

**Our Spire**  
**Volume 38 June 2019**  
**Number 6**

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

## Pastor's Corner



### **Here. There. And Everywhere. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and this church know no walls.**

A year ago, I used my cell phone and made a vlog (a vlog is a short video only vlogs, like blogs, are known as being in a series). What did I capture on my phone? I filmed the damage the May 15, 2018 hailstorm left inside our sanctuary. I reposted that vlog on the anniversary date to remind us, the congregation and the world, that guided by God we have overcome this damage and continue to be the old *and* the revised church we are called to be. Over 1,000 people have seen this vlog.

What I do know is we are out there. What I don't know is if the 1,091 people watched the whole vlog or just passed by quickly. I also don't know what truly attracted them to the vlog. Nevertheless, even if it were for just a glimmer of time, we have reached a tremendous amount of people with an impact message: our God guides us through the storms of life. Our God is guiding us. He is certainly guiding me, and this is exciting.

My last week on the campus of Lancaster Theological Seminary happens May 20-25<sup>th</sup>. On June 30, 2019, I will have finished my second of three years in the Doctoral of Ministry Program.

This is my last week on campus because my third year in the program will be spent entirely on research and writing. Lord willing, my goal is to complete the program and graduate May 2, 2020.

Between now and then, we have a lot of work to do. My doctoral workload is loaded. It requires at least 35-hours a week of my time. Given this, I am unable to complete all of the tasks I have done in the past as your pastor. I cannot keep the schedule that was, but, with your help, we continue to be a church that is here, there, and everywhere.

In true Congregational polity, where the presence of the Lord is with the people, more of my pastoral responsibilities are being shared and shouldered by others. This will continue to happen over the next year. What excites me is that together we are practicing the best model of Congregationalism because we, the church, are not one person; we, the church, are all its people.

Since the end of my first year in the doctoral program, my dissertation continues the work we have started together, which is reaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those within and now those beyond our literal walls. We continue to look into how Jesus calls us to fish for people, and distance is no longer a great factor.

My dissertation proposal, which is due at the end of June, will continue its focus. It is subject to change somewhat over the next few months, yet I want to explore how existing online-churches and real-world churches can be in conversation or, even better, in community with each other. Currently, there is not a great interchange between these two real experiences of church. I want to understand and then put to practice what we can do to bring these two churches closer together under the worship of God.

This dissertation is exciting, consuming and important to the church as a whole not just today, but into the future. Together, we will continue to do what we have done, and that is bring people we are called to love to our God of love.

Your prayers for the dissertation are welcome. This IS challenging. Your prayers for our church are also welcomed, as is your commitment to serve our God not alone but together in a community for the community.

Blessings, everyone! Pastor Will

### **Pastor's Report to Council - March**

- Enjoyed three sessions with the Girls Scouts prepping for Girl Scout Sunday
- Worked with ARC chairperson Laurie DeMark for our first "Bless for Success" event during worship where a shelter pet and her future family were blessed
- Two hospital visits this month
- Two ongoing counseling sessions with an individual and a teenager
- Communion to shut ins this month
- Visited Ugly Quilts
- Met with a MV teacher to discuss my dissertation
- Passed out Spaghetti Dinner Flyers with my Sunday school students
- Have enjoyed this original Lenten Sermon Series called *The 7 Essential Questions*
- Visited GAME ON this month, met Hank the service dog and chatted with the kids
- Held our Ash Wednesday Service
- Hosted the worship of our first Ecumenical Worship Service
- Officiated the funeral of Larry L. Decker
- Preached during the second Ecumenical Worship Service
- Officiated the funeral of Alice J. Watkins
- Extended a moment of silence to church member Alice J. Watkins
- Working with Holli Chichester on helping a local Veteran with health concerns
- Continue the newspaper column, blogs, vlog and sermon preps

### **Pastor's Report to Council—April**

- Was grateful to meet and spend time with new and familiar faces in the community during the COMMUNITY DINNER held on March 30
- Had a "walking meeting" with Tiffany Butler where we discussed the needs of the community, students, parents today and the church
- Enjoyed giving the blessing over the Catholic Choral Society's March 31 concert
- Attended the Lancaster Theological Doctoral of Ministry Symposium on April 1 where 2019 doctoral students defended their dissertations
- Was grateful to be a part of the Route 11 Ministerium's Ecumenical Worship season called "The Gifts" this year
- Led the Good Friday and Easter morning sunrise services
- Delivered the gift of lilies to shut-ins and those in the community
- The SEVEN ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS sermon series brought us some very positive feedback
- Am grateful for both Easter services and those who could make one or both of them
- Have framed the upcoming sermon series called LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE
- My fourth semester in the doctoral program has begun and, in addition to more reading and writing, the focus this term is my dissertation's proposal which, if all goes well, will be approved early this summer
- Planning events for the Teacher's Appreciation Sunday and the upcoming Choir Appreciation Sunday
- Continue conversations with Laurie DeMark, our ARC chairperson, and an upcoming Pet Blessing
- Have talked with Tammy Stout about upcoming GAME ON events and a summer calendar filled with youth activities
- Work with Kay Gow on outgoing card ministry
- Have taken my Sunday school kids out to breakfast where embedded in culture we discuss the scripture used in sermons
- Have visited the Ugly Quilts and enjoy what the quilters have to share
- Working with Craig Stout and the Stewardship Committee on upcoming events for the church
- Visited new neighbors with info on the church
- Visited shut ins and those who welcomed time with the pastor

