



First Family News

May, 2018

LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

A question that many churches have asked themselves is whether anyone would notice if their church disappeared. This is a question we can ask ourselves, and the answer would be a resounding “Yes!” There is no question but that our members would miss First Church, but First Church is important to Quakertown. It isn’t just that many would miss our annual Strawberry Festival, Vacation Bible School, and Christmas in Quakertown; our impact on our town goes deeper.

We have been told that our cupcake decorating table at “Autumn Alive” is one of the most popular attractions. People have asked the planners each year whether we will be back, and the cupcake decorating contest that has been a part of this event was inspired by our novice cupcake decorators!

A number of groups using our building would need to find new homes if First Church was not here. These groups include Head Start, Girl Scouts, Zumba, Overeaters Anonymous, Success Rehab, Penn Southeast conference meetings, and SAP training. All of these groups use our facilities on a regular basis, and others use our space occasionally.

Our neighbors would also miss First Church. Some have asked when our carillon will again broadcast beautiful music. Others have remarked that our live nativity before Christmas is just what they needed to refocus on “the reason for the season.” Our neighbors continue to attend our Good Friday noontime services showing that First Church has a spiritual impact that goes beyond our walls.

On Easter Sunday morning, several of our congregation noticed smoke coming from the garage of the house across the street. One of them found the nearest fire extinguisher and used it to slow down the fire. A second extinguisher was needed to keep the fire at bay until the fire company arrived to finish the job. Without First Church being here, there likely would have been more significant damage to the garage and home as well.

On Easter Sunday morning, a parent told us that their 2-year-old son stopped to offer a prayer of thanksgiving after finding his Easter basket. And another little boy was seen praying by himself before digging into his omelet at our Easter breakfast.

Would First Church be missed if it disappeared? Absolutely! Missed by so many in so many different ways. That’s because First Church desires to be involved in the community, our neighborhood, and the lives of our family. Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Pastors Doug and Joyce

LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

Pentecost is power... the power of Jesus Christ surging through Jerusalem. The disciples thought Jesus was gone; the city thought He was dead. Neither were correct. On Pentecost, Jesus returned. The wind rushed through the room where the disciples gathered. Flicks of fire were distributed over their heads. They were given the ability to speak in different languages (in “tongues”) and retell what had happened in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Jerusalem crowds which rushed to the scene listened and were convicted. They found Jesus was not in a tomb, nor off in some distant place. Jesus was there in the streets. Jesus penetrated their complacency. Three thousand believed and were baptized.

The original record of this event is given in Acts, chapter 2. However, the question for us today is: Can Pentecost happen again? It happened once. Can it return in other Upper Rooms, and down the streets of other large bustling cities? Or, is Pentecost lost, like a fireworks display? Brightness in the night sky, then the night sky; and the memory of what once was there and had disappeared.

We recall Jesus’ words about the Spirit in the Gospel of John, hearing an answer to the previous question: “Yes!” Pentecost can happen again. The Spirit will come and “bear witness to me,” said Jesus. Furthermore, the Spirit will also come “to convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.”

As modern disciples, our problem is not too different from that of the original twelve. Jesus is not here, and we wish He were. We wanted to follow, to keep experiencing His presence and power, but He left. We hoped it wouldn’t happen. We tried to follow, but He left and we’re not sure where or why.

And so, we gave up; we sat back down in our Upper Room; or, we went on with business as usual. We followed Peter off fishing. We looked to others for advice and guidance.

But now, Jesus challenges us again. He promises that Pentecost can happen again. The Spirit is sent. Jesus is not distant. He comes to us again. Christians gather in churches to hear preached the claims of Christ and nod assent inwardly. When this happens, as repeatedly it does, Pentecost is repeated, the witness to Jesus is re-born. The world is not the same anymore.

May His Spirit continue to bless you and yours!

With You in Christ’s Service!

The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Moyer

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 3 – UPPER BUCKS FORUM ON AGING JUST GOT HEALTHIER! This year’s event will be held at Benner Hall, 1250 E Cherry Rd, Richlandtown from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **(Note: New location and different start and stop times.)** Learn about aging and wellness services, fitness demonstrations, health and wellness vendors, health screenings (blood pressure, blood sugar, balance), medication checks, door prizes, and healthy snacks. RSVP is not required. For Questions, call 267-371-4566.

