



First Family News

November, 2019

LETTER FROM THE PASTORS

We are approaching the season of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. This is a good time to review Christian beliefs that give life to those holidays.

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!” (Genesis 1:31)

God is loving and created us through love. In the struggle between good and evil, we are on the side of good.

“I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!” Ezekiel 18:32

God loves us all, regardless of what we have done. God’s wish is that evil does not destroy us. It is never too late to repent and live.

“Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot— and the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him.” Isaiah 11:1-2

Centuries before Jesus, God promised to intervene into this world to offer us eternal life and show us how we must live.

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.” John 1:14

God intervened, not just as a vision, but as a living person to whom we can relate and after whom we can follow. Jesus Christ.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

God has given us not just hope and help in this life, but life in heaven forever.

“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’” Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus taught that we are to be people who are always loving God.

“The second [commandment] is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. The entire law and the prophets are based on these two commandments.’” Matthew 22:39

Jesus also taught that we are to love others and so be looking for ways to be helping them.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God’s sight ... we can rejoice in the free gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 5:8-11; 6:23

Because of all of God's gifts we are to be a people who are always grateful and feeling joy.

As we move into this season, we have so much to be joyous about and so many ways to put our joyful and grateful faith into action that it is overwhelming. May we all love and give and rejoice so much that others will flock around us and find belief in their own hearts.

Blessings to you all! *Pastors Doug and Joyce*

LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving on November 28, I share with you three thoughts to consider.

Thought #1.... Thankfulness and Gratitude

The Pilgrims had a custom of putting five grains of corn on each empty plate before a dinner of "Thanksgiving" was served. The father, mother, children, and friends would each pick up a grain of corn and tell of something for which they were thankful. The practice reminded them of how the First Pilgrims were in such straits that their allowance was only five grains of corn per person each day. The Pilgrims had little, but they did possess gratitude. It was upon their base of genuine gratitude that America was built.

A small but meaningful activity this Thanksgiving could be to merely take five grains of corn and think of five persons to whom we are especially grateful. And then tell each individual how much we appreciate them through a telephone call or a letter. We may be so surprised by the response and its effect on us that we just might begin thanking people every day.

Thought #2... Family

A cheerful, white-haired lady in her seventies – named Emmie – had worked over 5,000 hours as an unpaid volunteer at a local hospital. Crippled with arthritis, Emmie never missed a day of work. No matter how bad the weather, the hospital staff could always count on Emmie to be there for hours on end eagerly greeting visitors, delivering mail, doing whatever needed to be done.

Emmie always worked on holidays when other volunteers understandably wanted to be home with their families. Most of Emmie's family members were either dead or they lived at a considerable distance. A hospital visitor on Thanksgiving Day asked Emmie, "Why aren't you with your family?" Emmie replied: "This is my family," as she nodded to a nurse wheeling a patient down the hall.

Thought #3... A Positive Attitude

Feeling down and tired of living?

Then here's a thought for this Thanksgiving:

If you think your future's murky –

Compare it to that of a turkey!

May this Thanksgiving be a special time for genuine thankfulness and gratitude in your life! May this Thanksgiving give you the privilege and opportunity to celebrate all that is good with your "family," whoever they may be! May this Thanksgiving renew in you a positive attitude that blesses all those whose lives you touch!

Blessings upon you and yours! And Happy Thanksgiving!

Grace! Joy! Love!

With You in Christ's Service!

Pastor Don

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

NOTES FROM JON

The next two months are going to be full of prepping for the holidays, and some of us will see many different members of our families that we may not get to see often.

It can be a wonderful time of family bonding, but it can also be a time of stress because of all of the planning, coordinating, cooking, baking, cleaning, and driving that has to take place to pull off these important times of the year.

But in our efforts to make the day the best it can possibly be for everyone, we can't forget to take time to rest and enjoy these times ourselves. If we don't take time to rest, the family days that are supposed to be times of joy and laughter, will be times of stress. Even sitting down for a few minutes and coming into a conversation can change our outlook on the whole day - THIS is why we do what we do for these special occasions; it's our family and friends that matter.

Our lives on earth are full of worries, joys, stress, and happiness, and we will go through different seasons where we feel like we do not have time to rest... But rest is an incredibly important part of our lives.