## Pastor's Report to Council—May

- I was asked to sing The National Anthem and offer prayer at the National Day of Prayer on May 2 at the Harford Fire Hall
- I wrote the recognition for the choir when the choir was recognized in worship on May 5
- Visited a senior who had surgery in a local hospital
- Asked a parent if we could hold a prayer service for her child in need of prayer (the answer - wait and see)
- Met Holli Chichester to discuss the latest website developments
- Worked with Laurie DeMark, ARC chairperson, to get a pet through Laurie Grant of Laura's Hope for our second pet blessing
- Planned with the HVA manager some of the logistics of our choir's "concert" at the HVA
- Completed the original 4-part sermon series, Listening Is An Act Of Love
- Joined the Missionary Society's lunch to celebrate the contribution of Dorothy Greene's "painted window" gift to the church
- Enjoyed time at the Girl Scouts tea party
- Visited nearby shut-ins, Attended GAME ON
- Helped the deacons plan a special recognition for high school senior Evan Clarkson who will be blessed before he joins the military
- Continue weekly blogs (which are the local paper's weekly column, vlogs, sermon intros, sermon preps and Hump Day Help messages
- Am working on the dissertation proposal, a 40-page document that outlines what my dissertation will be, what I want to learn, what research I will develop and then implement to inform my learning, and how I'll complete that dissertation. The 40-pages includes what literature and resources I will use to complete my work (I need at least 40 books, professional articles or journals are required). The proposal must be completed by the end of the semester, which is June 15th, and includes an annotated bibliography (a paragraph description of each work and why its relevant to my area of study) and a literature review (which speaks to how each author interrelates to each other on my topic). I have an hour-long consultation with the Doctoral of Ministry committee who will approve, approve with corrections, or reject my dissertation proposal) on June 28. On June 28th, I also have to have my research questions and methodology approved by the Dean of Franklin and Marshall University's Institutional Review board. (Franklin and Marshall is the university associated with Lancaster Theological Seminary, the seminary I am attending). My cohorts and I learned this week while here at the seminary that the first draft of our dissertations is due November 1, 2019. Continued prayers are welcome.
- Speaking of prayer, let's continue to hold our congregation and its people in prayer, and raise in prayer our nation, our government, our military, our community, our neighbors, our seniors, and our close and extended families.



**Thank You,  
Twila Williams and  
Sharon Kinney for all you  
do to keep our House of  
Worship and Memorial  
Garden beautiful!!**



From the President of the Congregation

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 23, 2019

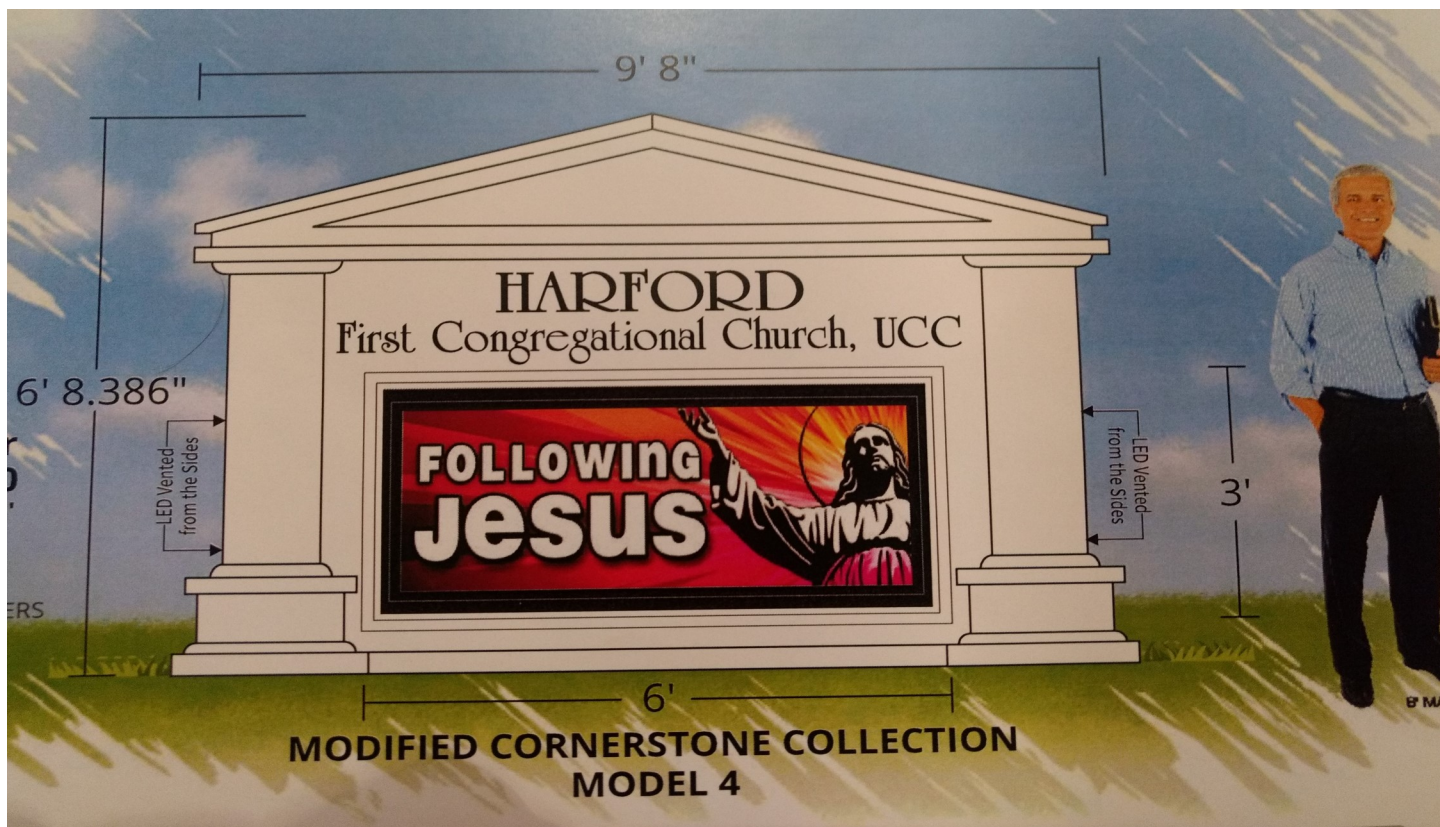
This meeting is in response to those who want to have another meeting before we install a new sign. The previous meeting ended in a tie which I broke with a no vote strictly on the basis of cost. Since that time many have donated to the sign project resulting in enough money to cover the entire cost of the sign so there will be no effect on the general fund. These donors specified that the funds could only be used for the sign.

The new sign is designed to be used as a projector or power point with options for varying the speed between frames. Another concern was visibility. The positioning is designed for maximum visibility, the display can be adjusted for color, background, and lettering, and set for on and off as desired. As the lighting is LED the electricity cost will be minor.

