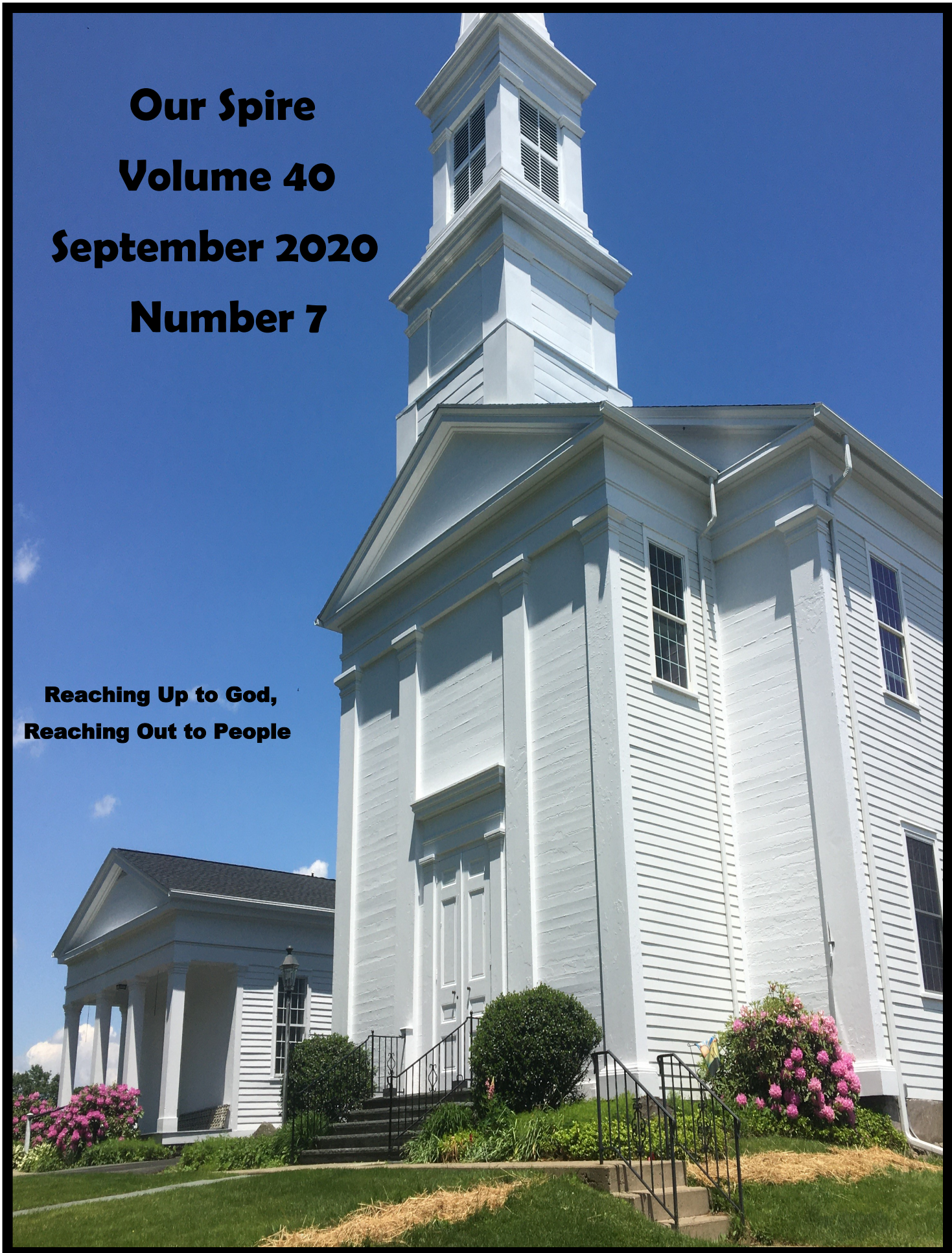


Our Spire
Volume 40
September 2020
Number 7

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



Pastor's Focus on the future, not the troubles today

Stuck. Stymied. Stilted. Sour. These are not words we welcome in our lives, yet we find moments, days, weeks or even seasons where we grapple with difficulties, unfairness, jealousy, envy, family strife, health issues, and the like. These situations are not ours alone; we find these painful dynamics in every story we have shared together this summer in the lectionary passages found in the Book of Genesis. What we have learned from Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Esau, Jacob, Leah and Rebekah is that these faithful yet flawed people present significant character faults and failures. Heart-stopping hardships come as a result of their actions. Rather than finding redemption in their character, which has been challenging to do, we can see again and again the character of God coming through not only in their lives but also in our own lives.

