

Jesus

Inside this issue

Awake and Arise.....	1
Other Special Days in April.....	2
Keep on the Sunny Side.....	3
Self-Care.....	4
Vaccine Info & Announcements.....	5
Re-Opening Update.....	6
COVID-19 Updates.....	7
Church Update and Upcoming.....	8
Community Events.....	9
UCC Homes Helping Hands Virtual Event.....	10
Consistory Nominees.....	11
Earth Stewards Tips.....	12
Church Activities Update.....	13

**First United Church of
Christ Newsletter**



Awake and Arise

"Arise, My Love" by Newsong

Arise, My love

Arise, My love

The grave no longer

Has a hold on you

No more death's sting

No more suffering

Arise... Arise... my love



Ever since I was a little girl, this song would be played on Easter Sunday with a beautiful stick routine. It awakened the hope inside of my spirit, and created a visual reminder that Jesus is alive and conquered all of the struggles, anguish, and despair. For reasons I did not know then, I knew this was not only God calling Jesus to arise, but for me to arise as well. I did not know of the hurts that my brain repressed as a tiny child and I did not know that I would face ten years of abuse as an adult, but God knew. He knew Jesus would rise for me and He knew, in Jesus' rising, I could rise from the ashes as well.

God's omniscience and sovereignty spoke prophetic truth over my life as a little girl to let me know I was loved and worth dying for, even though I could not see it through the darkness around me. He showed me I could awaken my soul to the Truth and rise when I had nothing left. This is the love of the God who gave his only son to take our place. This is love of the God who put all of his wrath on Jesus, turned away from Jesus, allowed Jesus to go down to the depths of Hell, and finally call Jesus back with the keys of Hell in his hands. I am not sure if I will ever grasp the depth of this love, but it is worth pursuing for the rest of my life.

With a grateful heart, I am rising, as a phoenix rises out of the ashes. I want to encourage you as well to awaken the Truth in your spirit and rise as Jesus rose for us. We are not meant to live with the weight of this world. Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection is the most loving act and is meant to empower us. Take heart and rise with Jesus.



Other Special Days in April

April Fool's Day– April 1st

There are several ideas as to the origin of this holiday:

1. In 1582 France switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian (Hindu) Calendar began the new year on April 1st, but the Gregorian Calendar began the new year on January 1st. People who were slow to catch the calendar switch were the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April Fools."
2. Other historians believe this holiday may have come from the Hilaria Festival (Latin meaning "joyful"). This festival was celebrated in ancient Rome by the cult of Cybele at the end of March and the beginning of April. The festival involved people dressing up in disguises and mocking fellow citizens and magistrates. It is said they were inspired by the Egyptian legends of Isis, Osiris, and Seth.
3. There is a possibility this holiday is linked to the vernal equinox, which is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This is when Mother Nature would fool everyone with the changing, unpredictable weather.

Holocaust Remembrance Day– April 8th

It is not a public holiday, however, Israel's *Knesset* (parliament) established *Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah* (Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism) as a memorial to the approximately 6 million Jews who were slaughtered by the Nazi's from 1933 to 1945.

It is typically observed on the 27th day of the month of *Nisan* with ceremonies, lighting of candles, and reciting a *Kaddish* (prayer for the departed).

First Day of Ramadan– April 12th

Ramadan is a 30 day time for the Muslim culture to reflect, contemplate, and celebrate. It follows the sighting of the moon over Mecca. This year it is from April 12th through May 11th. Islam consists of Five Pillars: profession of faith (*shahada*), prayer (*salat*), alms (*zakat*), fasting (*sawm*), and pilgrimage (*hajj*). Ramadan focuses on prayer (face Mecca 5 times a day), alms (giving a contribution of your wealth to those in need), and fasting (food and drink during daylight hours).

History.com Editors. "April Fools' Day." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 30 Mar. 2017, www.history.com/topics/holidays/april-fools-day.

"Ramadan Timetable 2021." *Muslim Aid*, 2021, www.muslimaid.org/ramadan-timetable/.

"The Five Pillars of Islam." *Metmuseum.org*, 2021, www.metmuseum.org/learn/educators/curriculum-resources/art-of-the-islamic-world/unit-one/the-five-pillars-of-islam.

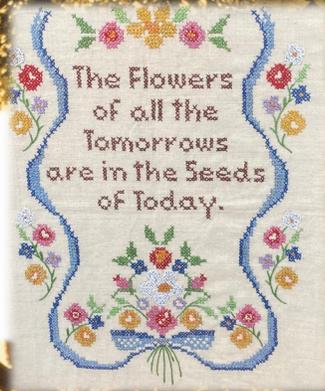
"Yom HaShoah in the United States." *Timeanddate.com*, 2021, www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/yom-hashoah.