Many are opposed to change but the time for some modernization has arrived and this new sign describing all of the Harford First Congregational activities may add to our outreach.

I have been under a lot of pressure to formulate a question to vote on at the upcoming Congregational Meeting. Many think it will be a rehash about installing a sign, but after considerable thought, the sign is not the real issue here.

**The real question is whether or not to move forward by making everyone aware of our community outreach accomplishments on a daily basis or to cling to the past which, in my opinion, will result in this church eventually closing as others have.**



From the Council President's Desk:

I've received complaints because the council minutes are no longer in the Spire. It was decided not to include them due to the change in meeting night and the redundancy with reports of committees. As I have often said, the meetings are open to everyone, and the publication of the Spire is a large undertaking especially by Holli.

I was unaware that some discussions do not make it into any of the committee reports, so I will try to remedy this whenever needed by informing you myself in the Spire.

## **Council minutes not included in April Spire**

**April 25, 2019**

The **hand bells** that had been loaned to the New Milford Methodist church for a year have been returned to our church. Bob DeLuca shared that some of the bells are broken; many of the bell's springs are missing or broken. The bells that are in need of the most repairs are the original two octaves that we have had for at least 40 years. The hand bells were donated to the church by the Stearns Family. The bells do need polishing. They really aren't playable in the condition that they are in at the present time. Bob has checked with Schulmerich Bells, LLC on the cost of essential refurbishing of the three octaves which would be \$1,700 plus any additional repairs that would need to be completed. There would be no replacement of clappers, discs or handles unless absolutely necessary. The complete refurbishment of the three octaves would be \$4,100. The company is located in Allentown and Bob would be willing to deliver and pick up the bells when finished. David questioned whether we had enough folks willing to play. Bob has had enough interest to play at least two octaves. Ellen asked about the cost of new bells. Bob shared that the price of the smallest to the largest would run from \$240 to \$395 per bell depending upon the size. Question as to where the money was to come from to pay for the refurbishment of the bells. There were two suggestions-the memorial fund or the music fund. The music fund has almost \$5,000. Kay made a motion to have the 3 octave refurbishment completed on the hand bells at a cost of \$1,700 plus any additional cost for repairs and the money will be taken from the music fund. The motion was seconded by Betty Lou. All in favor, motion carried. Thank you, Bob and Ginny for sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge with council regarding the hand bells.

**Financial Think Tank (Purpose is to discuss financial options and present the most favorable to Council for Decisions):** Maureen Warren, Julia Gardner, Connie Breese, Dave Schulte, Holli Chichester

The Financial Think Tank met and made the following recommendations: \$40,000 will be put in a 10-year long term annuity (\$20,000 will be invested in the annuity at 2.75% interest and \$20,000 will be invested in S & P). We may withdraw after two years one tenth of the base amount. The \$40,000 will come from \$34,000 from the Anson and Marie Tiffany investment and \$6,000 will come from the capital account. Craig asked about the balance of about \$60,000 left. There was a discussion of putting the balance in staggered CD's. We first will need input from the trustees as to what monies they may need in the future to complete property jobs that need attention. Dorothy Hagenbuch made a motion, seconded by Kay to transfer the \$40,000 to Equitrust Fund. We received the Equitrust Annuity contract for \$40,000 for ten years. The annuity will end if Holli Chichester should pass away. The church would receive the proceeds.

Recommended that a CD for 15 months with an interest rate of 2.05% at NBT bank for \$20,500 (currently in the Community Building fund). A fifteen-month CD was selected instead of a thirteen-month CD which would not have had a very good interest rate.

## Council minutes not included in April Spire—continued

**Choir-**Ellen shared that on April 14, the choir sang at the Masonic service in Scranton. They are planning to sing at the HVA on a Tuesday. This will take the place of their last rehearsal for the spring. Our last Sunday to sing is May 26. See you in September after Labor Day. The day of the Catholic Chorale concert there was a collection of \$415. David suggested that we present at a school board meeting a donation of \$200 to the Chimettes for playing during intermission. The balance of the amount collected would go to the church's general fund. Ellen made a motion to donate \$200 to the Mt. View Chimettes, seconded by Kay with the balance of \$215 to go to the church's general fund. All in favor, motion carried.

**Church Cupboard-**Maureen shared that they are supplying monthly food and supplies to two families and two individuals. She hasn't been able to go to the HVA to see if any of the new residents could use some monthly supplies.

**Clerk-**Betty Lou reported that Alice Watkins passed on March 18, 2019.

**Cradle Roll-**Holli shared that one child received a letter and a book on their birthday.

**Historian-**Kay shared the following information: March 31-66; April 7-58; April 14-76(Palm Sunday); April 21-Easter 28-Sunrise and 117 for the 11:00 service. Average for the four Sundays-86. Craig shared that he had heard many positive remarks about our Easter Service

**Pastoral Relations-**Betty Lou reported that they will be meeting Monday at 8:00AM.

**Trustees-** Ellen mentioned that she bought some handicapped grab bars for the lecture hall restrooms and Gary Housel has fastened them to the wall.

**Willing Workers-**Ellen shared that the Willing Workers provided cookies (plus some left from the spaghetti dinner) and punch at the Catholic Choral Concert at our church. They enjoyed taking some of the cookies home. Our quarterly Big Group meeting will be next Wednesday at 7:00, May 1.

**Old Business-**Craig talked about the sign project that we are moving forward. He had pictures to share with the council. David mentioned that he has had requests to have a congregational meeting regarding the sign. Betty Lou asked why the matter has to go to the congregation if the money is not involved. Holli asked what has to go to a congregational meeting.

Information to be put in the June Spire: Congregational meeting on June 23 about the sign. David doesn't want people to come back to say they didn't know about the sign. What will the vote be for? We, council have already voted to work towards a sign and we have a large amount of money pledged just for the sign. No vote on finances. If there is money lacking for the sign, Dorothy Hagenbuch volunteered to pay the balance in honor of Will finishing his doctorate.

Craig inquired regarding the name on the sign. It shall read "Harford First Congregational Church-UCC which is the name we selected during the annual meeting in January, 2019.

