

November 8, 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.

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.

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.

If you would like to respond to the call to worship and prayers, please plan to use a (provided) N95 mask. *An usher can assist you.*

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:

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 11th (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 *through November 15*. 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 by calling her or by email womensguild@firstucc.net. Thank you in advance for your gift to help these folks in need.

Today - WITTING TREE - More than 20 known Witting Tree ceremonies are being offered in November, among faith communities and organizations from Bucks and Montgomery Counties. These ceremonies will include the hanging of twenty-two sets of dog tags on "Witting Trees" in a public remembrance of the estimated twenty-two veterans who take their lives by suicide every day. The Witting Tree originally started five years ago, as far as we know, at Eastern Mennonite University by a young graduate student US Navy veteran, Michael McAndrew. *Witting-done in full awareness or consciousness; deliberate--(of a person) conscious or aware of the full facts of a situation.*

November 10 - THE WOMEN'S GUILD's first meeting is at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, November 10, following COVID guidelines – masks, social distancing etc. So that we can plan the seating, please let Barbara know if you plan to attend. Email: womensguild@firstucc.net or call her at home..

November 11 - KNIT ONE PRAY TOO has started meeting up again on the second Wednesdays of each month and meets on November 11 at 6:30 pm. Members of the prayer shawl ministry team joining together must follow COVID safety measures. If you have questions, please contact Lenora W.

November 11 - HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY to Eleanor T. Please join us in celebrating with Blondie by sending cards to her at Life Quest or through the Church Office.

November 17 – NEXT HOLIDAY PLANNING MEETING – The next holiday planning meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 pm by Zoom. For questions, contact Alyse F. Zoom information will be shared next Sunday.

Through November 22 - ATTENTION ALL SOUP LOVERS!! This is your lucky month! Each Sunday in November, we will be holding soup sales. Each week there will be 3 to 4 different types of soup available for purchase. \$7.00 a quart and a sign will be up at the areas selling the soup with the different kinds of soup available. That way when you get to the soup table you can order, pay, and be on your way. There will be one cart at the side door of the kitchen, or, weather permitting, on the sidewalk right outside the door coming from the parking lot. The other cart will be on the Left hand side of the exit doors in the Narthex. It is a bigger space on that side and anyone who wants soup can stand to the left of the doors and not be in the way of those who are leaving the building, or, weather permitting, we'll set the cart up on the sidewalk outside of the Narthex. All proceeds will go toward our Thanksgiving dinner for any of our members and for our community. Anyone who is interested in helping by making a soup, please contact Karen W. or Sheila C. so we know who and what kind of soup you will be providing. We will provide you with the containers.

Through November 22 - HARVEST HOME COLLECTION – Sunday School will collect non-perishables to donate to the Quakertown Food Pantry through Sunday, November 22.

November 22 - ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION for Jon Bauman has been scheduled for Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at First Church. *Registration (signing up) and following safe COVID procedures will be required for attending this event.* Pastors, friends and family of Jon will register first. We will open up registration next week and you can sign-up on November 15 or call/email the church office to register your attendance for this event.

November 26 - THANKSGIVING DINNER - We look forward to a take-out style Thanksgiving dinner for the community and congregation - in-person outside and grab-and-go style on Thursday, November 26 beginning at 12:30. If you can help to set up or clean up, please reach out to Alyse F. or Daniel S. if you are interested in helping pull this together. We are looking for donations of turkeys, bagged cookies or brownies, and monetary gifts, which can be brought to church on Sunday mornings or during office hours (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.) *Thank you!*

November 30 - HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY to Agnes L. Please celebrate with Agnes by sending cards to her at home or through the Church Office.

end