In Mark 6:31, crowds are coming to Jesus and his disciples, and they were so busy that they didn't have time to even eat. Yet still, Jesus asks the disciples to come with him a while to rest. Throughout Christ's ministry on earth, he often would escape from the crowds for a little while to rest and to pray, and he desired his disciples to do the same thing.

When life gets so busy that you feel overwhelmed, as counter-intuitive as it is, I believe God is calling you to rest. As you make time in your schedules to rest in these next two months especially, take some time during that rest to thank God for reminding you that you deserve the rest that you intend to provide to others during this holiday season. –
Jon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 3

NOVEMBER 3 – ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY - On Sunday, November 3, we will remember those loved ones who have passed on in the last year.

NOVEMBER 10 – VETERANS SUNDAY - On Sunday, November 10, we will honor those who have served (or are serving) in our military.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER - Call the church telephone answering machine, which will be updated with the latest information (215-536-4447) or you can check Channel 69 website at www.wfmz.com (click on “school closings,” click on “church/worship/ libraries.”)

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 1-866-857-7095.

THANKSGIVING TURKEYS AND DINNERS - For years, we have offered a free dinner for our congregation and the Quakertown community on Thanksgiving. The dinner will be at 2:00 p.m. on November 28. To do this we need volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean up after the meal. We also need donations of turkeys here several days before Thanksgiving. In the past years this meal has been delicious and well received. Please let us know if you can supply a turkey or help with the meal by signing up at the S.I.G.N. board next the Church Office. *Pastors Doug and Joyce*

UPPER BUCKS CODE BLUE SHELTER – If you know someone who is lacking inside shelter in Upper Bucks County during periods of extreme, life-threatening weather (temperature or wind chill of 26 degrees F or below)

between November 15 and April 15, room is available at the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter located at the Quakertown Masonic Lodge, 501 W Broad St, Quakertown, PA from 9:00 pm to 7:00 am the following morning. A hot meal and hot breakfast will be provided. Car rides to the shelter are available from the Turkey Hill at Ottsville/Harrow and the Landis' Supermarket in Perkasio Square at 7:45 p.m. at both sites. To request a ride, please call 267-450-5191 before 7:15 PM and leave your name, your phone number, and which site you want to be picked up from, and our transportation volunteers will pick you up and bring you to the shelter, returning you to your pickup site in the morning. The Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter is a ministry of Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB).

ADVOCATES OF THE HOMELESS OF UPPER BUCKS (AHUB) is looking for Code Blue Shelter volunteers for the upcoming winter. Opportunities include shelter admission team, transport drivers, morning aides, meal preparation team, and overnight team. For more information, see poster at the S.I.G.N. board, contact AHUB at 215-539-5166.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - Christmas poinsettias are placed in the church every year "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" family members or friends. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia and you are not currently on the list, you may call the Church Office and give us your name and how you want the tribute to read in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. The cost for each poinsettia is \$6.75. The deadline for ordering plant(s) will be December 3.

FLOWERS - Our church members love our altar flowers and your visits! Please sign your name as deliverer on the chart in the hallway! You'll be glad you did! *Thanks! Judy*

GIANT GIFT CARDS are 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.*

NOVEMBER 16 - WOMEN'S EVENT AT EAST SWAMP CHURCH – If your marriage is strong, God is at work. If your marriage is weak, God is at work. If your marriage is broken, God is at work. Jesus said, "My Father is always working." John 5:17. Join Quakertown married women at this event, led by Lynn entitled "Dare to be Devoted: An Encouragement for Wives" at East Swamp Church on Saturday, November 16, 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Lynn's prayer? That you would be encouraged that God is indeed at work in you and your marriage. You are not alone! \$35.00 registration includes morning refreshments and a "Social Tea" catered lunch. For more information and for registration, see Lisa in the Church Office. *Dare to be Devoted is an East Swamp Church Women's Ministry Board sponsored event, Lisa J. is on the committee for this event. Lynn is a pastor's wife and church friend of East Swamp Church and was the speaker at this year's spring women's retreat.*

ADULT ED

ADULTS SUNDAY CLASS - Sundays, 10:20 - 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel/Parlor - You know about God, but do you really know God? "I Know His Name: Discovering Power in the Names of God," by Wendy Blight, DVD Sessions:

October 27: Elohim: The One Who Created You

November 3: El Roi: The One Who Sees You

November 10: Jehovah Nissi: The One Who Stands Guard Over You

November 17: Jehovah Rapha: The One Who Heals You

November 24: More Magnificent Names: God Our Rock

"I Know His Name" where we will learn, study, dig deeper in, and apply names and meanings of God to reveal His character and heart, will enable you to develop a closeness with God by allowing you to get to know him through His many names used in Scripture. Through this series you may experience God in fresh new ways: to uncover life-changing revelations regarding His splendor and majesty, His sovereignty and power, His love and protection, and His faithfulness and goodness. Join us, stay as little or as long as you are able or wish. A wonderful way to begin your week with friends, faith, and First Church. *Blessings, Lisa*

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - Come out at 5:15 p.m. for our new Sunday Evening Bible study in the Chapel. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY – All are invited to come along for Bible Study, Fellowship, and Prayer at 10:00 on Wednesday mornings in the Chapel.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS – Can you please help in the nursery or in Faith Factory one (1) Sunday per month on a rotating basis? Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, and All Who like Being with Adorable Children! Please sign-up at the S.I.G.N. board, see Karen, or contact the Church Office to help bless our youngest ones and to make an impact in their lives.

NOVEMBER 3 - FAITH FACTORY – Our Faith Factory Singers will be singing on Sunday, November 3. Children should be brought to Room 6 at 9:00 am on November 3. *Thank you!*

THROUGH NOVEMBER 24 – HARVEST HOME COLLECTION BEGINS - Our Sunday School and Faith Factory are beginning their Harvest Home Collection. Join us in the collection of non-perishable food items. We will have a basket in the Narthex and one outside Fellowship Hall for you to place your contributions. The donated items will be given to the Quakertown Food Pantry.

DONATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP SILENT AUCTION may be brought to the church office. We are looking for Christmas items that are new or in great shape. Also, if you have new items (games, toys, books, etc.) that would make great gifts, we would be happy to use them for the auction too. *Thank you.*

DECEMBER 1 - CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP – This year's Christmas Workshop will take place on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Please note that this is the Sunday before Christmas in Quakertown, not the Sunday after Christmas in Quakertown.

COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the following *Sundays at 9:15 am*

Advent Sunday, December 1 9:15 am

Holy Communion will also be offered on the first *Sunday morning of every month at 11:45*: November 3 & December 1

COUNCIL NEWS

At the regular meeting of church council, led by Alyse, on October 14, the following matters of business were attended to:

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the bills were approved to be paid. The next meeting of council is scheduled for November 11.
- Pancake breakfast was a good time!
- Property reported that all the sanctuary lights are in, carpets are being put in Narthex last week of October.
- Mission Sunday will be on October 27.
- Christian Ed reported that more volunteers are needed.
- Sacraments reported that 110 persons communed on October 6, World Communion Sunday.
- Staff reported that Karen will continue as interim Director of Christian Ed for the time being, music staff and Denise are filling in for Nancy while on medical leave.
- Stage Upgrade Committee reported that electrical work will be finished by Christmas in Quakertown.
- Women's Guild will be organizing gifts again to Phoebe Richland residents, the chrismons have been repaired

FIRST FRIDAY

Join us November 1 at 7:00 pm for Harvest Home Bingo! Everyone will receive one bingo board. To support our local food pantries, we are asking that you bring to donate one non-perishable food item for each additional bingo board(s) you wish to play. Bring a friend and help support your local community at the same time! Doors open at 6:30.

We are also looking for interested folks to host First Fridays in 2020, please let the office know if you are willing to host. We need your help to continue these exciting once a month gatherings.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2020 budget requests are due now. Please forward any information and/or requests to the Church Office or to a member of Church Council or the finance committee as soon as possible.

KITCHEN MINISTRIES

Our guests enjoyed Chicken Cacciatore, Herbed Rice, Buttered Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Cinnamon Applesauce, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts. The Blue Team served 85 guests. The next dinner will be Thursday, November 21. All are welcome!