A little more information regarding the sign: all the lights will be LED, it will take seven to eight weeks to be built and to be shipped, the letters will be 4 inches high, the sign will have a Lexon cover, there will be a five year warranty on labor and parts, the sign is made of polystyrene. There was a question as to how fast the sign letters would be moving, if they were going to move fast, no they do not have to move fast, they can be adjusted to our liking.

-Services will begin at 10:00 on the first Sunday in June, June 2, 2019.

-Services will begin at 11:00 on September 8, 2019

-The conference annual meeting is scheduled for May 4. Pastor Will will be the only one attending this year.

-Pastor Will's next sermon series will be on listening and speaking in peace and harmony.

-Holli reminded us that when we send in information for the UCC's year book we need to indicate the church's new name and we should also add "also known as First Congregational Society of Harford"

## Summary of Land Gift and Subsequent Land Sale

In mid-December we received a call from an individual that wished to donate a small piece of property with no mineral rights around Tingley Lake (102 Millard Lane) to the church. There was a stipulation that our organization must be a 501 (C)3 organization. The search to establish our 501 (C)3 status was somewhat convoluted and took some time. The property had to be transferred before the end of the year for the donor's tax purposes.

The property was successfully transferred to the church December 28, 2018. At that time, the lawyer told us that we needed to complete an IRS form 8283 if we sold the property within three years. We were unsure of the tax ramifications to us and consulted an accountant.

At the beginning of March, the accountant informed us that we would suffer no tax penalties if the property were sold. The property had already cost \$3469.25 for the lawyer and the accountant, \$64.52 for Harford taxes, \$150/quarter for sewer and \$29.03 for electric.

The property was about 1/8 acre and not lake front but did have lake access through another land owner's property. Council decided that this property was not usable for the church and was costing us money every month. The council decided to try to sell the property. Emily Tracy was contacted as a Colwell Banker realtor. She suggested a reasonable price of \$45,000. We had two offers very quickly and sold the property "as is" for \$42,500 cash with no contingencies on April 22, 2019. The person that bought the property was the land owner directly in front of 102 Millard Lane and also owned the property where the lake access resided.

Selling price	\$42500.00
Less closing cost	\$3933.92
	-----
	\$38566.08
Less property maintenance costs	\$3712.80
	-----
Profit	\$34,853.28

**Spire Sponsor**

**Thank you, Rupert Carey**





Deacon's Report  
April 8, 2019



The Spaghetti Dinner for the community seemed to be a success! It was met with great praise from those who came for the meal. We hope to do something more like this in the future. We believe that 82 people were served a warm meal!

Special Music was suggested for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Some suggestions were *Old Rugged Cross*, *Christ the Lord has Risen Today*, and *He Rose*. Also Greeters and Ushers for Good Friday Service will be Gail, Tammy, Bonnie, Ginny, Dave and Kay. Greeters and Ushers for Easter Sunday have all ready been filled.

Kay has counted the number of Hymnals and Bibles that need to be replaced after last year's storm. 28 hymnals were damage and a total of 42 would be needed in order to have extras in the balcony. 15 Bibles are needed in order to replace what was damaged. Kay has researched and the price for the hymnals would be \$5.16 each and Bibles are \$14.24 each. We also discussed the importance of having magnifying glasses, page magnifiers, or large print books for those with visual impairments. Gail found page magnifiers for \$3.99 each and will order eight for the church.

It was brought to our attention that there are three young couples in our church community that are recently engaged. It was thought that sending them a gift of a devotional book for couples may be a nice gesture.

Also there are two new couples that have moved to the area. Missy has made baskets with treats, a plant, the spire, and a bulletin for each couple.

So what is the difference between a Bible Study and Bible School for adults? We believe that a Bible Study is more for community outreach and would be short (4-6 weeks) vs. a yearlong study. It was suggested that we need to have a "Living" Bible Study in the community that would open the discussion up to jobs, marriages, divorce, stress, and other life events. This would open us up to the community and make others feel welcome.

Contact for the Harford Village Apartments is now LeeAnna at 434-2836.

The Greeter and Usher Coordinator—Karen Jones

Upcoming Events:

Teacher & Education Professional Day will be April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our Choir will be recognized during worship on May 5<sup>th</sup> and will recognize past and present members of our choir. Maybe as a treat the congregation can sing the choir a song! Missy will get a plant for each member.

Mother's Day Service will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. The youth will make fudge for the Mothers.

Next Meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Pastor's Office.

**Deacon's Report  
May 13, 2019**



**Pastoral Deacon Report:** David reported that he gave Pastor Will a book for his birthday.

**Special Events:** Teacher Recognition Service received a lot of positive feedback. We will definitely do it again. We will be voting at our next meeting about whether or not to cut the list of those who work/worked in the field of education that was in the bulletin.

We also had a good turnout for the Choir Recognition service. Mother's seemed to like the fudge. A big thank you to Missy Clarkson for making the fudge and getting the flowers.

**Upcoming Special Events:**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** Honoring Dorothy Greene

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** Pet Blessing

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Honoring Community Leaders- Scouts, Township Supervisors and 4-H Leaders

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** Worship in the Lecture Hall followed by a Potluck dinner

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** Father's Day.

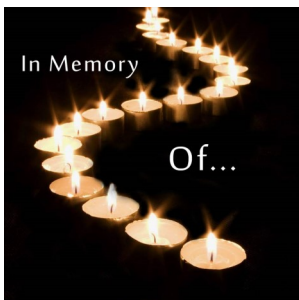
Communion will be this Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Servers will be Katherine, Ginny, David, and Kay.

A suggestion was made to have copies of the Lord's Prayer in the pews. We have decided to add it to the back of the hymnal and will write in the bulletin of its placement.

We are planning to honor this year's High School Graduates. We have two possible dates: June 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please think of any local graduates that have ties to our church community. So far we have Evan Clarkson and Kailey Davis. Katherine will ask Judy and Holli to put something in the bulletin and Spire so we do not miss anyone.

New Sermon Series for the month of June-"Welcoming." Pastor Will is asking each deacon to help participate in this series by doing a little research on how churches around the world are welcoming people to their church. How can we support these churches? Please send an email or let Pastor Will know your findings.

