

October 18, 2020

First UCC – Quakertown

215-536-4447

Dear Church Friend,

In an effort to make sure that you can stay easily up-to-date on our church announcements are uploaded to our [website](#) on a weekly basis. Daily announcement will continue to be included in our daily emails.

If you have use of a tablet or smart phone or smart tv, our weekday devotionals and bedtime stories, weekly worship services, pastors' chats, and medical chats with Dr. Mike can be accessed on our [Facebook page](#) and all videos of the above can be accessed on the [First UCC YouTube channel](#). If you have access to email and would like to join our email mailing list, please contact the church office 215-536-4447 (church office voicemail is regularly checked) or email us at [info@firstucc.net](mailto:info@firstucc.net).

OFFICE HOURS – In an effort to regain a safe presence in the church office, we will begin having staggered church office hours as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Pastors Doug and Joyce will be in the office on Mondays, Jon will be in on Wednesdays, and Lisa will be in on Fridays. Feel free to phone the office staff during these times. *Visits inside with staff are by appointment only.*

CONTACT US – If you need something, please contact us! 215-536-4447 (church office voicemail is regularly checked) or email us at [info@firstucc.net](mailto:info@firstucc.net).

PRAYER REQUESTS – If you have any prayer requests, please call the church office so that we can will be praying for these persons, as well as every other kind of prayer request.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP - Our Return to Church Plan has been developed by guidance from the CDC and State health department guidelines, along with feedback from church council, our congregation, First Church and UCC leadership, and guidance from Dr. Mike.

Everyone's health and safety is our top concern and we ask that you worship virtually and **stay home if you are:**

- Experiencing any cold/flu/Covid symptoms, or
- Uncomfortable returning to church at this time.

For everyone planning to attend in person, we've outlined what to expect below:

1. Wear your Mask. We ask that everyone please wear a mask while in the church building and during worship. If you forget your mask or don't have one that day, a mask will be provided.
2. Socially Distanced Seating. Ushers will show worshipers to designated seats for the day's service to ensure we can keep families together and provide space between pews.
3. Hand Sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the church and it's a best practice to sanitize your hands upon entering and exiting the building.

4. Single-Use Bulletins. We will provide bulletins and we ask that you don't share your bulletin with others. We'll have stations to collect/recycle bulletins as you exit the sanctuary.
5. Ventilation Enhancements and Open Doors. We will adjust the ventilation in the sanctuary and plan to keep the Fourth Street doors open to maximize fresh air flow throughout the sanctuary. Doors will be held/propped open upon entering/exiting the building to minimize the need to touch surfaces.

We look forward to continuing to worship Christ together as a First Church Family and continue on our Journey of Loving God, Helping Others and Finding Joy!

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS are this week's announcements:

#### FAMILY THANKOFFERING 2020

*From Barbara S., Women's Guild President*

I apologize that this announcement did not come out sooner. I am out of kilter and I imagine many of you are too. The guild has not been able to meet since February but we hope to remedy that very soon. The weeks seem to go slowly and yet, we wonder where the months have gone. Even though our wood is stacked in preparation for winter, mentally I am not ready!

Our traditional guild Family Thankoffering was not able to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> (the second Sunday in October) due to COVID. However, as always, we **are** taking the Thankoffering and there is a special envelope in your packet. **COVID has disrupted our lives but not our hearts!**

Seeing the recent devastation of the hurricanes in the south and the flooding that followed, the guild is designating that the offering be sent to the UCC Disaster fund for 2020 hurricane and flood damage in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. I think that many of you, like me, are acutely aware of the damage flooding can do.

We understand that not everyone is in a position to give large amounts, but anything you can give to help these individuals and families that have suffered such a terrible loss would be very much appreciated.

Donations to Thankoffering can be made for the next five weeks. If you have misplaced your Thankoffering envelope or wish to make an additional offering, please write Family Thankoffering on the check or other envelope. And if you want credit please be sure your name or envelope number is enclosed with your donation.

Questions can be directed to Barbara: email [womensguild@firstucc.net](mailto:womensguild@firstucc.net) or call Barbara. Thank you in advance for your gift to help these folks in need.

ZOOM WORSHIP – Please make a note of this, tell your friends, we are attempting to provide a Zoom worship option for calling in and for viewing. *As always, Facebook Live will be streamed at 9:15 and the recorded version will be sent by email later on Sunday.* Put this information somewhere so that you can access it if you need to share it with someone or if you need to be home on any given week. We believe that this

information will not change but be the same each week. *Thank you for your patience as we try out this exciting new option.*

#### ZOOM WORSHIP AT FIRST UCC

- To call in from your phone (audio only) call:
  - 1 301 715 8592
  - If required, please enter meeting ID 965 905 9323
- To join the zoom video worship, please go to:
  - <https://zoom.us/j/9659059323>
  - Meeting ID: 965 905 9323

THANKSGIVING DINNER - We would like to organize an event for the community and congregation - in-person outside and grab-and-go style. Please reach out to Alyse F. or Daniel S. if you are interested in helping pull this together.

SOUP SALES to support the Thanksgiving Dinner will begin Sunday, October 25. Please let Karen W. know if you are interested in providing soup any Sunday from October 25 through November 22.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES - As we all know, December is a very important month for us as a church family. We typically have a number of activities including Christmas Workshop, Christmas in Quakertown, Children's Candlelight Service, Outdoor Nativity, and Christmas Eve Services. As we continue to live in this new normal, we want to offer an opportunity to think creatively and outside the norm as we enter this time of our extremely important Christmas season, working with members of our church family and determining alternative ways to offer these events. Please reach out to Alyse F. if you are interested in supporting these efforts.

CHRISTMAS SURVEY - Be on the lookout for a survey to assess your interest in these various activities including Christmas Eve Service and let us know what you think.

ZOOM MEETING – The first meeting regarding the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons will be Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. Please be in touch with Alyse if you are interested in attending this Zoom meeting.

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