



First Family News

April, 2018

LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

Easter memories! From my (Pastor Joyce) childhood in Western Pennsylvania, I have memories of Easter baskets hidden somewhere in the house and having to wait until after church to find them, memories of the special Easter outfit (including hat) that needed to be worn no matter how cold it was. The church was always full, and the music was special even to a young child. Then there was dinner – usually ham with all the trimmings along with the eggs we had dyed the day before.

As we began our own family, Easter memories changed. Now there were children of our own and Easter baskets for them, but usually they were in their grandparents' home, and we needed to travel to Pittsburgh to get them. Church memories from that time often included outdoor Easter sunrise services with children not fully awake and adults who felt the cold and sometimes even experienced snowflakes. But again the Easter celebration was full of meaning, from letting balloons fly into the morning sun to a breakfast cooked by the men of the church.

Our Easter memories are different now. There are the preparations for Holy Week, always hoping that this year's services will be even more meaningful for our congregation than last year's. There are sermons and meditations to complete and Lenten scriptures to be read. Easter mornings begin early, with us hoping and praying that people will come, come to celebrate the gift God has so graciously given us – eternal life through Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the beauty of the Sanctuary made even lovelier with the addition of Easter lilies. We walk with Jesus' followers during our early service, feeling their anguish, anguish that turns to joy when Christ's resurrection is revealed. We enjoy fellowship through eating together, a breakfast provided by our mission team. Then we can experience the joy and wonder of some of the most beautiful music we have ever heard and then share communion with all who have gathered. Finally, we can celebrate communion again with those few who enjoy a communion-only celebration.

We will add to our Easter memories as we continue to experience faith and renewal here at First Church. The greatest memories we have from our past, present, and future come from people, people who have inspired us, lifted us up, taught us, loved us. We continue to make memories because of the wonderful people who make up First Church. We are both awed and humbled by the many ways so many of you reach out to us and to others, bringing the grace of Jesus to those who are in need. One of our members recently remarked that when they are not at church they miss all the people. They are not alone. Gracious and loving persons make memories that last. When it comes right down to it, our entire faith in the future is based on the life of one person – a very special person – a unique person – Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Blessings, Pastors Doug and Joyce

LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

“Disaster Relief Kits Donation: Update”

Fifty-five members of the First Church Family contributed to Series I of the Disaster Relief Kits Donation which lasted from January 21 through March 4. Total donations received amounted to \$1,945.00 allowing for 24 Clean-Up Bucket Kits and 33 Hygiene Kits to be purchased.

The newest Church World Service (CWS) depot in our general geographic area is at St. Luke’s UCC in Trappe, PA. Plans are being made to transport the kits to this depot by our own vehicles eliminating postage/transport costs.

The Rev. Karl Jones, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Representative to CWS, will be a guest speaker during our Sunday Service of Worship on April 22. Rev. Jones will share with us updated information on the most recent disaster relief efforts and ministries throughout the USA and other parts of the world. His accounts will help to paint the picture of how our donations minister to victims of disasters through CWS.

Sunday, April 22, will begin Series II of the Disaster Relief Kits Donation. Series II will continue through Sunday, May 20. Meanwhile, information will continue to be shared with the congregation as we continue the process of ordering and purchasing all items needed to fill the Clean-Up Bucket Kits and Hygiene Kits. When it comes time to assemble and transport the kits collected from Series I, the Disaster Relief Task Force may be asking members of the First Church Family for assistance.

Again, my thanks to the members of the Disaster Relief Task Force – Steve Clark, Ralph Costanzo, Sheila Cox, Diana Drennan, and Gail Luma – for all their assistance in helping members of the congregation to sign up for their donations to provide the kits each Sunday morning. In addition, a special “thank you” to Gail Luma and Lisa Jorgensen for all their assistance in developing the list of items to fill the kits, in creating the sign-up process and display table set up, as well as in collecting all checks, cash, and Care Cards for the kits.