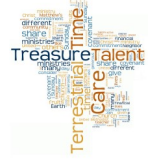
**Next Meeting will be June 10, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Pastor's Office.**



**“ In memory of my dad, Don Cottrell”**

Jonathan Cottrell.

## Stewardship—April 24,2019



Dottie gave us copies of the Financial Report. A very generous donation from an individual boosted the income to \$37, 952 for our year to date.

Julie's Treasurer's Report included the Money Market Account, Profit and Loss Budget Performance and a Balance Sheet Detail.

100 people were served during the Spaghetti Dinner on March 30. This free community dinner was planned, prepared, and served buy Game-On participants and their hard working dedicated volunteer leaders.

Craig and Sharon are reading through the comment sheets submitted at the Pot-Luck dinner in February and addressing the suggestions one by one.

Kay sent Easter cards signed by church attendees to 60 recipients. This simple, yet kind gesture of community outreach is supported by groups (ex, Deacons, C.E,) who pay the postage.

Kandy reported that the Choir had received a check for \$200 following their performance at the Masonic Service. Stewardship collectively agreed the check should be put in the Music Fund to be used at the discretion of the Choir.

Dave, Connie, Julie, Maureen, and Holli will meet on April 23 to decide where to transfer some funds into CD's for a better return on our investments.

Kandy brought up building use and cost for community and non-profit organizations. We were reminded that Council needs to know at least 2 months in advance of an event if the Lecture Hall is requested.

## Stewardship—May 16, 2019

Financial report was not available, but Dottie shared that we are much better financially than during the lean winter months.

Julie's Treasurer's report indicated the transfer of \$34,000 from the Marie Tiffany fund to EquiTrust Annuity and another \$6,000 from capital to the same for a total of \$40,000 that will earn a better interest rate. \$38,566 was deposited from sale of the property at the lake and is resting in capital until voted on as to where best to place it. We recently received additional paperwork from Cabot, indicating an increase in royalties is probably forthcoming. This month's check already included a raise in amount. Office Supply expenditures are almost at budget, and perhaps their amount needs to be increased in next year's budget.

For Old Business, the One Great Hour of Sharing was discussed. The Neighbors in Need campaign we normally run will be in November (24<sup>th</sup>) around Thanksgiving time. A Potluck Dinner will be June 9 after church. A grill has been purchased, and chicken spiedies will be on the menu. Stewardship, Christian Ed., and Trustees will each contribute \$30 to cover cost of the meat.

In New Business, Dave Schulte has asked for a description of what the various committees do. We will come to the June meeting with suggestions for revisions to our existing "responsibilities" sheet. The Fall Campaign for pledges will be Oct 6-Nov 10. We are to be thinking about what besides funding to present to the congregation and suggestions as to a theme. It was suggested that in September, we contact the various committees to start thinking about the amount they had budgeted for this year and any changes they need to make for the future. Knowing early makes the Budget process so much easier and wouldn't involve a "crunch time".

Next meeting—June 20

## Trustee Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2019



### Old Business:

Concerning replacing the lighting in the lecture hall we still need to determine if the quote to do the work included supplying LED Lighting. The light switch should also be replaced when the work is completed. Gary Housel noted that Rich Masters confirmed that the lighting would be LED.

Trustees Move to have the work done to replace the lighting in the lecture hall.

Still waiting on RG Petty to provide a rough quote on jacking and leveling the lecture hall.

Rope for the church bell has been replaced by Harry and Rick. The pivot points were also greased.

Rick met with Jeremy Benedict from Benedict Construction about replacing the driveway with concrete and also paving more parking area with concrete. Still awaiting the quote.

We still need to find a piece of Lexan for the worship table.

Kay Gow is taking care of the Hymnals and Bibles.

### New Business:

There is a leak in the new roof of the sanctuary near the steeple. Harry will contact BSR.

There is a leaking window in the church. Harry will contact Terry Kavetski.

Make sure all repairs due to hail damage are completed.

Johns painting service can't do anything until fall and that is if the season goes to plan.

Gary emailed Kandy as to where the flooring samples came from and if any styles have been chosen.

## Christian Education Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2019



Bonnie continuing with what was presented on April 28th.

Ascension will be talked about on May 19th as well as having Communion with the children as that is what will take place in the 11:00 A.M. service. Questions which might be asked of by the children are, who was at The Last Supper? Why did Jesus do it?

Also, on the 19th the children will watch a power point on Ascension and then they will discuss it on the 26th.

The children will be signing Father's Day cards on the 19th and 26th of May. Kay will mail them out closer to Father's Day which is June 16th.

The meeting ended in a round-table prayer. The next meeting is July 8th at 12:30 at AnnaCapri's so a lunch can be enjoyed by all.

# Missionary Group

May 2019



**Yard Sale:** The Yard Sale was held at Lee's Furniture in Montrose Friday, May 24 from 8-4 and Saturday, May 25 from 8-2. The boy scouts and our youth were asked if they could help. We earned \$1656.85 to go to support a new sustainable food source program our Nicaraguan Missionaries are starting.

**Bake Sale:** The Missionary Bake Sale was held on May 21 from 7- 5:30 at the Harford Fire Hall during voting. We earned \$600.00 to go to CHE (Community Health Evangelism) earmarked for drilling wells in Nicaragua in regions without water. After a community has an established a water source, the health of the people and the economic health improves drastically.

May 19, 2019, the window that Dorothy Greene painted was dedicated. The window will be hung in the Gathering Room with a plaque with the following: "Psalm 42 "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul thirsts for God, for the living God". Priscilla Allen had a luncheon after Sunday worship to honor Dorothy.

Next meeting is May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Picnic is June 22 at 12:00 at Priscilla Allen's. All persons helping with this year's and last years yard sale will be invited.



## Willing Workers

May 1, 2019



The quarterly meeting of the Big Willing Worker group met with 12 women present.

New vinyl was purchased and cut into appropriate lengths to use as tablecloths at functions in the lecture hall.