If one recurring theme in Genesis can be shared, it comes through Jacob and Rachel's beloved son, Joseph. While preachers and biblical storytellers elaborate and enhance Joseph's story to draw out his plight; Joseph is, after all, a poster child for things gone wrong—really, *really* wrong. Yet careful examination of Genesis 37 and beyond reveals Joseph never laments his dire circumstances. Instead, he remains faithful to God, a feat difficult for any of us to do with half the adversities Joseph experienced.

How Joseph remained faithful is not his story alone. His story influences and can inspire our own story. Joseph was able to see past all that was in front of him in troublesome times because he literally did see beyond what was in front of him. Joseph dreamed. He didn't just dream though; he dreamt tremendous dreams. His dreams of success in God's abundant blessings were always crystal clear.

Consider our sacred text never shares that among his dreams of success he also dreamt of excessive hardship, disappointment, rejection, betrayal, familial abandonment, slavery, sexual harassment and imprisonment. He only dreamt of a glory-filled future, specifically, his glory-filled future. These dreams sustained him. Similarly, our dreams can sustain us.

In terms of personification, we may not receive from God dreams about bundles of grain bowing down to our own bundle in the field. Equally, suns, moons and stars may not bow to us either, but God's promise of our glorious futures is just as clear and just as perfect as Joseph's. We are Kingdom people who are Kingdom bound. I love the successful 2019 song by Christian artists Sanctus Real, *Nothing can stop an unstoppable God*. Consider the song's title. Do not just imagine a God who takes down your barriers; *trust* this unstoppable God who removes your barriers. Nothing. Stops. God. Nothing. Ever.

Your barriers and blocks are problematic indeed. Mine sure are! They hurt! They cause us to groan and grumble (and this is on a good day). Rather than stay on the course of discomfort, there is a different way to be, a better way to go. We know we can go with God. Whatever hurts our hearts in the now can be given to God who promises us what He showed in dreams to Joseph.

My friend Rhonda, whom I met as an undergrad in our beloved Touring Choir at Grove City College, recently shared a post that we both find a bit too true and amazingly inspiring. It's this. "God is still writing your story. Quit trying to steal the pen. Trust the author." Trust the author.

Any roadblock you have is there for a reason. Maybe it is teaching you humility. Maybe it is teaching you patience. Maybe it is teaching you reliance not in yourself but in your Savior, Jesus Christ. Maybe it is teaching you that every blessing you have in your life is not by your merit but by God's mercy, grace and goodness.

Of course, we want our hardships to disappear. Joseph must have wished this, too. Rather than become bitter, Joseph models for us that we can become better. Joseph shows us that when we lean into God not lament in our circumstances, blessings do come.

Blessings do come.

Let me get back to penning our own story. We cannot choose our own blessings like we can a box of cereal in that long grocery store aisle. We can, however, accept the path we are on, and embrace the place where we are in the moment. And then, like Jesus, whom we follow, we can pick up our mats and walk. Specifically, we can walk forward. When we walk, or as we walk, we can certainly bless others, and this, with a huge return, blesses us. Truly, the last do become first.

I want to close with this. I actually shared this on August 5th for our midweek meditation: The God who knit you together in your mother's womb is the same God who must (or at LEAST from time to time) give you what he gave Joseph, which is the ability to dream and interpret dreams. Big dreams. Bold dreams. Blessed dreams. Your dreams still come, even if you ignore them. Don't ignore them. Follow them.

As we move into the fall season ahead of us, do not fall. Focus on the future, not the troubles today. Follow your God-given dreams. He gave these dreams—these visions—for a reason. As they led Joseph to triumph, they lead us, too.

Here are the lyrics to the Sanctus Real song I mentioned, *Nothing can stop an unstoppable God*.

I wish I knew when this mountain in my way is gonna move
I hope it's ok to tell the truth, Sometimes the doubt starts to win
Yeah, I'd be lying if I told you I was anything but weak
Right now my struggle is all I see
But I'm not giving in, My story will not end in defeat

Cause nothing can stop an unstoppable God
He's not afraid of impossible odds
This is the promise that I'm standing on
Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

This is the promise that I'm standing on, Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

I will not listen to the lie that says it can't be done
I know my war is already won
And I'm claiming victory, Cause I know who's fighting for me

Nothing can stop an unstoppable God
He's not afraid of impossible odds
This is the promise that I'm standing on
Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

This is the promise that I'm standing on, Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

Where does my help come from, Where does my help come from
My help comes from the Lord

Where does my help come from, Where does my help come from
My help comes from the Lord

Nothing can stop an unstoppable God
He's not afraid of impossible odds
This is the promise that I'm standing on
Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

This is the promise that I'm standing on
Nothing can stop an unstoppable God

Where does my help come from, Where does my help come from
My help comes from the Lord