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Potatoes (instant mashed, scalloped), Gravy, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned Cranberries, Stuffing Mix, Canned Pumpkin. *(Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.)*

MISSIONS

NOVEMBER 17 - IT'S HOAGIE TIME - The Mission Team will be holding their first *Hoagie Sale* for this fundraising season. Sunday, November 17 will be delivery/pick up date. \$6.00 per hoagie. Ham, Italian, Turkey, and Veggie are available for order. ***Please note: if you would like a veggie hoagie, please sign up for them – there will not be any extra veggie hoagies.*** Sign-up sheets are at the S.I.G.N. board near the church office. To order, call the Church Office or email onedreamissions@gmail.com. *Thank you for your support.*

MUSIC NEWS

FESTIVAL CHOIR HAS BEGUN – You are invited to join the Festival Choir for our annual Christmas in Quakertown concert. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at 7:00.

CHRISTMAS IN QUAKERTOWN - Mark your calendars for the annual Christmas in Quakertown concert on Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m., featuring the Festival Choir, The Quakertown Band, Sanctuary Bells, and select music students of Northeast Middle School. It's a great way to begin the Christmas season, so be sure to join us, and tell your friends!

SPONSORS NEEDED - To help defray the costs of Christmas in Quakertown, please use the First UCC Music Series coupon below and place in the offering plate, drop off or mail to the Church Office. Thank you for your support.

FIRST UCC MUSIC SERIES PATRON

Yes, I/we want to give support to the First United Church of Christ Music Series and help underwrite the cost of Christmas in Quakertown as a patron. (Please fill in this form and return it with your contribution to First United Church of Christ.)

____ Benefactor for \$100.00

____ Donor for \$25.00

____ Sponsor for \$50.00

____ Friend for \$10.00

Please make your tax deductible check payable to First United Church of Christ and mail it to us at 151 S Fourth St, Quakertown, PA 18951. *Thank you for your support!*

Name: _____

STAFF NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE - The church staff committee recommended to church council that Karen be hired as Interim Director of Christian Education. This is an interim position only. During the time that the staff committee will be searching for a permanent Director of Christian Education, Karen will be paid for 6-10 hours per week. At their October meeting Church council accepted this recommendation. During this time of transition Karen asks for not only your prayers but also for your help. She would welcome any church members who might be interested in this position to help her as she works to maintain a high level of education for our children.

THANK YOU

What a surprise it was to receive 90 birthday cards from my First UCC family! You certainly made my big day extra special. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me before and during my recovery. I hope to be back worshipping with you very soon. *Love, Nancy*

Thank You to whomever gifted our nursery with the new games! We appreciate your generosity!

Dear Church Family, Bless you all for the kind words, many cards and prayers sent during the final illness and passing of our Dad, Ken. Not sure if you know it, but back in his younger years he and his family were members of "First Reformed Church" on Broad Street. We could literally feel your prayers buoying us up during this difficult time and reading the personal notes in your cards was a pleasure during those difficult days. We are truly blessed to be a member of this caring congregation. *Carol and John and Family*

WOMEN'S GUILD

The December 3 Women's Guild meeting will feature a Christmas Communion by Pastor Joyce, as well as a brief time spent assembling card packets for the Sunday School. We will also distribute the Christmas remembrances for delivery to our sick and partially shut-in members. Additionally, we will be taking our annual offering for Bethany Children's Home Christmas. Everyone is welcome!

Note to those that agreed to bake cookies: We need about 30 cookies from each baker. Cookies need to be in the parlor by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, December 3. If you bring the cookies in advance and they are not in a tight container, please place them in the red tote that is in the parlor. Thank you!

The Women's Guild is again seeking members to make a happier Christmas for a Phoebe healthcare resident by providing a Christmas gift. Each person will buy ONE gift and will receive a gift suggestion. If you are willing to "adopt" someone, please sign up at the sign board. More details will be provided to those that are interested. Deadline for signing up is November 17 and the gifts will need to be delivered to the church no later than December 13. If you have questions, please contact Barbara.

THANKOFFERING - The guild appreciates all of the donations for our Thankoffering which will go toward assistance and awareness regarding organ transplants. If you missed bringing your check last Sunday, we will be accepting them for a few weeks. Just be sure to note that the donation is for Thankoffering. Our speakers from The Gift of Life program were both informative and inspirational. They left some brochures and other goodies in the green basket in the narthex. Help yourself!

