I understand the household income limitations and hereby certify that my household size and income make me eligible for participation in the program. I also certify that, as of today, my household lives in the area served by Pennsylvania in The Emergency Food Assistance Program. This certification form is being completed in connection with the receipt of Federal assistance.

I UNDERSTAND THAT MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT MAY RESULT IN MY HAVING TO PAY FOR THE VALUE OF THE FOOD IMPROPERLY ISSUED TO ME AND MAY SUBJECT ME TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

 Recipient Signature

 Date



Return completed form to your designated county agency. If you are unsure of the correct agency, please call the Bureau at 1-800-468-2433.

THIS FORM IS NOT TO BE ALTERED OR CHANGED IN ANY WAY.

PLEASE REFER TO THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR AN IMPORTANT USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

February 2020

February 2020

March 2020

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7:30am 11:00am Breakfast/fire hall 9:30am 10:30am Adult SS (PO) 11:00am 12:00pm Wor 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office 7:00pm 9:30pm Fair mtg	9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH) 6:00pm 7:00pm Choir (MR)	9:00am 12:00pm Crafts (H. Chichester) 5:15pm 6:30pm Armettas 6:00pm 8:00pm Scouts (LH)	9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am 10:30am Adult SS (PO) 11:00am 12:00pm Wor 12:00pm 1:30pm Deac 12:00pm 12:30pm KW 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office 7:00pm 8:30pm Trustee	Pastor away 7:30am 9:00am Men's brkfst (Binghams) 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Q 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate 6:00pm 7:00pm Choir (MR)	Pastor away 9:00am 12:00pm Crafts (H. Chichester) 5:15pm 6:30pm Armettas 6:00pm 8:00pm Scouts	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	Pastor away
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am Adult 11:00am 12:00pm Wor 12:00pm 2:00pm fire co 12:00pm 2:00pm NH b 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 12:00pm 1:00pm Ladies Lunch (Bingh) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor i	Pastor away 9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 1:00pm 3:00pm Missio 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate 6:00pm 7:00pm Choir (MR)	Pastor away 9:00am 12:00pm Crafts (H. Chichester) 5:15pm 6:30pm Armettas 6:00pm 8:00pm Scouts	Pastor away 7:00pm 9:00pm Stewardship	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	Pastor away 7:00am 7:30am Deacons dinner at HVA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am Adult SS (PO) 11:00am 12:00pm Worship 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	Pastor away 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Sc	9:30am 1:00pm Ugly Quilts (LH) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH) 6:00pm 7:00pm Choir (MR)	9:00am 12:00pm Crafts (H. Chichester) 5:15pm 6:30pm Armettas 6:00pm 8:00pm Scouts 6:30pm 7:30pm Ash W	6:30pm 8:00pm Council (LH)	9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH) 3:30pm 5:30pm Weinber distribution	LH busy-C. Galombos

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

PERMIT—#20

Montrose, PA 18801

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
5016 Creek Road
PO Box 217
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!!



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

Rev. William Hagenbuch –Pastor
Home Phone: 570-434-7729
Email: wrh@nep.net
Office Hours: Mon. 4-5:30 pm

Judy Mitchell –Sec
Hours: Tuesday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00