To all of you, much gratitude for your loving and giving spirit as this special disaster relief ministry has come into existence here at First Church.

Blessings and Grace upon you and yours!

With You in Christ’s Service!

The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Moyer

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On March 11, we welcomed the Girl Scout troops who meet here at First Church. Everyone enjoyed cake and Girl Scout cookies after the worship service.

June 27 – IRON PIGS BASEBALL – Join Steve F. and his church, Trinity Episcopal, Bethlehem at the June 27 game! Tickets are \$11 each. Sign-ups in the future at the S.I.G.N. board or call the Church Office.

GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL - At the Wednesday Soup Supper on February 28, we had as guests two men from the Gideons International. They brought us up to date on happenings in their group, especially the Bible Blitz in Philadelphia last fall where they handed out 61,500 Bibles free of charge. If you would like to contribute to this organization’s call to continue to give Bibles away to any and all who will accept them, you can make a donation. Either place cash in an envelope marked “Gideons” or make a check out to “First UCC” and put “Gideons” in the memo line. They will be much appreciative of any donations and also ask for prayers for their ministry.

GIANT GIFT CARDS will be on sale on the first Sunday of every month in the Narthex after the service. YouthWorx has a limited supply of gift cards in stock, ready for you. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING to everyone that has been supporting the Sunday school's One Great Hour of Sharing quarter collection. We are SO close to reaching our goal and still need your help! Please help us make the banners reach the Sanctuary! There are M&M's in the baskets, please take a container, enjoy the candy, add your quarters to the empty container and then return it to church. *(Of course we are happy to accept any donations, not just quarters.)* All donations will be sent to Swaziland, Africa to help Bree Thompson complete a library at the school where she is teaching. Thank you so much for your generosity.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School at First Church – July 9-13 – Registration opens May 1!

ADULTS IN THE CHAPEL - Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. – “Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God” by Joanna Weaver - Do You feel trapped in a tomb of regret, doubt, or fear? Are you tripped up by patterns and behaviors you need to leave behind? Filmed on location in the Holy Land, “Lazarus Awakening” draws you deeper into the historical and spiritual truths we learn from the story of Lazarus, a friend called out of death into the life-giving arms of Jesus.

April 1	Easter Blessings! (No "Adults in the Chapel Sunday Class!")
April 8	Chapters 1 & 2: Stuck Christianity, Talitha Koum!
April 15	Chapters 3 & 4: Friendship with God, Shaped in the Quarry
April 22	Chapters 5-7: Leaving Our Tombs, Do You Want to be Well?
April 29	Chapters 8-11: Shedding Graveclothes, Light of Eternity

Meet new friends this spring! We welcome you to join us each Sunday in the Chapel! *Blessings, Lisa M.*

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Ely family at the passing of Elaine's father on February 22.

We extend our condolences to the Fletcher family at the passing of Jay's mother on March 18.

COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the following *Sundays at 9:15 am (unless otherwise noted)*

- Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 pm
- Good Friday, March 30 at 7:30 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 1 at 7:00, 9:15 & 11:00* am (*communion only)
- Pentecost Sunday, May 20, at 9:15 am
- World Wide Communion Sunday, October 7, at 9:15 am
- Advent Sunday, December 2 at 9:15 am

Holy Communion will also be celebrated on the first *Sunday evening of every month at 5:15*

COUNCIL NEWS

At the first regular meeting of the new church council, led by Karen W., on March 12, the following matters of business were attended to:

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the bills of the month were presented and approved to be paid. The next meeting of council is scheduled for April 9.
- Ryan M. presented council with some options for upgrading the stage and fellowship hall.
- Christian Education – it was reported that the Faith Factory children are studying the Easter story. Everyone’s help is needed for the upcoming Strawberry Festival on June 9.
- Council approved missions breakfast fundraiser.
- Banner booklets have been placed in the Narthex.
- Kitchen Ministries reported that the next community supper will be on March 15.
- Property Committee reported that the lighting project for the Sanctuary continues. The threshold entering the Narthex will be repaired by Steve F. Sidewalk repairs will be made in the warmer weather in spring.
- Sacraments reported that 35 persons communed on Ash Wednesday, 63 persons communed on February 18, the morning after a snow storm. The committee thanked everyone who helped serve that day.
- Safe Church reported that AED’s were being ordered and placed in a variety of important locations. First Aid kits will be updated.
- Worship/Music – Pastor Joyce reminded all that the hymn suggestion list remains at the S.I.G.N. board for all to request hymns.