Keep on the Sunny Side

“Seeing Through the Eye of the Needle”

By: Chaplain Donna Hale



Jesus said to his disciples: “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God.”~ Matthew 19:24 ~ (NIV)

I grew up in a small Southern Baptist Church. From a young age, I became very familiar with Scripture verses memorizing them in Sunday School classes (for example John 3:16) and listening to preacher’s Sunday morning sermon (for example Matthew 19:24). As a child, I knew a camel could not fit through the eye of a needle. Pastor’s sermons often led me (after church) to ask my mother to explain something he said that I did not understand. For example: “How could Sarah have a baby when she was “old” and “barren?” My grandmother was always amused by my Mother’s explanations.

Now, much older and with most of my life behind me, I read Matthew 19:24 and am guided more by the beginning of the verse rather than the end. The “eye of the needle” reminds me how instrumental my mother and grandmother were in my life. They taught me how to “thread the needle,” whether it was the sewing machine needle or the hand-held needle. There was no difference. If I wanted to either “sew on the machine,” hem a skirt, repair a tear, or do hand-embroidery, I first had to thread the needle.

I am forever grateful to my mother’s and grandmother’s patience in teaching me how to focus on getting the thread through the needle. I am grateful they taught me not to become discouraged, but rather remain faithful, persevere, and always, always remember that all things are possible with God.

Glory Be To God, we serve.

Chaplain Donna



Easter People...

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed. (NRSV)

~John 20: 1-8

How many times have we heard the story of the resurrection? Will this resurrection in 2021 be any different than all others? I believe it is certainly a unique Easter Season which begins April 4, 2021. I cannot help but think that when the stone was rolled away for Jesus what it must have been like to emerge out of the dark cave and into the light of day?

Sort of like coming out of the pandemic, albeit slowly feeling alive — alive to new possibilities to seeing our friends and family, to hugging and holding hands to enjoying social activities in person again. There is a sense of aliveness and spiritual freedom when we can "roll away our own stones" that keep us quarantined from our spiritual and emotional self.

As Easter people, we have and will discover new resurrections each day as we safely emerge from our home cocoons. Take a moment to consider how this Easter season is giving you new life and especially new life as a Christian.

Peace be with you, Rev. Rachel Schwab, Visitation Pastor



Vaccine Information

Listed below is contact info for our Church members to contact to find out about getting scheduled for a vaccination:

1. Sadler Clinic in Carlisle: contact Jessica Barnett at 717-960-4343
2. UPMC Carlisle 361 Alexander Spring Rd.: contact Jennifer Hardsock at 833-299-4358 (this number is for Healthcare workers not employed at UPMC)
3. Quality Care Pharmacy in Carlisle at 1 Sprint Drive: contact Bryan Gobin at 717-323-8230
4. UPMC hotline: 833-724-3258
5. PA. Dept of Health: 877-724-3258
6. Also check the website: PA. Gov, which is the website of the Commonwealth of PA. There is info on getting the vaccine and other important COVID information.

Lutheran Camping Corporation's Summer Events

1. Summer Camp Kick-Off Worship and Picnic– Sunday May 16, 2021 at 3:30pm
2. Early Registration for Camp Kirchenwald & Nawakwa by April 3rd
3. Earth Day Celebration– Sunday, April 25, 2021 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm
4. Men's Retreat at Kirchenwald– April 30 – May 1, 2021
5. Want to be Camp Staff at Camp Kirchenwald or Nawakwa?

*Check out the Luther Camping Corporation's summer events pamphlet for more info! These can be found on the metal shelves outside the church office.



Re-Opening Update

***Church will be open for Worship starting April 11th, 2021!**



March 15, 2021

To the Members and Family of 1st United Church of Christ – Carlisle:

Consistory has met this week and determined that the church building will be open for worship beginning **April 11, 2021**. There will be one Sunday worship at 10 am for the time. Worship will begin at 10 am. CE Sunday activities will resume when face to face worship restarts. We truly appreciate the patience you have been showing during this difficult and challenging time.

