

September 25, 2022
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 announcements continue to be included in our weekday emails.

CONTACT US – If you need something, please contact us! 215-536-4447 or email us at info@firstucc.net.

OFFICE HOURS – We have office hours every Monday through Thursday between 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Friday hours are 9:00-12:00 pm. Friday afternoon hours by appointment.

AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE

Please don't leave until you check out fellowship hour at the fellowship hall!

Join your friends, old and new, for a few minutes to chat and maybe check out the goodies! Our church family is Better Together. Fellowship Hour is about Loving God by living our faith, Helping Others by keeping in touch, and Finding Joy by sharing our news!

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER SPONSORS: The altar flowers on today are placed:

In Loving Memory of Frank M. Moll, Raymond F. and Edna K. Pfaff, and Jane and Bernie Kranicka,
Presented by Marilyn, Tom, and Sue

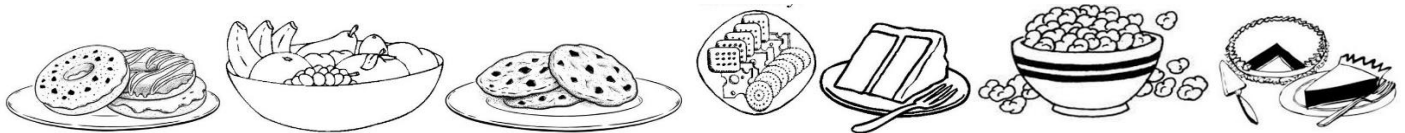
BULLETIN SPONSOR: Today's bulletin is sponsored as follows:

In Loving Memory of Frank M. Moll, Raymond F. and Edna K. Pfaff, and Jane and Bernie Kranicka,
Presented by Thomas Moll and Sue (Moll) Wingler

CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa and Gil J. at the birth of their new grandchild, Josiah, who was born to Amy and Zack on Sunday, September 18. Josiah and Mommy are doing well!

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS - We encourage you to pick up a Children's bulletin, available in the Narthex. The bulletins are created each week with today's gospel message for your child to learn via fun activities!

This Morning – FELLOWSHIP HOUR CELEBRATION – Here we are for our Fellowship Hour Celebration! Join us as we gather in Fellowship Hall after today's worship service and enjoy each other and some goodies! We want to keep in touch, visit, and support each other and enjoy sharing. What better way than to have a snack too! So please plan to join friends, old and new, right after church every Sunday. Also, please consider helping the team by helping to set up, contribute a food item, or stay to clean up. Whatever works – many hands make short work!



October 2 – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY will be celebrated next Sunday.

October 2 – NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING – For more information on how your contribution to Neighbors in Need special envelope in your packet, please see the Neighbors in Need information at the back of today's bulletin.

October 4 - WOMEN'S GUILD - The first Women's Guild meeting for the season will be on **Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 pm**. We are hoping to return to the parlor/chapel for our meetings this year. The program on flower gardening will be presented by Penn State Extension Master Gardener Joan Pavlicka. Everyone is welcome!

October 9 – FAMILY THANK OFFERING - Our Thank Offering tradition dates back to the days of the Evangelical and Reformed Church which is the predecessor of the United Church of Christ. Before women had any active part in the church, they kept small boxes into which they put a penny or nickel when they were especially thankful for something. This has been compared to the Bible story of the widow's mite in that the women gave whatever they could, no matter how small. The boxes with the coins that they gave in gratitude throughout the year were brought to church on one particular Sunday. This became known as "Thank Offering" Sunday and it was the only time each year that women were able to actively participate in the worship service. Over the years the role of women in the church and in society has changed and so too, Women's Thank Offering has evolved into Family Thank Offering, but it remains an offering of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Our Women's Guild has carried on the tradition of a special Sunday devoted to Family Thank Offering and the guild chooses the focus for the offering each year. This year we have a very special opportunity to help the people in Ukraine.

We know that many of our members have already given generously to help those facing the perils of war. However, through Erin Mary Smolenski and her husband Jan, (Erin is the granddaughter of our former pastors Earlin and Ann Lutz) we have become aware of a very special project. Erin Mary and Jan are living and working in Poland and Jan has become involved with the BRDA Foundation, a non-profit volunteer group assisting the Ukrainian refugees in several ways.