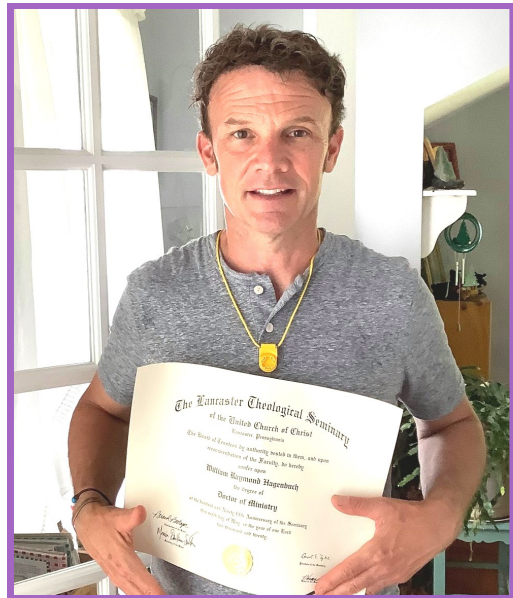
We, Harford First Congregational Church- UCC are celebrating
Rev. Dr. William R. Hagenbuch's
Doctor of Ministry degree from
Lancaster Theological
Seminary.

Pastor Will began serving our church as interim pastor in July 2008.
He continued in UCC InCare training and was ordained and installed on October 22, 2011.
He began work on his doctoral thesis in September 2017.

We congratulate Pastor Will on this monumental achievement which was attained while
he was performing his ministerial duties and serving
our congregation as full-time minister.

Please watch for a date of formal celebration in the near future.

Congratulations!!!!



Spire Sponsor

**This Spire is sponsored by the
Hagenbuch Family in honor of
Rev. Dr. William Hagenbuch's
completion of his doctoral program!!**



On September 19, 2020 from 9:00-4:00 Harford First Congregational Church will partner with our Community and family and friends of the Craig Stout family to hold a Fight Against Cancer Benefit for the Stout family.

This event will be a church wide event with participation from the Willing Workers, Missionary and as many individuals as we can rally. 100% of all proceeds will go to the Stout Family to aid them in their fight against cancer.

The Missionary Group will hold a bake sale and would like the help of all that are willing to bake items. Call Holli 301-643-1775(call or text) or 570-851-5109 if you can bake an item or work at the table.

The Willing Workers are supplying the food for a take-out meal for \$10. Tickets are presale and available now from the office Tuesday and Fridays, Sunday morning after church or by calling Holli 301-643-1775(call or text) or 570-851-5109 or hollischichester@gmail.com.

Menu: Pulled Pork sandwich

Macaroni Salad

Cole Slaw

Baked Beans

We will be having a huge yard sale. We would love to have your yard sale items to sell. You may bring the items to the church or call/text Holli for pick-up (see number above). We are not accepting clothing or exercise equipment.

We will have a basket raffle of beautiful donated baskets. Please help us by donating such a basket. Call or text Holli 301-643-1775 or 570-851-5109 (home) if you can make a basket.

We will also have a craft table of lovely hand-made items. If you are a crafter and would like to donate some of your special crafts, please call or text Holli (see above numbers and email).



Event: Fight Cancer Fund Raiser

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 9:00-4:00 (Rain Date Sept. 26)

Location: Harford First Congregational Church PO Box 217 Harford, PA

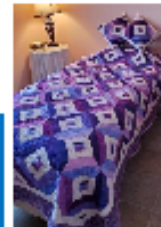
Benefits: 100% of the proceeds to the Stout Family



Link for Stout Family Support Gear:
T-Shirts, Hats, KeyChains
[https://
theweekendcrafter.onlineweb.shop/](https://theweekendcrafter.onlineweb.shop/)



Basket Raffle



Take Out Meal
Pulled Pork Sandwich
Macaroni Salad
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
\$10
Call 570-851-5109 (Holli)
For tickets/Presale Only
Served 11:00-2:00

Here you see me standing, knowing that Jesus is standing with me, the Hershey Cancer Team is standing ready to help me through this at every turn and that each of you are standing behind me and my family through this journey.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support! God is hearing you! And because He Lives, We Can All Face Tomorrow!



We need yard sale items, baskets for the raffle, crafts to sell and helpers. If you would like to donate or help please call 570-851-5109 or 301-643-1775 (Holli).

Monetary Donations can be sent to: Harford First Congregational Church PO Box 217 Harford, Pa 18823 (memo for Craig Stout).
Online Donations can be made at www.firstchurchharford.com (click the give button, select other and note for Craig Stout).
Or go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-craig-stout-beat-cancer>
Please observe social distancing and wear a mask

Dear Congregation,

Attention! The worship service will be livestreamed live at 10:00 am each Sunday.