There was a lengthy discussion on the future of the Old Log Cabin. Kandi to ask Jason Miller a few questions so that we know how to move forward with suggestions. **We are saddened to think the fair may tear down this historic building!**

A summer fundraiser is being planned for Sandy Zupanovich. The group may be asked to contribute in some way.

**GROUP REPORTS:** All small groups contributed cookies to Catholic Choral Society reception, pies for Lenten Service refreshments, and pies for a funeral meal.

North Harford-6 present- held a successful bake sale, paid \$300 pledge to church.

Harford-3 present

Kingsley-3 present-met and made crafts, priced knives, made craft tags, donated money to two Relay for Life teams, money to missionaries for shoebox project, sponsoring a hole at the golf tournament, will make Welsh cookies on June 24.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Lecture Hall. Harford will be hostess.

## **Council Minutes from 5-23-19 not included in committee minutes:**

**Hand Bells:** The hand bell repair will be approximately \$2000 more than previously reported due to no maintenance since they were purchased. The extra funds will be taken from the Memorial fund.

**Choir:** Please let Robbie Fisher know if you would like to sing or say a poem during the service over the summer.

**Church Cupboard:** serving three families and 2 individuals.

**Game-On:** Plan to serve the Community Dinner June 22 from 5-7pm

**Old Business:** If you unlock the church....you need to lock it when you leave.

**New Business:** Cars are parking in the church parking lot late at night. The police will be notified so they can spot check the property.



**One Great Hour**  
O F S H A R I N G

## **More Than You Can Imagine.....**

The Stewardship Committee will present the One-Great-Hour-of-Sharing to the congregation July 7-28th. One Great Hour of Sharing is administrated by the United Church of Christ and supports people in need all over the world. Our Stewardship Committee feels that we need to support our Conference and denomination in this worthwhile endeavor. Please join us in July as we explain what One Great Hour of Sharing is doing in the world now and what they have done in the past.

# Teacher, Administration and Support Staff Recognition

April 28, 2019

Thank You for  
your  
dedication to  
the children  
and youth of  
our  
community!



## Choir Concert at the HVA!



## Memorial Day Remembrance



# Choir Recognition Sunday

May 5, 2019



Deacon David Schulte III read the following note of appreciation to the choir during our Choir Appreciation Sunday, May 5th.

Dear Choir,

The first lines in Shakespeare's immortal play, Twelfth Night, are spoken by the Duke who says, "If music be the food of love, play on."

Today, dear choir, we appreciate you for your gifts of time, treasure and talent when it comes to the music you have blessed us with so faithfully.

Sometimes words alone are not enough. It takes music to bring us to the throne of the sacred, to the house of the holy, and to the place in our hearts where Jesus lives.

Consider the melodies you sing such as "What a friend we have in Jesus", "The Old Rugged Cross", "Great is Thy Faithfulness", and "It is Well with my Soul". These timeless gifts, and so many others in the flowing arrangements you bless us with, teach us and take us, the congregation, to a place as close to heaven as we can get here on earth. We are so grateful to you.

We also know you are grateful to each other. You are your own sacred community. You continue to welcome and embrace others to the music program here, and you certainly work so well as friends in Christ with the common goal of honoring our Savior through music. You touch us through the heart because you touch each other through the heart. You joke with each other, laugh with each other, feed each other, support each other, check in with each other, and love our God through each other. We not only hear that each Sunday, but also we see that each Sunday as well.

What blessings you are!

We realize you wish for no fuss today. Worship is for the Lord, and praise is to be given only to Him. We just want you to hear from us what is true: Heaven does come down when you sing, and we thank God for the memories of Hendrick Marr, the directors before him, for our leader Robert Fisher, of course, and for each one of you.

Thank you.



## **Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates' Report for 2019 Spring Conference**

It has been my pleasure to continue serving you as your designated conference minister through 2018. The year was challenging, enriching, and hope-filled. Throughout most of 2018 we dedicated ourselves, as staff and conference board, to the implementation of the Governance and Ministry model, educating conference board members, establishing ministry teams and making the resultant constitution and bylaws changes, approved in November 2018.

The conference board worked on the development of new Vision, Mission and Core Values statements, even as we continued to speak with and work toward a possible unification with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. As you know, in November 2018, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference did not have enough affirmative support to move forward with the unification of the two conferences. However, because of the hard work of our board and ministry teams, we were well-positioned to continue our work as an independent conference of the United Church of Christ.

Our PNEC vision, approved by the conference in November 2018, is United in Faith; Committed to Love; Created to serve. We know this will not be 100% achievable but we continue to move in this direction. Our PNEC mission statement, again approved by the conference in November 2018, states our focus on "changing lives by equipping, empowering, and supporting those who would spread Christ's ministry." All we do over the next several years will move us toward that mission.

Ministry Teams were developed to allow a broad-base of volunteers to participate in the work of the conference. Ministry Teams include: 3 great Loves, Amigos de Guatemala, Congregational Vitality, Coaching, Disaster Response, Faith Formers, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Search and Call, the Committee on Ministry and its three working groups: Authorization, Oversight, and Local Congregational Support; the GEM Fund, the Gwilym T Williams Scholarship Fund, and the YEA Fund. Volunteers are always welcome to join one or more of these teams. As a part of the development of the Ministry Teams, a total of 28 coaches to support congregational revitalization, search and transition have been trained and deployed. Each of these Ministry Teams developed purpose statements and goals for the program year. Evaluation of their work will be conducted by an ad hoc group of the Conference Board.

Additionally, this year our Staff Personnel Policies were revised by the Staff and Personnel Committee and approved by the Conference Board. Staff job descriptions were also revised by the committee and approved by the Conference Board. The Volunteer Personnel Policies were also developed by the Staff and Personnel Committee and after some discussion and revision approved by the Conference Board.

In collaboration with colleagues from the Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Central Conferences, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in the development of an assessment tool for local congregations based on the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers. The new tool, Marks of Faithful Expression of a Healthy Local Church, was developed and shared with the national setting.

As the newly revised Manual on Ministry was developed, the Committee on Ministry underwent significant changes in its formation, moving into a single Committee on Ministry with three working groups: Authorization, Oversight and Local Congregational Support. The Committee on Ministry also revised its policies and ways of work. These documents align with the Manual on Ministry and our work here in the conference.

