

# FIRST FAMILY NEWS



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## LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

Advent is a time of preparation; a time to re-evaluate our responses to our God who loves us enough to become one of us. It is a time to reflect on the teachings that were such an important part of Jesus' ministry. Our desire to be followers of Jesus can be summed up in this statement about ourselves: "Jesus is our rock." This is a broad statement, and it has very broad application in our day-to-day lives. It means that, when questions are asked or when decisions are to be made, we go back to Jesus' teachings for guidance.

One question is "How do we treat one another?" In other words, we need to decide how to work together, how to behave toward one another, and how to resolve differences. Jesus gave us clear direction when he said (John 13:34-35), "Just as I have loved you, you should love one

another so people may know you are my disciples."

Loving one another enough for it to show is a tall order! But it is as close to an order from Jesus as it can be. It means we help and encourage one another as we live out our faith. It means we settle differences like friends and not like enemies. It means we rejoice in one another's work and cooperate with enthusiasm.

Though such love among a diverse group of believers is not easy to maintain, we have a number of recent examples where we have seen it.

Consider the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. A series of worship services, concerts, dinners, and commemorations went off with very

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## PASTOR MOYER'S LETTER

Hello and greetings to all at First Church! I write this brief note to you on my first day back in the church office following my recent October 28th shoulder surgery. It is good to be back, although just briefly; I will not be cleared to actually drive a car until after Thanksgiving. In the meantime, I'll be doing some telephone "visiting" and brief check-ins.

My rehab therapy is going well and progress is being made. Each day becomes a bit easier, and I can do more things independently and with more confidence.

My deepest gratitude goes to my wife, Sue, who has been a devoted caregiver and who has been constantly at my side through this

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## LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

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positive effect and hardly a complaint. We are still hearing encouraging comments on the reunion brunch, ice cream social, and pot luck dinner.

Consider the mission trip. Many of our youth and adults gave a week to serve the poor and to bond together in faith. The experience was life-changing. To make this possible, many of you attended dinners and supported other fundraisers. The large number of workers created some logistical problems, and so the adults are working together and finding how to make the next trip even more successful.

Consider the recent presentation of “Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.” A large cast, stage crew, and kitchen crew of volunteers worked together to make this performance an event that would draw in the public, even while the director was bed-ridden and voiceless. We did not hear a cross word spoken during this time and feedback from the audiences was very positive.

Our VBS and community dinners have set records for numbers participating and numbers served. These and other examples of faith in action all were possible because Jesus is our rock. There was enough love in our church for motivated people to feel safe and encouraged to pursue their calls. The results are tangible demonstrations of the love that identifies us to others as disciples of Jesus. This is our gift to God in response to the gift we receive anew each Christmas season. Love came down that first Christmas and continues to renew and uplift us each year.

Blessings and peace, *Pastors Doug and Joyce*

## PASTOR MOYER’S LETTER

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entire experience. My thanks and appreciation goes out to the church staff for all their care and concern and kindness. Also, I am so grateful to all of you who have remembered me in your prayers and with the many beautiful and inspiring cards and well wishes since my surgery. You have all been a blessing to me! Thank you and God Bless!

I send you my special greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God continue to bless us all!

With You In Christ’s Service! *Pastor Don*  
The Rev. Dr. Donald E. Moyer  
Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**TWO ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES MEET ON SUNDAYS** at 10:45 a.m. God Sightings meets in the Parlor, and the Adult Forum Class at 10:45 a.m. in the former Quilters’ Room. Also, a weekday God Sightings class meets in the Parlor on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. and on Wednesday mornings at 10:00, Ladies Bible Study meets in the Parlor. Please join us! *There will not be Ladies Bible Study on December 21, 28 or January 4.*

**VESPERS BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE** - The next study session will be December 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor, when we will have a special look at the Christmas Story. Revelation study will resume on January 8.