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

QUAKERTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - Kindness. Excellence. Service. Equipping K-12 students in a nurturing safe environment. Discover how your family fits into ours at Quakertown Christian School's main

campus, 50 E. Paletown Road, Quakertown. Register now for the 2018-2019 school year. To schedule a visit and tour, please contact Lauren at 215-536-6970, Ext. 508 or email lditzler@quakertownchristian.org

MAY 19 AND 20 – VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY – Please join Valley Choral Society, directed by Patricia Conrad, for “A Bernstein Celebration” on Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 19 S Fifth St, Perkasio, or on Sunday, May 20 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 81 Mai St (at Front St), Pennsburg. There will be a free will offering.

MAY 6 - FLOWER MINISTRY MEETING – It has been decided that the flower delivery ministry will continue and more volunteers are welcome to join the deliverers! Please sign up on the sheet at the S.I.G.N. board to participate in this meaningful ministry of visitation with our shut-ins. The next meeting of this ministry will be after the worship service on May 6. Interested persons are invited to attend and share their thoughts! Any questions, please see Karen Wallace or Alyse Federsel.

HYMN REQUEST – If you have a favorite hymn or love an anthem that you would like to hear the choir sing, please place it on the sheet at the S.I.G.N. board! Your requests are incorporated into the worship service in a timely basis.

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

MAY 1 – REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 9–13 - Vacation Bible School is coming to town with an adventure to Babylon! Come and join us and invite your friends and family to hear about Daniel's Courage in Captivity.

NOTES FROM JON BAUMAN

MAY 13 – SENIOR SUNDAY – Join us on May 13 to honor our seniors and help us send God’s blessing on them as they head down the next path after high school graduation.

GIVE OUR SENIORS SOMETHING FROM FIRST CHURCH – Stop by the journaling Bible workstation in the hall! We have Bibles for you to highlight your favorite verse or to put a footnote in the margin about your favorite passage to our graduating seniors. Also available, write a note of encouragement to these young people on bookmarks at the workstation. Any questions, see Jon Bauman. Please highlight, underline, and/or comment in the Bibles at the workstation and please do not remove Bibles from First Church. ***If you have taken home a Bible for marking up, please return as soon as possible.***

CHURCH FAMILY

On Sunday, April 15, we welcomed Paige Stoneback and Linda Forsyth into our Church Family.

COMMUNION

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

- Pentecost Sunday, May 20, at 9:15 am
- Mid-Summer Communion, July 29, 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 Wallace, on April 9, 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 May 14.
- Correspondence was read from Quakertown Food Pantry, thanking First Church for the donation of \$500 donation.
- Confirmands are meeting with council members in April, prior to confirmation on Pentecost, May 20.
- Christian Ed reported that the Easter rotation has ended and the lesson on the Trinity has begun.
- Missions reported that the send-off breakfast will be served at First Church, as it was last year. Thirty-four persons are signed up to attend the mission trip from July 21 to July 28.
- Bruce Allen, who was absent at the ordination worship service in February, was ordained as an elder.
- Items of business were placed on the agenda for council retreat scheduled for May 5.
- Property reported that lighting project is ready for installation during last week of April or beginning of May. Relocation of carillons and fountain replacement projects continue to be investigated. Bids for sidewalk repair are being received.
- Attendance at communion services has been as follows: Maundy Thursday (55), Good Friday (15), Easter 7:00 am (20), 9:15 am (200), 11:00 am (6).
- Safe Church reported that the AED has arrived and will be installed by Steve Filko.
- The June meeting will be on June 4 instead of June 11.

KITCHEN MINISTRIES

APRIL COMMUNITY DINNER - The Blue Team served a baked ham dinner on a rainy April day. There were 98 guests who also enjoyed glazed sweet potatoes or mashed potatoes, buttered green beans, tossed salad and assorted breads, beverages and desserts. Special thanks to Tim Luma for donating all the hams! We continue to pick up baked goods (desserts and breads) from Giant and sandwiches etc. from Wawa. The guests love taking them home. Next month will be the WOW group's last day this school year. They will have a pizza party in thanks for all their help! Our next dinner will be Thursday, May 17 at 5:30. All are welcome! Please continue to donate plastic grocery bags they are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to everyone who brought in grocery bags! Kitchen ministries appreciate them very much! Keep them coming!