It has been my pleasure to lead worship and preach in many of our local congregations, to visit with ministers and lay people at events and area mission councils, to participate in community worship experiences, to work with the Lehigh Conference of Churches, the Phoebe Ministry Board, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and the Council of Conference Ministers. I continue to be nourished by the deepening spiritual formation and development of our congregations, from the youngest to the eldest individuals, our folks are engaged in the work of loving God and their neighbors.

As we continue to live into our vision and mission statements, it is my hope we will continue to share the love of God with faithfulness, compassion, justice and hope.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

## The Penn Northeast Conference Report Summary Notes of the April 24, 2019 Conference Board Meeting

### Issues Discussed:

- The financial report from Treasurer Christian Creyer as of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter indicated that PNEC investments regained much of the losses suffered in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018. Revenues are behind the budgeted amount but not as far behind as at this point in 2018
- As the Board requested at its last meeting, Rev. Bates drafted her personal thoughts and vision for the future of the Conference. Her primary goals include:
  - 1) establishing methodologies for increased inter-congregational activities and support
  - 2) increasing the capacity for stewardship and generosity
  - 3) developing and streamlining processes for support of members and improving relationships throughout the Conference. Initial steps already taken include securing a \$16,000 grant from the Council of Conference Ministers to streamline the Search and Call Ministry, and a request to the AMC groups to invite all their congregations to meet together for fellowship, mission and/or worship. Also, the Congregational Vitality Team will develop a means by which to share best practices on the website and Facebook.
- Some items on the agenda of the Spring Conference meeting include nominations, approving standing for the Resurrected Life Community Church in PNEC, a ministry expo, conference visioning and worship led by Resurrected Life Church. Board members were asked to volunteer for roles as greeters, ushers, etc. at the meeting.

## Congratulations!!!!

The Scranton Prep team of Alana Simrell, Maureen Nole, Kailey Bridgeman, and Travis Bridgeman placed 5th overall at the Newton Mathematics Competition at King's College, Pennsylvania!

Special congrats to  
Kailey Bridgeman on  
placing 3rd in the  
individual competition.



## Happy Father's Day

### A Father's Way

A father's way  
Is never easy  
His words and actions  
Tell us of his love

A father's strength  
Shows us how  
We need to be  
To live and grow

A father's courage  
Helps us dare  
To stop and listen  
For God's message

A father's love  
Guides us on our way  
Through storms and trials  
That come in life.



By Kay Gow

## Bell Choir Rebirth!!!!!!

Bob DeLuca has graciously volunteered to conduct a bell choir.  
Please call or email Bob if you would be interested in participating.

570-498-7090 [gepetto@nep.net](mailto:gepetto@nep.net)



## Golf Tournament Time!!!



Hi Everyone,

The Harford First Congregational Church –UCC has one fund raiser every year, our Golf Tournament at Conklin Players Club. This year it is on June 30, 2019. In the past the money raised by this tournament has gone to fund special projects, however, last year we needed to use this money to pay our December bills.

Our Golf Tournament fund raiser needs the participation of every person to be successful. The efforts of a few people won't give us the results that we need.

If every person would select something from the list below, the tournament will be the success we all hope for. Please consider selecting one or more from the list below:

- Sponsor a hole in memory or honor of a loved one
- Sponsor a hole to advertise your business
- Give the Sponsorship form to someone you know that has a business and ask them to Sponsor a hole
- Donate items/item to be used as a prize
- Bake cookies for the goodie bags
- Donate a Basket for the Basket Raffle
- Work at the Golf Tournament, June 30th
- Get a team of golfers together and play at the tournament
- Donate water, nuts, crackers, pretzels, jerky or other for the goodie bags

Our congregation has always worked together to accomplish so much. Please consider how you can help.

The sign-up sheets are in the Lecture Hall or call Holli at 570-851-5109, 301-643-1775 or email at [hollischichester@gmail.com](mailto:hollischichester@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Mikaela Stout and Hailey Miller were recently welcomed as new members of the National Junior Honor Society at MVHS. The induction ceremony is Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00pm

Great job girls!



# 10th Annual Harford Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Sunday June 30, 2019 1pm shotgun start



## Hole Sponsor/Memorial/Honorarium Level:

GOLD-\$100

SILVER-\$50

BRONZE-\$25

Honor or remember a loved one and support the Golf Tournament.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Information for the Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

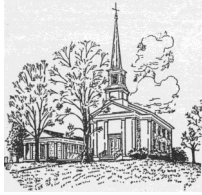
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*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  
hollischichester@gmail.com

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

Any questions, please call or email anytime. Thanks



# 10th Annual Harford Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Sunday June 30, 2019 1pm shotgun start



Conklin Players Club

## 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

\$85 per Golfer = \$340 per Team

Payable in Advance or at the course day of the Tournament

**STEAM**

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING  
ARTS MATHEMATICS

When? - July 29 - August 2, 2019  
Where? Susquehanna County Interfaith Store  
Time? 9:00-4 Pm Each Day  
Learn about Science, technology, engineering, arts and math in a business environment.  
15 Student Limit  
Call to reserve your spot.

*Summer*  
**CAMP** 

for kids ages 6-12  
Held at Camp Ladore,  
Waymart Pa.

Sponsored by  
Salvation Army

June 24-29, 2019  
Call Interfaith to reserve your spot!