We have been eager to worship together again. Our council met to discuss how we can safely begin this process. We are now able to meet in groups with masks, distance, and additional sanitizing.

We would like to invite those who feel ready to worship in groups to come to the livestreaming of our worship at 10:00 am. Masks are mandatory. We must keep our distance. We will not use the hymnals and Bibles or have bulletins. All needed text will be projected for you. We will enter and exit through the glass double doors.

For those who feel it is best to stay at home and continue online worship, which, at the moment, seems to be the majority of us, please know our council supports and appreciates your participation. Safety first is a key to our wellbeing.

We look forward to worshipping with you online or in person each Sunday at 10 am.



Deacons Minutes

The Deacons had a meeting on July 12th and August 9th via Zoom. Another short meeting was held on August 16th. July's meeting discussion was about having communion again and how to have it. It was decided to record it on Zoom and then post it to the church's YouTube page so the congregation could watch it at their convenience.

Also discussed was when Pastor Will would take his vacation and who would do the services. Pastor Will will be taking his vacation from August 30th-September 12th. Bonnie Love-Colwell will be doing the services with assistance from other individuals attending those services.

August 9th the discussion was when to record the communion and also perhaps to have some favorite hymns put on the YouTube page for the congregation to view at their leisure. It was decided to record communion on August 16th. August 16th the Deacons discussed the communion script Pastor Will had written and it was decided to go with what was in the Favorites, so we will be recording the communion when we get what is written in the Favorites.

Also discussed was perhaps leaving Sunday services at 10:00 for the remainder of the year and perhaps into 2021. It was felt this should be brought to Council for a vote so at the August 27th this will be brought up for a vote by Council. The Deacons will abide by whatever decision is made by Council.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Gow

Christian Education Minutes (aka exciting news from CE)

August 17, 2020

The Christian Education committee met via Zoom on 8/17/2020.

The main purpose of this meeting was to determine whether or not we would resume face-to-face Sunday School.

This idea has been put on hold, tabled for discussion at our next meeting on September 21.

A new idea has emerged- a virtual/Zoom session type of meeting place/time for Sunday School.

Steps to making this work:

Collect email addresses for Sunday School students/their parents.

Pick a day/time- this is exciting because it doesn't have to be on Sunday.

Set up a LIVE, VIRTUAL, face-to-face, weekly Sunday School!! Yay!!

How can you help? Provide an email address for a Sunday School kiddo to: bjlcolwell@gmail.com.

Other exciting news:

Pastor Will is looking into creating a Facebook Page for Sunday School only.

Holli is adding Sunday School content to the website as we speak! This will contain past Sunday School lessons from my YouTube channel (Bonnie Colwell, in case you want to subscribe!) In its near future, it will contain a Sunday School Teacher Profile video and Sunday School children's artwork.

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Monday, September 21 @ 6 pm via Zoom.

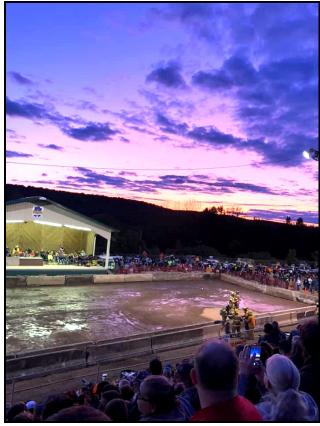
Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Love-Colwell



Isaiah 43:19- "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun..."

We are beginning a Sunday School using the Zoom platform. You can help by submitting the email address of your favorite Sunday School aged children to bjlcolwell@gmail.com

The Quiet Hilltop



This will catch us
Each of us
Something in the angle of the light
Or the feel of the ground
The ground this third full week in August
And we'll remember



Something will catch us
Something indeed
And for a beat our heart won't thump



Something is missing
To leave Harford and head up the hill
On the left, the buildings are there
Of course they're there like campers, cabins and tents at a campground
The paved place where the rides would go
Show only brave grass and wildflowers through cracks we otherwise would not see

The fields and fields of mowed parking area on the right
No other parking lot in the world looks and feels like this one

This all feels like a ghost town
Eerie
Much too quiet
This is as if something has died
And that something was too big to die



We will never know what we are missing
Who we are missing
The conversations, the connections, are all gone



So much is so lost
So much is too sad



Our memories are too big though
Our longing for another year and another hill adventure are not dormant

They are very much alive
And we will come back
And our eyes will be wider
Our joy will be greater
And our love for all that God has given will rejoice
that much louder



So we wait
But let's not do so patiently
Let's do so prayerfully



First Congregational Church, UCC Trustee Meeting Minutes August 10, 2020

Harry Gardner, Gary Housel, Bill Chichester, and Rick Masters were in attendance.