KITCHEN MINISTRIES

MARCH COMMUNITY DINNER - Our 60+ guests enjoyed Creamy Herbed Chicken, Smashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad and Assorted Breads, Drinks and Desserts. Plus in addition to Giant baked goods, the Wawa sandwiches disappeared quickly! Red Team is a fine tuned machine! Our next dinner will be Thursday, April 19 at 5:30 p.m. We are still looking for Souper Bowl donations. If you already donated, thanks a lot!

APRIL FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Canned Pasta Meals, Rice, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Diapers. *(Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.)*

EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH

April 1 - EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST - Please come and enjoy a Made-to-Order Omelet at the Easter Breakfast. The 2018 Mission Team will be making your favorite omelet with all the right mix-ins! The breakfast will be available after the 7:00 a.m. service. This is not a fundraiser but a service to you on a very special morning. *No set fee however donations to offset cost will be accepted.* Hope to see you at breakfast.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST UCC

Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion	7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 30	Men’s Good Friday Breakfast In Telford Community Good Friday Service	7:00 a.m. 12:00-1:00 p.m.
	<i>(Sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation till 3:00 p.m.)</i>	
	Tenebrae Good Friday Service with Communion	7:30 p.m.
Friday through Saturday	Prayer Vigil	8:30 pm-8:00 am
Sunday, April 1	Easter Dawn Communion Service	7:00 a.m.

Traditional Easter Communion Service 9:15 a.m.
Communion-Only 11:00 a.m.

2018 MISSION TRIP

Important Dates: Hoagie Sale - April 22 Golf Outing - June 8 Mission Trip - July 21-28

MUSIC NEWS

CHILDREN'S MUSIC SUNDAY – April 29 - Come to church and show your appreciation for all of our youngest choir members and their directors as they wrap up their year with us!

FELLOWSHIP HALL REFRESH

A group has formed with a mission to evaluate, plan and implement improvements within the Fellowship Hall that increase the functionality, usability, and usage. In March, two meetings were held to discuss possibilities, plus a presentation of possible ideas was presented to Church Council. Church Council gave approval for the group to develop plans for updating the stage and to have a spring cleaning day for items backstage and storage cabinets within the hall.

The clean-up day is scheduled for April 28 at 9:00 a.m. until noon. The goal is to be able to clear out the backstage and make room within the cabinets along the walls. Items resulting from the clean-up will be available on tables in the hallways for pickup until May 7, after which items will be disposed of responsibly.

If you have items stored in the cabinets or backstage that you wish to have kept, please label them with their function/event name and a contact person, before the April 28 clean up.

The next fellowship hall refresh meeting is May 7 at 7:15 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 – 68TH ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - Join us on Saturday, June 9 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will be serving hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, baked beans, strawberries, ice cream, and homemade cakes and pies at a reasonable price. We will have a silent auction and games and the Quakertown Band will entertain us with their wonderful music. Please join us for the fun and fellowship that this evening brings. The evening's proceeds support our Church School and Christian Education program. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Saturday to help set up, clean strawberries, serve at the food stands, help in the kitchen, waitress, cut cakes, wash dishes and trays, help with the games, clean up, and many other duties. If you can help as a volunteer, please sign up on the list outside the Church Office on the S.I.G.N. board or call the Church Office. We will again have an early and late shift. The strawberry festival is only possible because of the many caring people who pitch in to help and also because of those who attend and support our church. *Thank you!*



BAND CONCERT PATRONS NEEDED FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Each year, we enjoy the music of the Quakertown Band during our annual Strawberry Festival Lawn Fete. Our goal is to cover the entire cost of \$675.00 with contributions. If you would like to be a patron, please bring or mail your check (made payable to First UCC Church School Association, marked Quakertown Band Patron) to the Church Office.

