

**Volume 37**

**July/August 2018**

**Number 7**

## Flags

Flags are symbols of a country's ideals, beliefs, and desires for freedom to be shared by all people everywhere.

The U.S. flag is and has been a symbol of freedom for many countries. The flag has a field of blue with 50 stars; one to represent each state. Each color has a specific meaning. Red is for the blood which is shed, white is for purity and innocence, blue stands for vigilance and justice.

Our forefathers fought many long, bloody battles against the British to obtain freedom from a king who was across an ocean. Many more battles have been fought and won for freedom.

The flag still flies and will continue to fly as long as men and women are willing to fight for the rights of those who are oppressed. May freedom ring loud and long.

Kay Gow

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





# To everything there is a season...

## What summer does (*and does not*) offer

Some of us long for these summer days three seasons out of the year. Michelle, the female lead in the musical BIG FISH (and I will speak of this show elsewhere in this *Spire* edition), said at a recent Saturday rehearsal, “I’m finally warm.”

Summer brings about a pace for us. It also brings on a social change. No doubt, we are busier with travel and company in our own homes. We are “lake people” even if we do not live on a lake. Everything seems more relaxed. Emphases (yes, there is a plural to emphasis) change. We’re just different from the start of the first super warm days in June until Labor Day. Relaxed, mellowed, or maybe even lazy (in a good way), we welcome a new pace from the push of the other three seasons.

Your response to God may change during this season. Notice that. Like the season itself, you may be more casual with God than you are at any other time of the year. I advise that you don’t put a value on this—contemplating whether this is good *or* bad; it just is. Play its strengths.

The interpretation of the scripture of Mary and Martha often puts “busy” Martha in a negative light where Mary just sits at Jesus’ feet, basking in his presence and peace. In the life of your faith, I think you should strive to be both Mary *and* Martha because each woman displays aspects of our lives with God. Sometimes, yes, we need to be working. Literally working. Git ‘er done. Ministry moves. Lives are changed because Christ is calling you to action. Conversely, there are times to sit, relax, reflect, and enjoy not motion but proximity to the Son of God.

Of the four, this is the sitting season for most of you. Enjoy it. Maybe even use a word seldom heard at First Congregational-UCC, and the word is *rest*.

Resting isn’t idleness or indolence. It’s intentionality. “Intentionally resting” is not an oxymoron; you are purposely giving a focus to this slower pace in your spirituality.

A slower pace doesn’t mean you stop. Summer isn’t the time when, like your childhood days, you were totally off from school and stayed far away from the structure of learning. No, don’t stay away from church and learning we get through the gift of organized worship. If this happens, that’s a serious detriment. Just take your relationship with our three-in-one God at the pace summer offers.

You do have to prep for summer guests. You care that they are well while with you. Hmm. Sounds like Martha action. And then too, there’s a time to sit around the [fire, the porch, or the dock](#) and breathe in love—your love of Jesus *and* your love of family, not as if the two are apart, but actually together. Summertime lets the sacred and secular blur or blend. This happens in the other three seasons as well; we are not once a week Christians; but something about summer worship lingers through the week. Note this. Enjoy this. Live into this. And may God bless you and those you love around your campfires, porch visits, and dock times. *Amen*.



# ***BIG FISH* COMES TO BINGHAMTON**

Your pastor finds a message for us all in a traveling salesman named Edward Bloom

BIG FISH, the musical, come to the Binghamton High School stage July 13, 14 at 7 PM, and July 15 at 2 PM.

In this family-based show, I play the lead, Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who teaches us how to live life boldly because he has been given a gift—He learns how he is going die. This speaks to us Christians about what we are to do with our lives, and how we are to live them.

Unlike Edward, we may not know *how* we are going to die, but we do know *what* happens once we die. We meet Jesus.

Knowing how his life ends how Edward responds to life, particularly in the troubled relationship he has with his son, Will. I hope you can see this show because it speaks to how, through our family relationships, we can live our lives not in “the now”, but with eternity in our hearts, and in our actions.

BIG FISH

Produced by SPARE Productions

[www.spareproductions.com](http://www.spareproductions.com)

Binghamton High School

31 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905



**Notice: Please send all material for the Spire to  
Firstchurchspire@gmail.com**



# We Rebuild

On Tuesday, May 15th, the Harford area was hit with a devastating hail storm. Many homes and vehicles were damaged. Our church was particularly hard hit due to its location, age and lack of surrounding trees. Our team of Trustees along with many others have been working tirelessly to put our beloved church back to rights. Thank you, Trustees!!!