In the spring of this year, the founder of this group led an ad hoc group that within a month found housing for more than 5500 Ukrainian refugees arriving in Warsaw. They gathered information about the needs of the refugees and matched them with people who were willing to share their apartments or houses. They made sure that the refugees ended up in places that were safe and met their needs. It was an enormous logistical effort with impressive results.

After the success of relocation of these refugees, the BRDA is attempting to help other Ukrainians that want to return to their homes. As fall and winter approach, finding safe and warm housing is imperative. Shattered windows are one of the most significant damages experienced during Russian air raids and shelling. Lack of windows means little thermal insulation, a lack of security, and a lack of dignified living conditions for those who decided to stay in Ukraine or those that want to return there. The goal is to raise 60,000 Poland zloty, which is approximately \$13,000 for windows, installation and transportation of supplies to Ukraine.

The idea of doing something to help these people return to warm, safe homes through someone that has a congregational connection with First Church appealed to the guild officers and that is what we have chosen as our focus for our Family Thank Offering this year.

Family Thank Offering will be celebrated on October 9. There is a separate envelope in your packet for this offering. Checks are to be made payable to First UCC and the total of the offering will be sent to the BRDA Foundation in Poland for their Ukrainian window project.

We ask that you remember Jesus words - "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". We ask for your generosity in helping these folks to return to warm, safe homes this winter. We thank you in advance for your support.

October 9 - CHURCH PICNIC AT MEMORIAL PARK PAVILLION C - There will be electric for those who want to bring something hot and need to plug it in. There also is a sign-up sheet outside the office so we don't have duplicates of side dishes that people would like to bring. The church council will be providing the main entrée: hamburgers , hotdogs, chicken, and sausage. Also we have games and if you would like to bring a game that you would like to share that would be great. We are looking forward to a really fun time!

IT'S KIT TIME AGAIN! - This year the UCC is collecting donations of cash and supplies for 4 different types of kits. These are:

- School kits – est. cost \$15
- Hygiene kits – est. cost \$15
- Period kits – est. cost \$14
- Clean-up kits – est. cost \$75

The recipients are people living in poverty, the homeless, asylum seekers, or disaster victims. Lists of requested supplies will be available in the narthex and the hallway by the office. For more information or to volunteer at the sign-up table, call Diana or the Church Office

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!! – Christ's Community Café is in need of some bakers to make desserts for our drive-by lunches. We would like cookies, brownies, coffee cakes, cakes, or any kind of bar cookie. No pies, please, we do not have the right containers. We put the desserts in plastic sandwich bags, so that they are easy to give out. The lunches are given out on the second Saturday of each month, but any time you could bake and drop them off would be fine. We would put them in the freezer till needed. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated as buying desserts becomes expensive. If you have any questions, please contact Karen W. or Alyse F. Call or text would be great!
Thank you!

9/22/2022
01:24 pm

First United Church of Christ
Calendar
151 South Fourth Street, Quakertown, PA 18951 | 215-536-4447 | info@firstucc.net | www.firstucc.net

October 2022

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a First Fellowship	26 9:00a Office Hours	27 9:00a Office Hours 1:00p Staff Zoom Meeting	28 9:00a Office Hours 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Carol Choir 6:35p Carillon Bell Choir 7:05p Agape Bell Choir	29 9:00a Office Hours 7:00p Chancel Choir 7:00p Boy Scouts	30 9:00a Office Hours	1 9:00a Christ's Community Cafe
2 9:15a Worship Service, Mission Sunday, World Communion 10:30a First Fellowship	3 9:00a BCU Hearing Screening 9:00a Office Hours	4 9:00a Lisa-Off/Secretary Workshop (Lancaster) 9:00a Office Hours 1:00p Staff Zoom Meeting 7:00p Women's Guild	5 9:00a Lisa-Off/Secretary Workshop (Lancaster) 9:00a Office Hours 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Carol Choir 6:35p Carillon Bell Choir	6 9:00a Office Hours 7:00p Chancel Choir 7:00p Boy Scouts	7 9:00a Office Hours	8 9:00a Christ's Community Cafe
9 9:15a Worship Service & Family Thank Offering 10:30a First Fellowship 12:00p Church Picnic @ Memorial Park	10 9:00a Office Hours 7:00p Council Meeting	11 9:00a Office Hours 1:00p Staff Zoom Meeting	12 9:00a Office Hours 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Carol Choir 6:30p Knit One, Pray Too 6:35p Carillon Bell Choir 7:05p Agape Bell Choir	13 9:00a Office Hours 7:00p Chancel Choir 7:00p Boy Scouts	14 9:00a Office Hours	15 9:00a Christ's Community Cafe
16 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a First Fellowship 6:00p YouthWorx	17 9:00a Office Hours	18 9:00a Office Hours 1:00p Staff Zoom Meeting	19 9:00a Office Hours 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Carol Choir 6:35p Carillon Bell Choir 7:05p Agape Bell Choir	20 9:00a Office Hours 7:00p Chancel Choir 7:00p Boy Scouts	21 9:00a Office Hours	22
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30 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a First Fellowship 6:00p Family Fall Festival	31 9:00a Office Hours					