It's Cinco de Mayo! - MAY FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Rice, Salsa, Canned Beans, Taco Shells (*Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.*)

2018 MISSION TRIP

JUNE 8 – MISSION TEAM GOLF OUTING - 12:00 Registration/1:00 pm Shot Gun Start at Butter Valley Golf Port, Barto, PA, \$90 per Golfer/\$40 Dinner Only - It is that time of year to mark your calendars for the One Dream Mission Team Golf Outing! The 5th Annual Golf Outing is on June 8. We are looking to fill the course again this year! Please take a pamphlet from the hallway and join us and share with your friends. If you are looking to support the Mission Team we are also collecting sponsorship. ***The mission team heads to Camden, New York on July 21 through July 28.***

MUSIC NEWS

MAY 6 – YOUTH AND ADULT MUSIC SUNDAY - Show your appreciation for our youth and adult choir members and their directors as they wrap up their year with us!

FELLOWSHIP HALL REFRESH

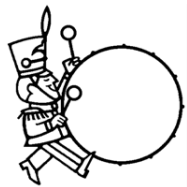
The next fellowship hall refresh meeting is May 7 at 7:15 p.m. We will be developing a Priority List from our "dream list" for the stage upgrade. All interested persons are welcome and invited to attend this meeting.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

MAY 16 – STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MEETING – Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Classroom 3 for the next Strawberry Festival planning meeting. All are welcome to join us in planning the event. Meeting will not last more than 1 hour. See Barry Tice with any questions.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 – 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!*

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION – The committee is busy soliciting donations for gift cards, etc. But we also need the participation of the congregation! Please consider donations for the Silent Auction. This can include gently used items, new items, gift certificates, or gift baskets. ***Please bring your donations to the Church before June 1.*** You may place your items in the first Sunday school classroom on the left, down the Sunday school hall. Thank you for your support!



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

Thank you ever so much for all the birthday cards and greetings. Thank you also for the many get well wishes, cards, help, and especially your prayers. *In Christ, Love Pastor Jim*

WOMEN'S GUILD

Our final guild meeting for this season is June 5 and will be held in the Parlor at 7:00 p.m. The program will be "With Bold Knife and Fork." Diane Stoneback, retired food and travel writer for The Morning Call, will share stories of her nearly 40 years on the culinary trail. Join her and you will get a taste of some of the best and worst experiences she encountered in kitchens and dining rooms along the way. All are welcome!

The guild received several heartfelt thank you notes for the Love Packages.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2018 - The Women's Guild would like to acknowledge our graduates. If you have a high school or college student in your family that will graduate this spring, please give the name and mailing address to Barbara Stoneback (email: womensguild@firstucc.net), or turn it into the Church Office. 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.

Lay Readers

5/6 Miriam Debalucos

5/13 Dave Mann

5/20 Dean Wilson

5/27 Audrey Fletcher

5/6 Judy and Bruce Elsner

5/20 Linda Ripper

5/13 & 5/27 Open

Greeters

Bill Nagurny, Barry Stoneback, Dena Smith

Ushers

Audrey Carper, Ray Miller, Shirley Pike

First Fellowship

Missions, Diana Drennan, Chairperson

Flower Deliverers

4/30/2018
03:54 PM

First United Church of Christ

May 2018

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9:15a-Worship, Youth & Adult Music Sunday 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship, Flower Ministry Meeting 4:00p-Sanctuary RSVD 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	7 6:00p-Girl Scouts 7:15p-Stage Meeting	1 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	2 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs	3 10:00a-2:00p Upper Bucks Forum on Aging at Benner Hall 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	4	5 9:00a-12:00p Council Retreat 10:00a-Room 3 RSVD PSEC
13 Mothers' Day 9:15a-Worship-Senior Sunday 10:30a-Last Day of Faith Factory, First Fellowship 12:00p-Richard-Off 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx & Confirmation	14 6:00p-Girl Scouts 7:00p-Council Meeting	15 Election Day 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	9 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:30p-Knit One, Pray Too	10	11	12
20 Pentecost 9:15a-Worship, Confirmation Sunday 10:30a-First Fellowship, Mission Soup Sale 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:00p-QCHS Baccalaureate	21 9:00a-Pastors-Homiletics Workshop 6:00p-Girl Scouts	22 9:00a-Pastors-Homiletics Workshop 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	16 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 7:00p-Strawberry Festival Meeting	17 5:30p-Community Dinner	18	19 Confirmation Banquet 9:00a-Chapel RSVD
27 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-First Fellowship 5:15p-Evening Worship	28 Memorial Day 8:30a-Office Closed	29 2:00p-Grief Counseling 5:15p-Life Skills 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	23 9:00a-Pastors-Homiletics Workshop 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	24 9:00a-Pastors-Homiletics Workshop	25	26
			30 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	31		

**First United Church of Christ
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Quakertown, PA 18951**

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