Please note the following points: When the Church re-opens for worship, the following protocol will continue to be in effect: the wearing of masks, social distancing, and temperature taking. Please understand that attendees who have received a vaccination are not 100% protected from the possibility of transmitting or becoming infected with COVID and that the wearing of masks is absolutely required. Given the CDC recommendations for social distancing, there is a total of 66 seats available on the main floor of the sanctuary, and an additional 25 seats in the balcony. Additional attendees will be invited to watch the worship service from the Fellowship Hall. When the church does re-open the goal will be to have a minimum amount of people present. The goal is to have at least 20 people in worship each worship. If the numbers consistently drop below that number, then we may have to consider returning to only a virtual worship service again.

Virtual worship options will continue, even after the church building opens again. Services will continue to be livestreamed on Sundays at 10 am on Pastor Chris's Facebook page. There will continue to be a teleconferencing option for people who do not use computers (Uber teleconference - call 717-297-0493 to listen to worship service as it happens). The Sunday worship can also be found on the Church's Facebook page, the Church's website (www.lucc.org), and on Youtube.com (type in First United Church of Christ – Carlisle to find videos). Please note, Pastor Chris's Facebook page is where it is livestreamed. Once the worship is concluded, it is then copied to the church website, YouTube, and the church's Facebook page. This process of sharing the worship to the other internet locations will likely occur within the hour after worship.

Grace and Peace,

Pat Frey, President	717-249-7528
Michael Coulson, Vice President	717-574-4595
Karen Byers, Secretary	717-243-2609
Susan Stott, Treasurer	717-701-1120
Pastor Chris Schwab	717-422-8543

P.S. The second page is a guideline to entering the church for worship. It may be familiar to some people, but we want to make sure that everyone is acquainted with it. We may go through some adjustments to the procedure as time goes on.



COVID-19 UPDATES



Summary of 1st UCC – Carlisle reopening progress (3/16/2021)

Note: procedure may be modified depending on COVID numbers and circumstances

First UCC has been working diligently to prepare for reopening and to follow CDC guidelines to do this safely during this pandemic. We have formed a subcommittee of church members to address this problem and have developed a protocol that will hopefully allow all of us to return to our Sanctuary and resume our previous activities by way of the “new norm” relatively soon. We wish to summarize our progress with these newly developed guidelines below:

1. Anyone with a cough or fever or has been around someone with Covid19 is asked to watch the service from home by streaming or other means as is available on the Church website. Worship is available virtually (livestreamed on Pastor Chris’ Facebook page and downloaded video on church website (www.1ucc.org), Youtube.com, and the Church’s Facebook page
2. All congregation members should come prepared to wear a mask during the service. Those without a mask will be given one at the door. People who arrive to enter the church and who don't have a mask will be given one which they are expected to wear, and it should cover their mouth and nose.
3. We ask that all Church attendees practice safely distancing during the service (at least 6 feet apart), except family members coming together. Every other pew will be closed, and our ushers will seat you conforming to these distancing guidelines.
4. All members will come into our Church by the parking lot door only and will be greeted there by ushers who will ask you about your recent health, take your temperature and travel history and take your name and contact info.
5. You will be shown into the Church and will be allowed entry by one door only. An usher in the Sanctuary will give you a bulletin and seat you. The balcony can be available for seating when there is overflow. People will be encouraged to sit in the main pew area of the sanctuary first.
6. We strongly discourage any greeting by handshake and suggest greeting by safe social distancing.
7. Pastor Chris will give the Service and read the scripture.
8. There will be no singing (possible spread of the virus) but there will be organ music by Sharon.
9. After the service there will be dismissal by row—starting at the back. Pastor Chris, out of a concern for safety for all, will not be greeting congregants afterwards.
10. Everyone will exit from a left rear door out onto the Plaza and then proceed to the parking lot. Those with some degree of disability will be dismissed afterwards and may return to the parking lot by the way they entered.
11. We discourage close social gathering afterwards in the Church or parking lot.
12. Cleaning and sanitizing related to both elevator use, and bathroom use will be provided to you.
13. The Church will be cleaned and sanitized in the days before each Church service.
14. For those overflow congregants who do not have a seat in the Sanctuary or balcony—we hope to make Fellowship Hall available to listen to and/or view the Service.
15. Please note that for all building usage and visiting the church building beyond worship, social distancing and wearing masks will be required.



Church Update

Council Meetings

Consistory– 3rd Monday Every Month

Church & Ministry- 1st Monday Every Month

Advisory– Quarterly

Caring Fellowship– 2nd Monday

Every Month

Christian Ed– 1st Sunday Every Month

Church & Community Connections–

2nd Tuesday Every Month

Property Management– 4th Wednesday

Every Month

Stewardship– 2nd Wednesday

Every Other Month

*Whether it's over Zoom or small, social-distanced meetings in person, 1st UCC is still working to move forward during COVID.