Old Business:

Shades for the windows in the Sanctuary have been ordered and are being made. They should be delivered this month.

Gary put a new wheel on the wheelbarrow

Harry adjusted the light on the steeple

Gary, Bill, and Harry raked the rocks around the new sign. Shane Lewis is going to install topsoil and seed the area.

Rick has purchased a wireless repeater for the security camera system. Rick and Gary have set a date of 8/14 to complete the project.

Headstones need to be moved from the church entrance. No one can find any information on the headstones near the church entrance. The stones will be removed and placed out of the way behind the lecture hall.

New Business:

Water leaked in all of the new windows on the lecture hall side on the first floor with the heavy rains last week. Harry observed that the top of the windows are not caulked and the wind is blowing the rain in under certain circumstance. Terry Kavetski has offered to come look at the issue next week. If he can't find the issue, trustees will caulk the top of the windows to try to eliminate the issue.

Trustees feel that although council has not approved replacing the blacktop driveway main entrance, that in the least the area around the side entrance of the church should be replaced as it is the most used entrance of the church. The area is unsightly and poses a trip hazard. Trustees will review options and seek bids to complete the project. Harry and Gary will research blacktop and sealing costs. Rick will look at options for concrete.

Gary received the price protection agreement for heating oil from Lindseys. We have \$610 credit left over from last year and the prices will be lower this coming winter. Gary has allotted for 800 gallons for this season. The agreement has been signed and submitted for payment.

Spire Sponsor

In loving Memory of Bill Brainard in his Birthday Month

- Jill Weida



Pastor's Report for July 2020

It was an honor to preside over the graveside service for Harford native and peer Larry Herbert. We did this the way Larry would have wanted, which was unconventional, intentional, and motivational. Before the service, the family met in the memorial garden to receive friends and extended family who paid tribute to Larry's life. The service began at noon with the bells from the Spire. Eloquent, hopeful words were spoken about life, death, and eternal life with a Savior who died for us and wants to know us personally and completely.

I am grateful for the contributions I can make weekly through our church Facebook page and our website. These contributions that include the sermon intro, the sermon vlog (which is a 1 to 2 minute video), the midweek meditation and the sermon prep enable us all to walk into the upcoming text each week. Some weeks these contributions are challenging until the Holy Spirit comes and does what the Holy Spirit always does, which is guide His words through me, an empty vessel.

Our Facebook membership continues to grow. Currently, we have 327 members, the last 3 happening just days ago. Now God's work here is impressive! Speaking of the vlogs, a recent vlog had over 250 views. I do not know if all 250 people watched the entire vlog, but this witness and regular, weekly connection in this age is key to the success of God's church here and its future. By this I mean to say that the pandemic will forever change the way people "attend" church. Our outreach is our goal. Saving souls is a must. That we can connect within and around our immediate community is not happenstance. God is guiding us.

Phone calls have been the way to connect with most of you during the pandemic, and I am grateful for our spiritual and our casual conversations. We are learning a lot about each other! I have made visits using safety protocols. Some of these visits have been planned (and please call so we can set up a meeting time and place). Other visits have truly been spur of the moment opportunities to connect by way of God's divine hand.

I have had one visit that will remain extremely private. I cannot and will not share a single detail. I only share this info so that you, too, can contact me at any time *for anything*. What we share together remains confidential, unless you or someone else could be hurt in any way.

As far I know, my graduation from the doctoral program at Lancaster Theological Seminary remains a go for September 5th, the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. There has been a recent COVID-19 case reported on campus, so I wonder if the ceremony will actually take place. I do long to return to the seminary. It has been over a year since I have been on what I have experienced as hallowed ground.

Some of you may wonder what is next for me. I do not wonder. I trust God. He has lead me to the pastoral position of this, my home church. He will do what He always does—lead! He led me to seminary and the masters degree and later to the doctoral program. We will continue to look to our God for good direction. I do not hear God moving me to a new opportunity. I will do exactly what you are doing, which is serving where I am. And this is joyful! Speaking of joy, I have an update on my foster children. They continue to thrive in their home here. Our caseworker is resigning. In saying goodbye, she shared with candor how I am doing with five children aged 2 to 7. She said, "Grrreat!" She is truly impressed with how this is going for all of us. Of course, moments are hard. Yes, it's tiring at times. But love? Fun? Lasting memories? Deep connections? Abiding wonder and zeal? We've got this! During the visitation time before Larry Herbert's service, a neighbor, friend and guide said, "People talk, of course. Some think you're crazy for doing this. And there is bad crazy and there is good crazy. You're doing good crazy!" I agree!

Good crazy may be how to look at the months ahead with this pandemic. Keep pressing on, obeying God, and following with both your heart and your mind. We will get through this, and onto the next mission. Our God is good. So are you!