 Yes, I want to be a Patron to help with the cost of the Quakertown Band at our Strawberry Festival and Lawn Fete.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

THANK YOU'S

My thanks to all of you who made my birthday so enjoyable; your beautiful greetings and personal messages worked their magic. I don't feel any older! Thank you, too, to Don R. for flowers and a visit. Love and appreciation, *Janice P.*

WEBSITE

This summer the technology committee will be focusing on updating website content. We wish to improve our storytelling on our website. Visitors visit our website to learn about us. Our goal, while working with our office staff and our many committees, is to craft a telling website that reflects who we are, why we do what we do, and how visitors can become involved in what we do. Areas of the website we wish to focus on are:

- Visitor Resources
- Ministries
- Outreach Care
- Content and features for members
- Leadership and council members welcomes/bios

Therefore, we are asking that individuals who lead any of these topics to please review what is currently listed on firstucc.net for accuracy and what additional information should be added.

We look forward to working together to share our story!

Contact webmaster@firstucc.net or Ryan M. with questions, feedback and additional content.

WOMEN'S GUILD

APRIL 3 – WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING - The April 3 meeting of the Women's Guild will take place in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. The timely program entitled "Israel" will be presented by Pastor Joyce and Pastor Doug and we will be distributing the spring gifts for our sick and partially shut-in members. Everyone is welcome! ***Reminder: All guild members who promised to bake cookies for our Easter Baskets, please have them in the parlor by noon on Tuesday, April 3. Thank you.***

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING – Worship with us at 9:15 each Sunday morning for a time of hymns, scripture readings, choir anthems, and sermon following a traditional order of worship.

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT – SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - Come out at 5:15 p.m. for our Sunday Evening service in the Chapel for a time of music, teaching, and discussion.

3/23/2018
03:05 PM

First United Church of Christ

April 2018

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 7:00a-Sunrise Worship With Communion 8:00a-Easter Breakfast 9:15a-Traditional Worship and Communion 10:30a-First Fellowship 11:00a-Communion Only	2 4:30p-Beth-off 6:00p-Girl Scouts 6:00p-Grace Note Ringers	3 2:00p-Grief Counseling 2:00p-Reminisce 4:30p-Beth-off 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome) 7:00p-Women's Guild	4 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 4:30p-Beth-off 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs	5 4:30p-Beth-off 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	6	7 10:00a-Chapel/Fellowship Hall RSVD
8 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	9 6:00p-Girl Scouts 6:00p-Grace Note Ringers 7:00p-Council Meeting	10 2:00p-Grief Counseling 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	11 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs 6:30p-Knit One, Pray Too	12 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	13	14 11:30a-Fellowship Hall RSVD
15 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	16 6:00p-Girl Scouts 6:00p-Grace Note Ringers	17 2:00p-Grief Counseling 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	18 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs	19 8:30a-Janis, Lisa-off 5:30p-Community Dinner 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	20 8:30a-Lisa-Off	21
22 9:15a-Worship, Guest: Karl Jones, UCC Disaster Relief 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed, Mission Hoagie Sale 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	23 8:30a-Janis-Off 6:00p-Girl Scouts 6:00p-Grace Note Ringers	24 2:00p-Grief Counseling 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	25 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs 7:00p-Strawberry Festival Meeting	26 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	27	28 9:00a-Fellowship Hall Clean Up Day-All Invited!
29 9:15a-Worship, Children's Music Sunday 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	30 6:00p-Girl Scouts 6:00p-Grace Note Ringers					

First United Church of Christ
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TIME VALUE – DO NOT DELAY

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