*You can find all council reports on the church website (www.1ucc.org). If you would like a copy, please email Lyndsey (Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org).

1st UCC Spring Community Project

- ♦ Every Friday from 8am to 1pm (April-June) there will be a blue barrel outside the back door for toiletry donations. These donations will be distributed on the front steps of the church each month. If interested in participating, stay tuned for an email or contact Lyndsey (Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org or 717-243-2512).



Project Share and Community CARES Collections

Project Share (Spaghetti and Sauce) and Community CARES (Ramen noodles) collections begin this month!

- ♦ On the first Wednesday of every month from **10 am – noon**, there will be a table at the parking lot door of the church where **Project Share** donations can be dropped off (or handed to a volunteer). This is the day when we will receive packets of **Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce** for the organization.



- ♦ On the second Wednesday of every month from **10 am – noon**, there will be a table at the parking lot door of the church where **Community CARES** donations can be dropped off (or handed to a volunteer). This is the day when we will receive packets of **Ramen noodles** for the organization.



Thank you for being a giving community. Let us continue to do just that in 2021.



Community Events



Ecumenical Way of the Cross Walk

sponsored by the Carlisle area churches on **Good Friday, April 2nd, from Noon – 2:00 PM.**

The events of the last day of Jesus' life will be prayed as we walk and gather outside at various locations in the downtown Carlisle area for the specific needs of our community, country, and world. Scripture and prayers will be led by various church and community leaders. A booklet will be provided for participants.

Wear masks and comfortable footwear.

12:00 PM – Opening Prayer, 1st Station and 2nd Station,
New Life Community Church, 64 E. North Street.

Parking available

Participants are encouraged to bring a wooden cross which can be carried by members of their congregation. Tradition encourages a new volunteer or perhaps two if the cross is large and heavy, to silently take the cross from those who have been carrying it and walk to the next Station.

Questions or more information: contact New Life Community Church (717) 240-0060

Holocaust Remembrance Program

Who Will Write Our History

Congregation Beth Tikvah and the Carlisle Area Religious Council invite you to join them for a ZOOM Holocaust Remembrance Program focusing on the Warsaw Ghetto. The program, lasting about an hour, will include a showing of the 37-minute, instructional version of the award-winning film “**Who Will Write Our History**” about the clandestine Oneg Shabbos group of chroniclers within the Ghetto.

Monday, April 12 at 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85470856299?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85470856299?pwd=dGQxL1Iva2tLeG5acEorSHBXdEhCdz09)

[pwd=dGQxL1Iva2tLeG5acEorSHBXdEhCdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85470856299?pwd=dGQxL1Iva2tLeG5acEorSHBXdEhCdz09)

Meeting ID: 854 7085 6299 Passcode: 679967 One tap mobile ++1 929 205 6099 US
(New York)

2021 UCC Homes 25th Anniversary Helping Hands Event Goes Virtual

UCC Homes is excited to announce that our 25th Anniversary Helping Hands event will happen in 2021...just in a different way! On behalf of the Board of the Directors and Special Events Committee of UCC Homes, we invite you to support our **VIRTUAL** 25th Helping Hands event.

Our virtual event will offer a variety of ways in which you can uplift and support our mission, including participating in our online auction. Gathering together was fun and exciting but the real focus for this event was always on mission...serving those in need within the communities of UCC Homes. The need to underwrite residents who are no longer able to pay for the cost of their care and who are not deemed eligible for governmental assistance continues to grow and is very real. While it is not a guarantee, it is our intention to never have to ask anyone to leave because of his/her inability to pay for the cost of care. Building up the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund will assist UCC Homes in providing financial assistance in future years.

You won't want to miss out on the fun of the online auction and you can do it all from the comfort of your own home! We are using **ReadySetAuction** secure software to conduct the online bidding via computer, tablet or smartphone. To participate in the online auction, you can register at no cost online after March 17th at our special Helping Hands website:

<https://events.readysetauction.com/unitedchurchchristhomes/helpinghands>

To set up an account, please click on the Sign In button at the top right of the website and follow the prompts.

A preview of the amazing auction items will be available from April 12th to April 18th and online bidding will open on April 19th and close on May 1st at 4:00pm. Monetary donations are currently being accepted on our Helping Hands website for those who may not wish to participate in the auction but want to support our mission.

It is our hope that the virtual format will enable more people to share their passion for helping others by participating at a level that fits their giving objectives and supports our mission!

Thank you in advance for your support!