I pray for you, the congregation, and I am grateful for the prayer partnership you extend to me and my new family. God's blessings are upon this church community as we move forward with God's love, grace, mercy, peace, protection, and abundance.

Willing Worker Big Group

August 5, 2020

The Quarterly meeting of the Willing Workers was held at 7:00 P.M. in the Lecture Hall. Social Distancing was observed. Kay Gow, President, called the meeting to order. There were eight members present: Holli Chichester, Ivie Simons, Kay Gow, Maureen Warren, Mallory Phellan, Dottie Hagenbuch, Peggy Empet, and Kandy Wellman.

The Minutes were presented. The treasurer's report was presented. It was stated that JoAnn Titus has cashed the outstanding check and the tag on the report should read "Roast Beef Dinner" not "Fair". With a motion by Maureen Warren and seconded by Kandy Wellman the reports were accepted with the correction.

Old Business: Kandy went through the numbered items on the previous minutes. With the Fair being cancelled due to the pandemic of Covid 19 they were all on hold. She stated she will not be purchasing fudge bags or dishcloths.

Discussion regarding the space we would have had and what to do for the following years. Kandy and Holli have been unsuccessful in talking to the secretary that handles the space rentals. We had been told there would be 2 12x12 spaces and turns out its 2 10x10. This shorts us 350 sq. ft. less than the cabin. How to set up the inside could be problematic. Do we try to rent 2 12x12 on the inside of the building and 1 10x10 on the outside? Inside the building we felt we would have to make sure the knives for sale would be secure at night as there are no locking doors on the spaces. This way we could put knives, fudge and cookies in a smaller space and crafts, attic treasures, etc. in the inside. It was also discussed about buying a building and leaving it on the grounds. We will try to find out the facts regarding buildings left on the grounds. Example: could we forgo rent until we recoup the price of the building, do we have any input as to where on the grounds it would be set, to name a few examples of the questions. This discussion will have to continue.

New Business: Roast Beef Dinner This will be held on November 21st from 3:00 – 5:30. Presale and Take-Out ONLY. Cost \$12.00. Ivie will get tickets ready for print.

Holli brought up that the church will be holding a fund raiser for the Craig Stout family on September 19, 2020 with a rain date of September 26, 2020. Craig and family are our church family and he has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Holli asked if the Willing Workers want to take part. There will be an outdoor garage sale, basket raffle, craft sale and a takeout meal. The tickets for the meal will be presale/take out ONLY from 11-2:00 . The event will be from 9 – 4. After discussion Ivie Simons made a motion that the Willing Workers cover the cost of the meal. Maureen Warren seconded this. Motion carried. Holli will try to get someone to cook the pulled pork, the macaroni salad and Cole slaw will be made by the ladies. Ivie Simons will do the tickets and get them to Holli. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00. Pulled Pork, Roll, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw. There will be a bake sale at the event.

Group reports: Harford 2 members Paid pledge to the large group

North Harford 3 members

Kingsley 3 members

Meeting adjourned Next meeting will be November 4th at 1:00 p.m.



You Cleaned and Purged during the Quarantine.....

now there is someplace to put it all !!!!!

Fight Cancer Benefit for the Stout Family is hosting a Yard Sale September 19th
from 9:00-4:00.

We will be collecting anything to be sold in a yard sale:

Home Décor, shoes, bedding, electrical appliances, lighting, TVs, furniture, household items, kitchen items, tools, yard stuff, toys, baby items, bikes, etc.

Please bring any items to the lecture hall and label them “Yard Sale” now through September 15th. Call Holli at 301-643-1775 or 570-851-5109 for pick up if you are unable to bring items to the church.

100% of the proceeds will go to benefits the Stout Family.

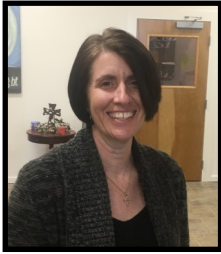
Notice: Please send all material for September to be included in the Spire to

Firstchurchspire@gmail.com

by the 15th of September 2020!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Weinberg Food Bank is coming to Harford First Congregational Church



The 4th Friday of each month
Next distribution August 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 Tammy @ 570-396-7081.

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

RADA Cutlery



If anyone is interested in purchasing Rada Cutlery, there will be a Rada Catalog available in the church office for viewing. The office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Please contact Kandy for purchasing at 570-561-8835.

Missionary Minutes

8-18-2020

Least Coin: Story of exchange students bringing diversity and hospitality. All children are God's Children.

Disaster Kits: Kits in storage will be inventoried for possible delivery when the Depots reopen.

Correspondence: Received thank you for \$75 donation to Daily Bread.