## Out with the Old.....





**In With the New!!!**





**Sunday Morning Worship in the Lecture Hall.**

We worship in the Lecture Hall complete with a sense of community and the feel of the Holy



**Our loving and handsome men on Father's Day!**





## Flash NEWS

6-22-18

**Financial Secretary:** A donation given was moved to the music account.

**Treasurers Report:** Given by Julie Gardner. A sum was transferred from the general, capital and Building fund to the checking account. This amount is awaiting the setup on the Vanguard account for investment purposes.

\$134.43 was sent to the Lunch Box Program.

**Christian Education:** Candy bars were given by the Sunday School on Father's Day.

The breakfast which was going to end Sunday School for the summer will be held at the beginning of Sunday School this fall.

We will continue with The Bible in a Year. A letter will go out again this year so the children and parents will know what will be going on. The sleep-over will be held after school starts in the fall.

The dinner at the Harford Fair was discussed as to where the money earned would be going. Half of it will go to the Youth and Outreach ministry. The other half will go to a charity to be determined. Also discussed was what activity would be done during the dinner for the children to have fun with. Last year's rock painting was enjoyed by all who participated.

The next meeting is July 8th after church.

**Church Cupboard:** Serving 3 families and 5 individuals.

**Cradle Roll:** Three children will receive letters and books this month.

### Deacons:

- Flowers and candy bars for Father's Day were ordered and distributed.
- Honoring of graduates July 1, 2018
  - Seth Conrad, Delaney Heller, Kari Zupanovich, Mikaela Phillips
- There will be a baptism for Sallie Diana Schulte, daughter of Jackie and David Schulte on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am. The baptism will be honored during worship on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Bonnie is preaching on June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>
- David Schulte will preach July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- David Schulte prayed over the prayer book with the Deacons.

Next meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm



**Historian:** Attendance in May: 74, 71, 46, 48 for an average of 59.

**Missionary:** The yard sale June 8-9 in Montrose was a great success with \$1970 going to our missionaries in Nicaragua. Thank you to everyone that donated or helped in the set up and take down of the yard sale.

**Stewardship:** Are presently working on the October Pledge Campaign theme. The next meeting will be the third Wednesday in July.

**Trustees:** The windows, siding, carpet, steeple, hymnals and Bibles, Christmas decorations were all damaged by the hail storm. The damaged property has been removed and steps are being taken to replace all of the damage.

New windows and siding have been put on the church. Roof and carpet estimates are being submitted by several companies. The Trustees are researching where to get replacement cushions.

Replacement Hymnals and Bibles will be ordered and the Christmas decorations are being assessed.

The steeple will be repaired in place by the company that built it.

The Cleaning Company will do one more complete cleaning.

The painted portion of the church exterior will require painting and estimates are in the works.

Thank you to all the Trustees for their dedication and super hard work!!!

**Pastor's Report:** I finished the first year at Lancaster Theological Seminary's doctoral program this past Wednesday, June 20.

- In my elective, *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, I created a final project as a byproduct of a paper on the course's 8 books. That project will be shared ASAP as its intent is to go public. I created a 12-part journey about meeting God and ourselves into the woods. I use the woods around my home to guide us through connections to God. Please ask me about this if you do not receive info on how to find it.
- Preaching in the LH over these past few weeks has been an incredible experience. After two weeks in the fire hall (and how grateful we are to the company for letting us use their space!), many have shared how they appreciate this intimate, 'cozy' environment "at home." There's a freedom and a casual atmosphere in this worship space which reflects for us the tempo of summer and the connections we make with God (and each other) at this time of the year.
- There are several in our congregation with very serious health issues that will not be reported. My visits have been profound, and I ask you to lift these people and their situations in prayer. God knows who needs His attention at this time.

- I officiated at the June 15<sup>th</sup> wedding of Mr. and Mrs. David Gebo at the Methodist Church in New Milford because our sanctuary is under clean-up and restoration. Brandy and Dave are an incredible couple who appreciate our church support. Prayers to the newlyweds!
- Our ministerium met this month and talked of a future spiritual retreat day.
- I continue to meet with the Community Builders to create an event in the future for the community (and its wellness). More info will be shared when our action place is in place.
- Bonnie Love-Colwell will preach the first Sunday of my 4-week vacation. She takes the pulpit on June 24<sup>th</sup>. David Schulte has the pulpit July 1<sup>st</sup>. Bonnie comes back on the 8<sup>th</sup> and David preaches again on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Please contact David Schulte for pastoral care needs during my vacation.
- I am *blessed* to have the lead in the musical BIG FISH. I need this time away to restore, renew, and relax....*and* have some fun!