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 6, we recognized those loved ones who have passed on in the past twelve months. *(\*Non-member) Note: only close relatives are listed; we include many others in our prayers.*

*\*Kenneth Walp, brother of Kathy Walp*

*Norma K. Roeder, mother of Robin (and Christopher) Purcell, grandmother of Megan, Hayley, and Caitlyn Purcell*

*Elizabeth Lehman*

*Theodore B. Penrose, husband of Thelma*

*Emma K. Shive, wife of Robert*

*Raymond C. Fulmer, husband of Betty*

*Edmund L. Zapp, husband of Cynthia*

*\*G. Clyde Hager, father of Nadine (and Bill) Nagurny*

*Donald C. Amoss, husband of Joyce*

*Hannah Fischer, mother of Karen (and Rob)*

*Wallace, grandmother of*

*Alyse (and Ryan) Federsel, great*

*grandmother of Hannah and Lilly*

*Federsel*

*Donald M. Egner, father of Drue Egner, brother of Muriel Galante*

*\*Francis and \*Helen Rubright, brother and sister-in-law of Jim (and Marlene) Rubright*

*J. Harrington "Hank" Gerhart, husband of Marie*

*\*Margaret Mack-Hartling, mother of Roger (and Loraine) Mack*

*\*Elaine Mehle, daughter of the late Rev. LeRoy Brumbaugh*

*\*Mary A. Dietz, mother of Harriet (and Donald) Young*

*\*Robert Smith, brother of Marlene (and Jim) Rubright*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HARVEST HOME SUNDAY** - Harvest Home Sunday was on Sunday, November 20, 2011. As of the printing of this Newsletter, a total of \$1,081.00 was collected. Half of the offering will be used to support First Church's local benevolence mission. This fund is used by the pastors to assist people in our local community who are in need. The other half of the offering will be donated to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference's special assistance for retired pastors. The Harvest Home food displayed in the chancel on November 20 was a contribution by of our Sunday School children and youth, who had brought in food in for four weeks. The food has been delivered to the Quakertown Food Pantry. Thank you, Sunday School!

**NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES** - The new offering envelopes are expected to be here by mid-December. Please keep your eyes open for them. ***If you know that you will be unable to pick up your envelopes, please call the Church Office*** to make arrangements to have them mailed to you upon their arrival.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** - Please be aware that in the case of inclement weather, you may use the following information to check changes in services. Call the church telephone answering machine message which will be updated with the latest information (215-536-4447) or you can check Channel 69 website at [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) (click on "school closings," click on "church/worship/libraries.")

**BETHANY COUNSELING** - Bethany Counseling Ministry staff members, Anne W. Cheezum, Licensed Professional Counselor, and John Ries, M.A., Licensed Psychologist, meet regularly here at First Church, offering confidential, affordable, and convenient counseling. For more information or to set up an appointment, call Bethany Counseling Ministry at 1-800-375-9188 or email [BCMReading@bethanyhome.org](mailto:BCMReading@bethanyhome.org).

### **LIHEAP (LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

The Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help keep families safe and healthy. You can call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project for more information. This is a free service providing information on where you can apply for LIHEAP. Call 1-866-674-6327 LIHEAP brochures are also available in the Office.

**KNIT ONE PRAY TOO** meets the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. We would love to see you for this important prayer shawl ministry. Please call Jane Divok if you have any questions 610-346-8773.

**FIRST UCC COOKBOOKS** - Our very own cookbook continues to be available for you to keep or give as a gift. The cost is just \$8. The cookbook is in

If you have trouble reading this, large-print editions of this document are available in the Narthex. Please call the Church Office if you would like a copy mailed to you. 215-536-4447

the Church Office. Checks should be made payable to the First UCC Church School Association.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2012. Business meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service. Coffee, tea and water will be available during the business meeting. Luncheon will follow the business meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan to come, participate, and enjoy. Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex in January.

## 2012 COMMUNION SERVICES

The first service of Holy Communion in 2012 will be celebrated on the Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS

On Sunday, November 13, Wyatt John McFetridge, son of Angela and Michael McFetridge, was baptized. Wyatt was born on May 26, 2011, and is the grandson of Kerry and John Clarke and is the great grandson of Harriet Wolfinger.

Congratulations to Richard and Adelle Ziemer, friends of First Church. Their daughter, Elleda, a graduate of Quakertown Community High School was recently named as the Second Quarter 2011 Physician of the Quarter of Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, Maryland. Dr. Ziemer specializes in Family Medicine and has held privileges at Peninsula Regional since April 2004. She was chosen by her peers for her dedication to patient-care. Her patients love her! She is a member of the Physician Excellence Committee.

## COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

A summary of the regular meeting of Church Council

was held on October 10 is as follows:

- A presentation was made by Linda Friday regarding the use of the Church School wing. The diagram will be available on Sunday, October 16 for the members to review and ask questions. Final approval of the proposal will be on the agenda for the congregational meeting on January 22, 2012.
- Dick Althouse addressed council regarding proposed future roof and masonry repairs. No set dates for the repairs have been set.
- Work Day is scheduled for November 5 from 8:30 -12:00.
- Second Saturday Service continues on monthly basis. Staff Committee continues to look for a person to be in charge of the music for the services.
- Work Orders will be created so that work that needs to be done in the building or on the property can be addressed by Council, our sextons, property committee, and the office.
- Council approved the construction of a portable stage extension.
- Council approved Finance Committee's recommendation to re-invest the Certificate of Deposit coming due.
- Plumbing supplies have been ordered for Rooms 2, 3, and 4.
- Progress on the wireless connection continues to be made.
- Council approved the spending of monies to upgrade the sound system in Fellowship Hall.
- Anniversary Event "potluck dinner" was wonderful.
- Church School Association will have a booth at Autumn Alive! on Saturday, October 22. Crafts and cupcakes are planned. The next rotation in Faith Factory will be "Miracles."
- Evangelism is working church information on bags for Autumn Alive!
- Creative Arts continues to work on "Miracle on 34th Street" production.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for November 14, 2011.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

For your information, here is a list of the most current needs of the Quakertown Food Pantry, but they are grateful for any and all food donations received: spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, cereal, **canned vegetables and fruits, and soup.** Also, if you aren't sure what to donate, please consider monetary gifts or gift cards to

local grocery stores to help the pantry purchase food. Please make checks payable to “Quakertown Food Pantry.”

## GOD SIGHTINGS WEEKLY

### READINGS

11/26-12/2 Daniel 2:24-11:1, 1 Peter 4:7-1 John 3:6, Psalm 119:81-121:8, Proverbs 28:15-28

12/3-9 Dan 11:2-Joel 3:21, 1 John 3:7-Rev 1:20, Ps 122-128, Prov 29:1-18

12/10-16 Amos 1:1-Micah 7:20, Rev. 2:1-7:17, Ps 129-135, Prov 29:1-18, 12/17-23 Nahum 1:1-Zechariah 5:11, Rev 8:1-14:20, Ps 136-142, Prov 30:7-23

12/24-31 Zech 6:1-Malachi 4:6, Rev 15:1-22:21, Ps 143-150, Prov 30:24-31:31

### MISSION NEWS

We are looking for a few people to help prepare our meals while in Camden, NY. This would be the breakfast each day, along with three or four dinners. If you have interest in this, please see Bob and Wendy Quinby for more information.

### MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST CHURCH

First UCC is a giving and receiving community of faith. We affirm that the earth and all its people belong to God. We seek to grow in Christ. We are inspired by the Holy Spirit:

- to worship God
- to provide a safe place
- to offer hope and support
- to welcome strangers and
- to serve others.

### NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

At our annual congregational meeting on January 22, 2012, nominations will be considered for **three deacon** positions. Nominees will include those who have already expressed an interest to the nominating committee in serving. Nominees may also include candidates nominated by the general membership at the congregational meeting from the floor. Conditions for being considered are simply having agreed, prior to being nominated, to serve if elected and having been a member of First UCC Quakertown for at least two years. These persons will be chosen by votes cast

by the members present at the congregational meeting. Anyone interested in being considered should contact any member of the nomination committee (Barbara Thompson, Steve Ripper and Dean Wilson) or council president, Sarajayne Fraley.

### STEWARDSHIP

We are continuing our stewardship campaign. So far, we have received 88 Faith Promise Cards with a total financial commitment of more than \$172,000. Thirty-seven of our families have indicated they will increase their giving to the current account by a total of \$18,132. We would encourage those of you who have not returned your card to complete it and return it. There are additional cards in the Narthex. They can be placed in the collection plate or in the box in the Narthex. We give thanks to God for the generous support that so many of you give to God's church.

### SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Marilyn Koder and to her friends and family at the passing of her husband, Harold Koder, on November 23, 2011.

We extend our sympathy to Dorothy Baringer and the friends and family of her niece, Olive Burke, who away on October 29, 2011.

### THANK YOU'S

Thank you to anonymous turkey donors. Turkeys were given to four needy families within the HeadStart program here in Quakertown. Your generosity was very much appreciated by them.

It is with regret that we inform you of the damage done by the Halloween snow storm to the beautiful Bradford pear trees that lined Fourth Street. Thank you to Jason Wanamaker for his efforts in pruning, cutting, and removing branches this week. In the spring, we will look into replacing the trees.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2011 Crop Walk by donating money, walking for donations, or by baking cookies and brownies for the rest station here at First Church. If anyone wishes to contribute, it is not too late. To date, First UCC has contributed \$1965.00. Thank you. *Barry Tice*

Thank you to everyone who helped make last week's production of "Miracle on 34th Street" a success! From all the "behind the scenes" work to all the "on

stage” work to all the Dessert Café, it was yet another product of amazing teamwork!

## WOMEN’S GUILD

Please note that we now have an email address for the Women’s Guild: [womensguild@firstucc.net](mailto:womensguild@firstucc.net). This can be used to contact the Women’s Guild at any time.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THIS MONTH

### LAY READERS:

12/4 David Mann  
12/11 Jane Divok  
12/18 Ruthann Ely  
12/25 Pastor Joyce

**USHERS:** Raymond Wanamaker, Steve Clark, Frank and Demi Bellantese

**GREETERS:** Barb Thompson, Steve Ripper, Joe Juretus

**FIRST FELLOWSHIP:** Church Council Members

information on this, contact Nedra Fritzing, Youth Director, in the Church Office.

**Pizza Hut Cards** - Teens from YouthWorx are also offering Pizza Hut Cards for \$10 which will help cover several ongoing teen expenses throughout this year. Stop by our YouthWorx table in the Narthex or contact Julie or Beth Interiano or Nedra Fritzing for further information on how to get special deals at this delicious pizza shop. This project will be **available throughout the entire 2011-2012 school season**. Ask a teen!

OUR REGULAR SUNDAY NIGHT YouthWorx events are scheduled every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

## YOUTHWORX

**WINTER RETREAT** - Don’t forget! We are asking all teens to plan on attending another exciting and inspiring Winter Retreat, scheduled for January 27, 28 and 29, 2012. Cost for weekend is \$125.00. We need your payments or partial payments by January 6 and payment in full by January 22.. We are also looking for mentors and a few adults to consider coming as chaperones for the weekend, or possibly to help drive up and back from Twin Pines, Stroudsburg or consider coming for just Saturday morning to support and get an idea of what our teens are experiencing. For more

**GROCERY CERTIFICATES** - If you shop at Giant, please consider purchasing gift cards from the youth group. They work the same as money. Just fill out this form at the bottom of this page and place it in the office and we'll order your gift cards. You'll have them in just a few days. Thank you!

### GROCERY CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

Please make your check payable to: FIRST UCC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Store	Qty.	Denomination
<input type="checkbox"/> Giant	_____	\$50
	_____	\$20
	_____	\$10



GIANT - Total in Dollars \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ or CASH

You will receive a call when your certificates are in.

*Thank you for your support!*

calendar



**First United Church of Christ**  
**151 South Fourth Street - Quakertown, PA 18951**  
*- Accessible Facility -*  
**Telephone: 215-536-4447 Fax: 215-538-1393**

***Email: [info@firstucc.net](mailto:info@firstucc.net) Web Address: [www.firstucc.net](http://www.firstucc.net)***

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Donigian—Rev. Joyce M. Donigian, Co-Pastors  
Rev. Dr. Donald E. Moyer, Minister of Visitation  
Rev. Ann D. Lutz, Pastor Emeritus  
Linda V. Friday, Director of Christian Education

**Service of Worship - 9:15 a.m.**  
***Nursery Available for Preschoolers***

**FIRST FAMILY NEWS - DECEMBER, 2011**

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
151 S Fourth St  
Quakertown, PA 18951

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
QUAKERTOWN PA  
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