Received thank you for participation in Christmas Tags for Interfaith.

Received thank you for soup and bread from Gary and Wendy Phillips and the Colwells.

Soup Ministry: Reminder to the congregation that soup is available for you to pick up and deliver to those in need of comfort.

Showers of Blessings: Items donated were sorted and repacked. The items were delivered to CareNet and the Women's Resource Center 8-19-2020. Both groups expressed thankfulness for our churches response.

Benefit: We discussed the Stout Benefit. Missionary will sort and prepare yard sale items September 15 from 9-12.

Weinberg: received program update and encouraged those that can help to come August 28 because our students will be back to school.

Summer Lunch Box: received a program update. The Chicken BBQ is August 29th to provide funding for 2021.

Next Meeting: September 15th at 1:00.

Showers of Blessing Distribution



**Women's
Resource
Center**

**Items
collected**



**Collected items for
Care Net**

Client Store at CareNet where our items will be placed. Moms and Dads take parenting classes to earn tokens to shop in the store.

Thanks for donating to two worthy programs!!



Bake Sale for Fight Against Cancer Benefit for Stout Family



The Missionary Group is sponsoring a bake sale at the Benefit on September 15th. It will be held at Harford First Congregational Church from 9:00-4:00. All proceeds will go to benefit the Stouts. We are looking for people that would be willing to bake items and people willing to help man the bake sale. Please contact Holli Chichester if you have questions at 301-643-1775 or 570-851-5109 or hollischichester@gmail.com or Priscilla Allen 570-434-2383.



Basket Raffle for Fight Against Cancer Benefit Stout Family



We need baskets or items to Raffle for the Cancer Benefit. The baskets should have a list of items in the basket and if possible be to Holli Chichester by the beginning of September. We plan to offer them online as well as in person at the benefit.

Please call /text/email Holli with questions or for basket pick up.

**301-643-1775 cell, 570-851-5109 home,
hollischichester@gmail.com**

Home Bound

The Carey Family

Barbara Pease

Dorothy Greene

Joan Benson



Prayer Concerns

-We pray for lives to be preserved—saved—because we, Your people witness to You, we, Your children, speak of you through our hearts and in our actions

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

-We pray our national and local leaders

-All school districts as we move one day closer to a new academic year—this includes school board members, administration, faculty, staff, parents and students

-We pray for Kathy Furguson's niece Stacy with stage 3 breast cancer

-Adeline Fallon

-Cindy Bancey's son

-We pray over the passing of pastor Lynn Thompkins

-We pray for Connie and David Schulte's son (Phil) who has an upcoming neurologists appointment

-for those who medical issues large and small

-for those affected in anyway by the COVID virus

-Charlene Batzel with unspoken prayers

-David and Brandy

-the Biesecker family

-Ivie Simons on her journey with cancer

-JoAnn Titus

-Gary Phillips

-the Carey family

-Melissa Clarkson

-Amy Brown Whitney and her surgery

-teen drivers with their learners permits

-the family of Larry Herbert

-those experiencing financial pressures

-the family of Bill Estabrook

-Susan Conklin on the recent loss of her mother

-the family of Ellie Miller

- Barb Wojcik Parraga asks for prayers for her neighbor's Mom battling stage 4 pancreatic cancer

-the Shea Family

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

-Fred Williams

-Rock Estabrook

-Barbie Parsons and her family

-upcoming weddings

-Will's five foster kids

-Evan Clarkson and all those faithfully serving in the military

-Corinne Chichester for health and employment

-MaryJane Genneken

-Sandy Zupanovich



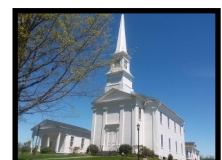
The Website is up and running.

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



Directory Update



First SGT Robert Schulte & Monica and Greta
6057 Los Siglos Drive
El Paso, TX 79912

Robert L. Reynolds
1598 Layton Road
Scott Twp. , PA 18447

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.

Spire Sponsors

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

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

PO Box 217

Harford, PA 18823

Summer Lunch Box Distribution Recap

I cannot thank all of you enough for the time and effort you put into this program. The support from the schools, the community, local churches and most importantly the volunteers are what has made the Summer Lunch Box a success.

Enjoy what is left of your summer and I hope to see you at some of our fundraising events.