My prayers are with this church that continues to show its strength in its love and care for others.

God Bless you all.



## July/ August Sponsors

This month the Spire is in Memory of  
Ken and Eleanor Jesse  
By Nelson Jess

&



This month the Spire is supported by a contribution  
given in loving memory of Norman J. Maza  
By His Family



# Worship Assistants



## July

### **Greeters**

July 01, 2018 Kay Gow  
July 08, 2018 Dottie Hagenbuch  
July 15, 2018 Kay Gow  
July 22, 2018 Peg Empet  
July 29, 2018 Priscilla Allen

### **Readers**

July 01, 2018 Kay Gow  
July 08, 2018 Craig Stout  
July 15, 2018 Missy Clarkson  
July 22, 2018 Sharon Kinney  
July 29, 2018 Shirley Masters

### **Ushers**

July 01, 2018 Gus Ferrara & George Lotter  
July 08, 2018 Sharon Decker & Kay Gow  
July 15, 2018 Stout Family  
July 22, 2018 Le Anne Colwell & Kay Gow  
July 29, 2018 Gary Housel & Kay Gow

## August

### **Greeters**

August 05, 2018 Ginny Ahearn  
August 12, 2018 Jean Bonham  
August 19, 2018 Karen Jones  
August 26, 2018 Kay Gow

### **Readers**

August 05, 2018 Ray Frederick  
August 12, 2018 George Weideman  
August 19, 2018 Linda Lindsey  
August 26, 2018 Alyssa Clarkson



### **Ushers**

August 05, 2018 Anita Millard & Nancy Burris  
August 12, 2018 Bonnie Love-Colwell & Peyton Colwell  
August 19, 2018 Loren & Linda Robinson  
August 26, 2018 Bill & Holli Chichester

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries



July 01 Kandy Wellman  
July 02 Pat Gallan  
July 04 Michelle Estabrook  
July 05 Heidi Millard  
Connie and David Schulte  
Bruce and Eleanor Meyer  
July 10 Brandy Lindsey  
July 11 Kathy Brown  
Ellen and Jud Holdredge  
Marianne Kraft  
John Zimmerman  
Nicholas Beach  
July 12 Avery Urda  
July 14 Corinne Chichester  
July 15 Gail Batzel  
Robert Fisher  
July 16 Eli Titus  
Melissa Yarrish  
July 17 Dale and Peggy Empet  
July 18 Patrick Lamberson  
July 20 Jim Batzel  
July 24 Elizabeth Masters

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries



August 02 Julie Gardner  
August 03 Craig Stout  
August 04 Nancy Marr  
August 06 Jean Bonham  
Patrick and Kate Simons  
August 07 Ellen Holdredge  
August 09 Ilse Lohrey  
Connie Schulte  
Tanner Stout  
August 10 Becky and Brendan Herbert  
August 12 Lynn Butler  
August 13 Doug and Lisa Higgins  
August 14 Mark Lewis  
August 21 Josh Urda  
Nancy Tyler  
August 22 Ray Frederick  
Sarah Gardner Key  
August 25 Dorothy Hagenbuch  
Charles Ahearn  
August 27 Barbara Pease  
August 28 Mark Beach  
August 30 Barbara Yarrish



**Address Change:**

Scott Klenk's address while in rehab.

Scott Klenk Room #362  
1270 Belmont Avenue  
Schenectady  
NY 12308

\*\*\*\*\*

## Summer Lunch Box Program

Summer Lunch Box BBQ at the VFW was a huge success. We made \$9007.00 that will go towards nutritious food for children who's families struggle during the summer months because the kids are home and not getting the free and reduced meals at school. The men and women at the VFW make this possible program possible through their dedication and donations.

They presented the check to Paula Smith , head of the Summer Lunch Box Program at a Memorial Day Celebration at the Lenox VFW.







Girl Scouts®

## Girl Scout End-of-Year Party



**Brandy and David Gebo**

**Newlyweds**





# Missionary Yard Sale for Nicaraguan Missionaries



## **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.

## **ATTIC TREASURES**

Time for Attic Treasures for the Log Cabin at the Fair. Please leave in the Music Room. The Attic Treasures are a big incentive for folks to enter the Log Cabin at fair time.



