**Donna C. Hale, Chaplain Advocate**

First United Church of Christ—Carlisle

January 13, 2021

**CONSISTORY REPORT**

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His love endures forever.”—Psalm 107:1**

As President of Kiwanis – Carlisle, I am responsible for convening and preparing the agenda documents, leading the monthly Board meetings, and organizing the bi-weekly Kiwanis Club meetings including inviting speaker(s), designing the program, and follow-up after the meetings.

Kiwanis—Carlisle, like many other agencies, organizations, etc., meets by ZOOM because of Covid-19. Consequently, I am learning how to use ZOOM—with help from church and community. 😊

Last month, Pastor Chris purchased a ZOOM account for me (through my church expense account), since most all my community meetings occur through Zoom. I purchased a ZOOM instructional text. Lyndsey graciously tutors me. I am grateful for the assistance of Pastor Chris, Lyndsey, and Consistory for my Zoom account and their expertise. Zoom is very important for me to participate in my community agencies (Carlisle Area Religious Council, NAMI, Cumberland County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Maranatha--Carlisle, United Way, and other agencies I attend monthly. (For example, this afternoon, I have a Zoom meeting regarding QPR Training Programs with our county mental health agency. And, last Saturday, I attended a specialty court panel presentation. Zoom is the primary forum for both meetings and conferences for me.

I continue to reach out to the Carlisle community agencies regarding the G.R.A.N.D.S. Program co-sponsored by the YWCA Carlisle and Sadler Health Center. This week, I received a call from our Sadler sponsor who shared that referrals are being made to grandfamilies regarding our G.R.A.N.D.S. support group. Last week I spoke with a member of another Carlisle grandparent group regarding joining our grandparent group by Zoom. Our current G.R.A.N.D.S. members look forward to additional grandparents joining us by Zoom. I plan to contact PA Kinconnector—an agency that contacted G.R.A.N.D.S. last Fall regarding our G.R.A.N.D.S. Support Group---inviting a representative from PA--Kinconnector to join our G.R.A.N.D.S. support group by Zoom. I plan to invite representatives from our Carlisle community to share with our grandfamilies the services local community agencies can provide to help them care for their grandchildren.

 Recently, I did a Kiwanis – Carlisle luncheon presentation based on a memoir (“Hillbilly Elegy”), a graphic novel (“Hello, Kiddo), a recently published Grandparenting resource book written for grandfamilies raising grandchildren due to the opioid epidemic, and examples of both research and magazine articles. It is important to share the stories of family members who have experienced opioid addiction in their families to overcome the shame and stigma of the disease of addiction. It is important to share stories of individuals who have “recovered” from addiction through community-based treatment and other intervention programs.

I am blessed to serve as the Community Advocate in the Carlisle Community. I have met so many professionals and volunteers in our community who willingly share with me their time and expertise. I am grateful, thankful, and blessed to have met them.

 To the Glory of God, we serve.

 Chaplain Donna