God Bless,
Paula Smith

Please see the next page for all the fun facts from our 2020 Summer Lunch Box Distributions

No.	Summer Lunch Box					
Fun Facts as of 8/20/2020						
Families	186					
Children	492					
Cost for	Food and Milk	\$37,015.93		Plus GC	\$10,273.77	
Item	6/13/2020	6/27/2020	7/11/2020	7/25/2020	8/8/2020	Total
Cheese	289	305	220	225	330	1369
Eggs	289	305	220	225	227	1266
Hot Dogs	275	292	207	213	272	1259
Margarine	197	207	165	144	152	865
Granola	1156	1220	880	798	1350	5404
Freeze Pops	1156	1220	880	798	1350	5404
Fruit (Cans)	520	434	372	383	525	2234
Cereal	332	305	220	237	364	1458
Crackers	300	Discontinued				300
Ramen Noo-	578	610	440	434	878	2940
Soup (Cans)	578	512	440	434	600	2564
Peanut But-	197	207	156	152	287	999
Jelly EO	197	0	185	20	138	540
Juice	300	Discontinued				300
Mac N	578	500	337	383	540	2338
Mayo EO	186	0	138	20	129	473
Pancake	186	0	138	20	129	473
Syrup EO	186	0	138	20	129	473
Popcorn	321	430	406	422	511	2090
Pasta Sauce	578	492	406	369	511	2356
Pasta	578	492	406	369	511	2356
Ravioli	578	500	406	369	511	2364
Tuna	578	444	406	369	511	2308
Baked	276	Discontinued				276
Veggies	578	496	406	369	511	2360
Pudding (4	289	225	306	369	492	1681
Bread	289	225	216	245	300	1275
Milk	283	225	220	245	237	1210
Fresh Fruit	197	207	151	164	160	879
3/16 & 17	Emergency food distribution			\$1,273.77		
4/23, 27	Grocery Gift Certificates			\$9,000.00		
		(300) \$25 GC				
		(150) \$10 GC				
	\$12,712.05	\$8,383.37	\$4,331.97	\$5,545.97	\$6,042.57	
				\$37,015.93		

Correspondence

Hi, Hope you are doing well!

Aunt Helen has tested negative for the Covid19 virus and has been moved back to her room at SNF. She has lost more weight but can now have visitors wearing masks for short visits. She does tire easily. Maybe Will could stop by if he is in the area!

Take care, Cindi Morrison

To the congregation of First Church,

First of all, Gary and I would like to thank you all for the cards and well-wishes. They really brightened our days through this trying time. Today (Friday August 7) Gary gets his portable pump disconnected for the 12th and final time...the chemo is done! We are looking forward to a return of appetite, a golf game, and maybe an occasional pizza! We have a little cabin fever, but everyone is in the same boat, so we really can't complain. It has been a great comfort knowing that our church family is there, with funny cards and the online services, which we have greatly enjoyed. We are looking forward to the day when we can return to church.

God Bless you all, Gary and Wendy Phillips

September Birthdays

Sept. 03	Brett and Dena (Simons) Dew		
Sept. 04	Joe Kulyeshie	Sept. 20	Don Lindsey
Sept. 05	Kaiden Warren		Payton Colwell
	Bob and Dottie Simons	Sept.21	Rick and Dana Empet
Sept. 06	Breanne (Simons) Hiller		Allan and Kaylee Phelps
	Ron and Jacqueline Phillips	Sept. 23	Bob and Irene Deemer
Sept.07	Ralph and Ivie Simons	Sept. 24	Delaney Heller
Sept.08	Bonnie Resseguie		Aiden Empet
Sept.10	Jack Allen	Sept. 25	Cathy Tracy
Sept.11	Jeffrey Zick	Sept. 26	Henry Rush Simons
Sept.13	Leanne Colwell		Griffin Patrick Simons
Sept.16	Brad Millard	Sept. 27	Patrick Simons
	Alice Archer	Sept. 28	Harry Gardner
Sept.18	Jason and Jessica Miller	Sept. 29	Jacob Heller
	Wayne Wellman	Sept. 30	Bridget (Zick) Sherring



Chicken BBQ

The Harford Vol Fire Company

October 18, 2020

\$10.00

½ chicken, roll, coleslaw, baked beans & dessert

Pick-up or eat in 12:00-2:00

142 Fair Hill Road

Harford, PA

Tickets available in the church office

see Judy Mitchell

Office-570-434-2260

Home -570-434-2716

firstch@nep.net

jmm@nep.net

(These tickets usually sell out, call or email to get yours before they are all gone)



Non-Profit Organization

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Montrose, PA 18801

Harford First Congregational Church –UCC
5016 Creek Road
PO Box217
Harford, PA 18823
Tel.570-434-2260
Email: firstch@nep.net
Spire email: firstchurchspire@gmail.com
Web URL: www.firstchurchharford.com

.....the people in darkness have seen a great light

Isaiah 9:2

Join Us Each Sunday!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MAIL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Harford First Congregational Church—UCC

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

Judy Mitchell –Sec

Hours: Tuesday 1:00-5:00
Friday 1:00-5:00