## **Fair Dinner**

## **Thursday August 23, 2018**

**Chicken and Biscuit,**

**Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,**

**Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert**

**Beverage**

**Sign Up Sheets will be up soon for food items**

**and**

**Raffle Baskets**





Alice Watkins  
Joshua (Wendy Phillip's great nephew)  
Sandy Zupanovich  
Tom and Todd ( friends of Betty Lou Bennett)  
Carolyn Jennings (Gail Batzel's sister)  
Rupert, Lynola and Norma Carey  
Greg Rosacso  
Audry and Arnie Button

## Prayer Concerns

Brandy and David Gebo  
Joe and Patti's daughter Katie  
Scott Klenk  
Lorraine (Bonnie Love-Colwell's Mother in law)  
JoAnn Titus  
BethAnn Masters and family  
Ellsie  
Teresa Lamberson's mother  
Graduates

## Home Bound

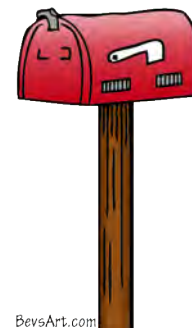
The Carey Family  
Dorothy Greene  
Alice Watkins



Catherine Escandel  
Barbara Pease

## Address Change

**Scott Klenk**  
**Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital**  
**Room 362 West Wing**  
**1270 Belmont Ave**  
**Schenectady, NY 12308**





Hi Everyone,

The First Congregational Church of Harford has one fund raiser every year, our Golf Tournament at Conklin Players Club. This year it is on July 15, 2018. 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, July 15th
- 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!





# 9th Annual Harford Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Sunday July 15, 2018 1pm shotgun start



Conklin Players Club

## Hole Memorial/Honorarium/Sponsorship 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Team Registration Form**

Team Name/or Captain's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: First Congregational Church of Harford  
\$85/Per Golfer = \$340.00 Per Team (4 Golfers/Team)

**\*\*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



"18th Annual"

# "MUSIC IN THE PARK"

FREE Admission

10:30am Worship Service by the  
Community Bible Church with Jay Best

followed by Contemporary & Traditional Christian Music

11:30am until 5:00pm (rain or shine)

some talents:

Tom Taylor, Jim Reeves, Wendy Moe, Gene Badwick, Black Sage,  
Touch of Christ, Lenoxville Band, Spark Gospel Singers, Danny Coleman,  
Paul Kester, Nancy & Tom Musso more call 570-679-2766 for more info

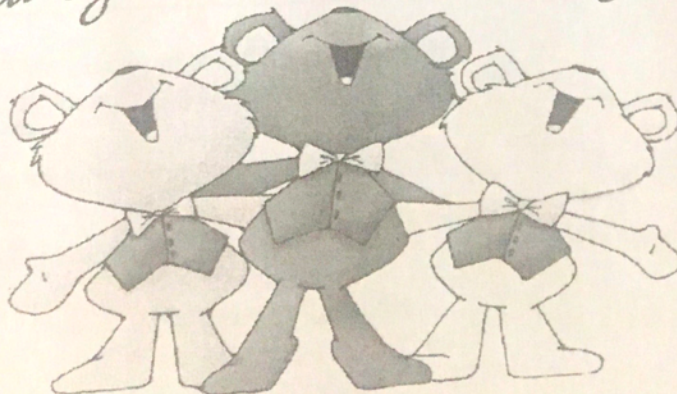
**Sunday, August 5th, 2018**

at the Clifford Firemen's Fairgrounds,  
Route 106, Clifford, Pa.

COME WHEN YOU CAN, LEAVE WHEN YOU MUST

*supported by Local Community Churches*

*it's fun  
for the  
whole family*



*refreshments  
available for  
minimal charge*



# July 2018

July 2018							August 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

Jul 1 - 7		Jul 8 - 14		Jul 15 - 21		Jul 22 - 28		Jul 29 - Aug 4	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>Jul 1</b> 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Trustees	<b>3</b> 7:30am Men's Bkfst (Binghams) 1:00pm NHWW - LH	<b>4</b> Independence Day Pastor Will (vacation)	<b>5</b> Pastor Will (vacation)	<b>6</b> Pastor's day off	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>30</b> 9:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 4:00pm Pastor-office	<b>31</b> Aug 1
<b>8</b> 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor Will (vacation)	<b>12</b> 10:30am Widows for Christ (SNMBC)	<b>13</b> Pastor's day off	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>23</b> 9:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 4:00pm Pastor-office	<b>24</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor Will (vacation)	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Council (LH)	<b>20</b> Pastor's day off	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LH)	<b>23</b> 9:30am Mon. mtg (PO) 4:00pm Pastor-office	<b>24</b>
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Non-Profit Organization

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Montrose, PA 18801

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
5016 Creek Road  
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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!!*

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  
Fri 1-5:00 pm