September 25, 2022

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce:

With Gratitude

We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to get a deeper understanding of the Twelve Steps over the past several weeks. Although the Twelve Steps are not the only way to recover, our recovery journey has brought us closer to God and literally saved both of our lives.

Being given the privilege of writing this series, has resulted in revisiting our past experiences while recognizing the growth within. We try our best to live our lives according to the principles we learn about in these steps.

God-given principles much like the lessons taught in churches on Sunday. Selfless love, caring for one another, humility, and service to others are the heartbeat of recovery. Many of these programs are held in church buildings. Perhaps your church might consider supporting local recovery programs by offering safe meeting spaces.

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact the Addiction and Recovery Taskforce by visiting our page on the psec.org website and

contacting any of the task force members. Additional resources and links are also available, including the 12 steps you have been reading here over the past couple of months.

Again, we thank everyone for this opportunity and are so grateful to be in service within the PSEC of the United Church of Christ!

The PSEC Task Force on Addiction & Recovery offers:

“Resurrecting Hope”

Harm Reduction and Healing
Centered Engagement to End Overdose

with Rev. Erica Poellot, MSW, MDiv Minister of Harm

Reduction and Overdose Prevention Ministries for the United Church of Christ
and Terrell Jones Outreach and Advocacy Program Manager at New York Harm
Reduction Educators (NYHRE).

November 10, 2022

3:30—6:30 pm

@ St. Paul's UCC

(440 S. Bethlehem Pk, Fort Washington)

The PSEC Task Force on Addiction & Recovery offers...

“Resurrecting Hope” - Harm Reduction and Healing Centered
Engagement to End Overdose.

The mission of the PSEC Addiction & Recovery Task Force is to share
God’s love with people suffering from the destructive disease of
addiction and their affected family members and friends.

Join us as we examine harm reduction in practice and principle, and its
spiritual impact. Together we will illustrate the gospel of harm
reduction, the power of language in shaping liberation, make
connections with harm reduction movements for social, racial, and
economic justice, and explore opportunities for faith communities to
co-create healing with people who use drugs and their loved ones.

For more information and to register to the PSEC Website (psec.org)
click on the calendar and then on the date of November 10th.

Behold!

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields,
which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you...

James 5:4

Mini Scripture study (A):

Luke 10: 25-37 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)

Start by reading above passage(s), before you begin with study questions.

Take a moment to pray the “Prayer of Illumination” * – (repeat 3X)

Discussion questions:

- Who is Our neighbor? Who is our family?
- What is happening to them as they travel life’s roads, i.e., the Good Samaritan?
- What are some economic challenges affecting people? What about the fraud in James 5:4?

Additional material to better integrate this lesson.

a. Wage Theft/fraud – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn.

Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. . Learn more: View and discuss “Know Your Rights in the Workplace: Wage Theft”

b. Work to end wage theft in your community. Learn more.

Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. All jobs must provide fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Workers must be able to support themselves and their families and live with dignity the life of wholeness that God intends for all. God’s reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives.

Action Item:

- What is God calling you and your faith community to do?
- What are you goals and timeline for completion?

Further Reading/Discussion:

- Report: More than \$3 Billion in Stolen Wages Recovered for Workers Between 2017 and 2020
- Around 35,000 Californians are Waiting for Their Wage Theft Claims to be Investigated

*Prayer of Illumination

Creator God,

We welcome you in this space

May your liberating spirit

Saturate and transform this physical/virtual space and enliven our Covenant

Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress

Engage our senses

Engage our bodies

Engage our souls

We are yours.

Transform us together now and always

In community we prayer,

Amen.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

Please donate today!

For more resources and to share and learn best practices for economic justice/change, join the UCC Economic Justice Champions, here.

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!