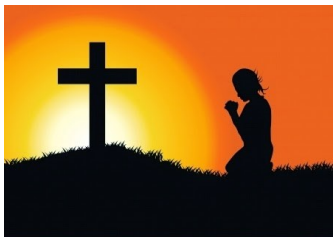


## Spire Sponsor

In Honor and Memory of

**Luce Oliver Poxon,  
Dottie and Al Northrup,  
Jean and Ken Rounds**

**From Walter Poxon**



## Prayer Concerns

Nicholas (Great Grandson of the Weidemans)  
Patrick Simons  
Scott Klenk  
Nancy Marr  
Heather Warren  
Sandy Zupanovich  
Sandy Paolucci  
Jennika Drake  
Sammy  
Brandi & Dave

Sydney Ann (Gamble) Mead and her mother  
Anthony DeVincentis  
Helen  
Dawn Thirston  
Mallory Phelan  
Nancy Burris  
Jackie Schulte's Mom Diane  
Franny (Kay's friend)  
baby Dillion Thomas  
Judy Golembeski  
Elora Race  
Lisa Hahn  
Jessica Miller  
our nation under God  
our government

## June Birthdays



June 01	Aaron Phillips	June 19	Ralph Simons
June 05	Bill & Dorothy Matthews	June 20	Jessica Miller
June 08	Christina Zick	June 21	Greta Schulte
	Tim Higgins	June 22	Don and Linda Lindsey
June 09	Calvin Zick	June 23	Irene Deemer
June 12	Matthew Mitchell		Lisa Hahn
June 13	Ginny Ahearn		Ivie Simons
	Rebecca Empet Herbert	June 24	Eleanor Meyer
June 17	Sue Furney & Wayne Frederici	June 26	David Schulte, Jr.
	Connie Breese	June 28	Brad and Paula Millard
		June 30	Mikaela Stout
			Beth Ann Masters

## Correspondence

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone of you who sent me cards and prayed for me while I recovered from my broken hip. It has been a long time recovering but I look forward to each day.

Thank you, Nancy Marr

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ugly Quilts Team

**Dedicated to providing basic personal care items and a warm sleeping bag to our area's homeless. Thank you ladies!!!**





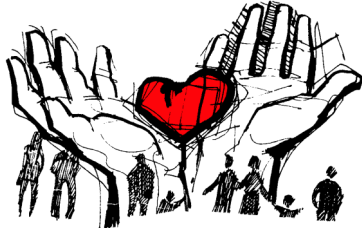
# Worship Assistants

## Greeters

June 2 Sharon Kinney  
June 9 Dorothy Hagenbuch  
June 16 Priscilla Allen  
June 23 Gary Housel  
June 30 Jean Bonham

## Ushers

June 2 Rich /Shirley Masters  
June 9 Ginny Ahearn & Karen Jones  
June 16 Gary & Wendy Phillips  
June 23 Bill & Holli Chichester  
June 30 Ellen Holdredge & Kay Gow



## Readers

June 2 Julie Kesten  
June 9 Bailey Millard  
June 16 Nancy Burris  
June 23 Brian Tyler  
June 30 Sharon Kinney

## 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.



## Home Bound

The Carey Family

Dorothy Greene

Catherine Escandel

Barbara Pease



**Notice: Please send all material for the Spire to**

**Firstchurchspire@gmail.com**

**by the 15th of each month**

**We Welcome You  
to a...**

**It's  
FREE**



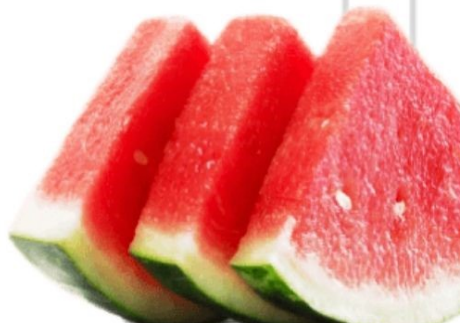
# **COMMUNITY Cookout**

**Saturday June 22nd  
5:00-7:00pm**

**RAIN DATE  
June 23rd**

Hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, macaroni salad, watermelon and drinks

**Harford First Congregational  
Church**



## **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.**

## **Susquehanna County Library Help**

Do you every shop at ShurSave Supermarket?

One may register their ShurSave Gold Card at the store's customer service counter or online:

([www.shursavemarkets.com-programs/Gold Card Program](http://www.shursavemarkets.com-programs/Gold Card Program))

The Susquehanna County Library will receive \$.03 for each can or package of these brands: Best Yet, Nature's Finest, Top Care, Domestix, Academix and others not mentioned in the newspaper article.

Hopefully you will be able to sign up on your next shopping trip or from your computer.



# **HELP WANTED**

## **Do you enjoy cooking?**

**We want you on our team!!**

**Looking for gravy makers, mashed potato makers and green bean cookers for a half day shift at this year's Fair dinner.**

**Anyone interested in helping out please contact Tammy Stout (570)396-7081 or Wendy Phillips (570)434-2192**

# June 2019

June 2019

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
30						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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			

July 2019

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
<b>May 26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jun 1</b>
						Blood Drive (Fire hall) LH Busy-Hagenbuch 12:00pm 5:00pm VFW barbeue
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
10:00am 2:30pm Baked Potatoe lunch (LH) 10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou	9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor in office 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Sc	6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH)	5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	9:00am 2:00pm Book Sale (Orphan school)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Potluck lunch (LH) 10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor i 7:00pm 8:30pm Deaco 7:00pm 8:30pm Trustee	7:30am 9:00am Men's brkfst (Binghams) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH)	5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	1:00pm 4:00pm PASR (LH)	Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	SPIRE DEADLINE (JULY) and August
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 12:00pm 1:00pm Ladie 3:00pm 9:00pm LH bus 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor i	12:00pm 2:00pm Missionary (LH) 6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH)	5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	7:00pm 9:00pm Stewardship	Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scouts (LH)	9:00am 3:00pm KWW-cookie day (L 9:30am 10:30am 9:30 mtg (PO) 4:00pm 5:30pm Pastor i	6:00pm 8:00pm Karate (LH)	5:15pm 6:45pm Armettas	6:30pm 8:00pm Council (LH)	Pastor day off 9:30am 10:30am Yoga (LH)	
<b>30</b>	<b>Jul 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
10:00am 11:00am Service (Sanctuary) 12:00pm 6:00pm Golf Tournament (Conkli 7:00pm 9:00pm B. Scou						

5/26 - 31

6/2 - 7

6/9 - 14

6/16 - 21

6/23 - 28

6/30 - 7/5

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](mailto:firstch@nep.net)  
Spire email: [firstchurchspire@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchspire@gmail.com)  
Web URL: <http://www2.nep.net/~firstch/>

.....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](mailto:wrh@nep.net)  
Office Hours: Mon. 4-5:30 pm

Judy Mitchell –Sec  
Hours: Tues. 1-5 pm  
Thurs or Fri 11am -