WOOFI IS AN ADORABLE STUFFED PUPPY. Woofi shares God's love with children around the world. Embroidered on the underside of the ears are the words "Precious are the feet who bring the Good News" and "Jesus loves you." Woofis are a project of the Women's Guild and are available at a cost of \$20. This makes a very meaningful gift for any occasion and would be a great Christmas gift idea. There is a sample in the narthex. To purchase a Woofi, please contact Barbara or the church office.

REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE - The Guild sincerely appreciates the congregation's assistance in saving register tapes from Redner's. Aside from donations, this is our only source of income and it helps us to do projects such as our Love Packages and gifts for our shut in members at Christmas and Easter. However, please do not cut off the bottom

of the receipt - we have been told by Redner's that the ENTIRE receipt must be turned in. Redner's is very forgiving on the length of time we have for submitting the receipts. We have plenty of time so if you prefer, you can hold the receipt until after you have used your gas points and then turn it in but please don't cut it off. Any partial receipts need to be discarded as Redner's won't accept them. Thank you for your help!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship with us at 9:15 each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary for a time of beloved hymns, scripture readings, meaningful choir anthems, and sermon following a traditional order of worship.

Worship with us in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 each Sunday morning for contemporary praise songs, scripture readings, and a message which allows for a question and answer session, as well as a time of individual prayer requests.

First UCC Calendar

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Daylight Saving Time ends 9:15 am Morning Worship, All Saints, New Members, FF Sing 10:30 am Chancel Choir 10:30 am FF, Adult Ed 10:30 am First Fellowship 11:45 am Worship, Holy Com 5:15 pm Evening Bible Study	4 6:00 pm Grace Note Ringers 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Festival Choir, Sopranos & Altos 7:00 pm POUND Class 8:00 pm Festival Choir, Tenors & Basses	5 Election Day 6:30 pm OA 7:00 pm Zumba	6 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Children & Youth Choirs	7 4:00 pm Room 3 RSVD 7:15 pm Sanctuary Bells	1 7:00 pm First Friday Harvest Home Bingo (doors open 6:30)	2 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall RSVD
10 9:15 am Morning Worship, Veterans Sunday, JBauman Preaching 10:30 am Chancel Choir 10:30 am FF, Adult Ed 10:30 am First Fellowship 11:45 am Worship in FH 5:15 pm Evening Bible Study	11 Veterans Day 6:00 pm Grace Note Ringers 6:30 pm Girl Scouts in Kitchen 7:00 pm Festival Choir, Sopranos & Altos 7:00 pm Council Meeting 8:00 pm Festival Choir, Tenors & Basses	12 6:30 pm OA 7:00 pm Zumba	13 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Children & Youth Choirs 6:30 pm Knit One, Pray Too	14 4:00 pm Room 3 RSVD 7:15 pm Sanctuary Bells	15	16 Mission Team Hoagie Making (Kitchen/FH RSVD) 9:00 am Married Women's Event at East Swamp Church
17 9:15 am Morning Worship, Guest Organist 10:30 am Abbey Clark 10:30 am Chancel Choir 10:30 am FF, Adult Ed, Hoagies 10:30 am First Fellowship 11:45 am Worship in FH 5:15 pm Evening Bible Study	18 6:00 pm Grace Note Ringers 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Festival Choir, Sopranos & Altos 7:00 pm POUND Class 8:00 pm Festival Choir, Tenors & Basses	19 7:30 am SAP Training 6:30 pm OA 7:00 pm Zumba	20 7:30 am SAP Training 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Children & Youth Choirs	21 7:30 am SAP Training 4:00 pm Room 3 RSVD 5:30 pm Community Dinner 7:15 pm Sanctuary Bells	22 7:30 am SAP Training	23
24 9:15 am Morning Worship, Harvest Home 10:30 am Chancel Choir 10:30 am FF, Adult Ed 10:30 am First Fellowship 11:45 am Worship in FH 5:15 pm Evening Bible Study	25 6:00 pm Grace Note Ringers 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Festival Choir, Sopranos & Altos 7:00 pm POUND Class 8:00 pm Festival Choir, Tenors & Basses	26 6:30 pm OA 7:00 pm Zumba	27 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Children & Youth Choirs	28 2:00 pm Thanksgiving Supper	29 Black Friday	30

First United Church of Christ
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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