Consistory Nominees

Elders:

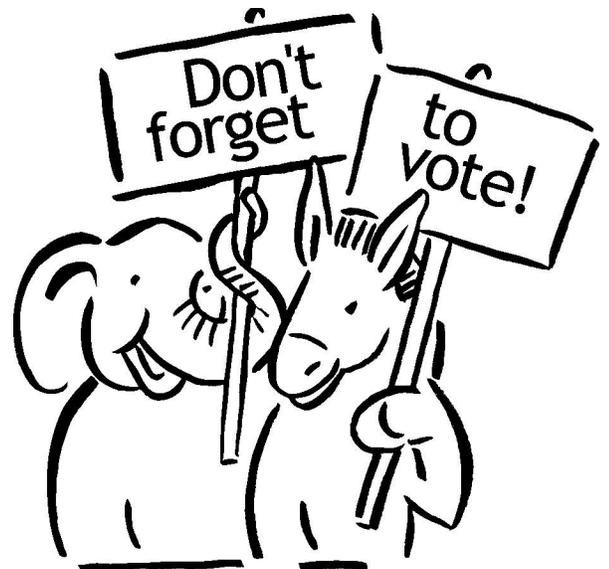
- 1) **Susan Stott Treasurer** – Stewardship
- 2) **Lisa Harrison** – Christian Education

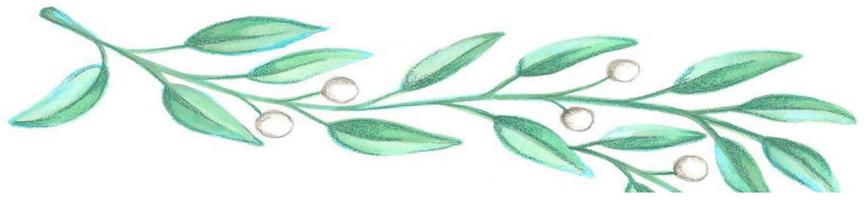
Deacons:

- 1) **Brian Gish** – Property Management
- 2) **Gail Havens** – Caring Fellowship
- 3) **Barb Simonton** - Church and Ministry



*Don't forget to attend the **Congregational Meeting** on **May 2nd** and vote for Consistory Members!





Earth Stewards

April Tip of the Month

Earth Day– April 22nd

EARTH STEWARDS - CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY!

It's true that sweeping collective action is needed to curb climate change, but small adjustments by people help too. By taking action to protect the planet, children and adults feel empowered in the face of these global problems.

Follow these ES Tips to get the whole family involved in protecting the Earth.

Recycle! Recycling ONE aluminum can saves enough energy to run your TV for 3 hours!

Save that Glass Jar! Reuse it for food (glass is great!). Or recycle ALL glass – glass stays in landfills for many lifetimes!

Less meat! 1800 to 2500 gallons of water are needed to produce ONE pound of beef. Eating smaller servings or going meatless just one day a week saves water!

Energy-Saving! Use a revolving door when you can – it saves energy costs to heat or cool the building. Keep your doors and windows closed at home when AC or heat is on!

Conserve water! Turn off the water faucet while you brush your teeth. You only need water 3 times - when you wet your brush, mid-brush, and to rinse at the end. You'll save about 5 gallons of water.

Short Shower! Take a 5-minute shower (challenge yourself to cut it down to 3!) Set a timer. Use the "Top-Down" strategy, washing hair and face first and proceeding quickly down the whole body to the toes. You will save 10 gallons of water and the energy used to heat it.

Save paper! Also, energy and water, by using recycled computer paper, which uses 35% less water to produce than virgin paper. Use good-on-one-side paper from your household or work mail to write notes and grocery lists. Kids will have fun drawing an X across the printed side, so you know it's for re-using on the flip side.

For other things we can do, just Google "Tips to Help the Earth". Thank you!





Church Activities Update

Book Chat News –First UCC’s Book Chat group has stayed connected via ZOOM meetings on the first and third Sundays of each month, during the Covid19 Pandemic.

We recently hosted two guest speakers who contributed their expertise to our understanding of several books we have read, specifically regarding issues and events of World Wars I & II. We extend our appreciation to Michael Neiberg and Denny Minnich, who graciously answered our questions and provided their insight into the complex times and circumstances related to those wars.

Although we are not meeting in person during the pandemic, Book Chat members are grateful for the connections we are maintaining virtually, through our reading and discussions.

Books we have read, or are planning to read this year, are as follows:

1. Rules of Civility – Amor Towles
2. Big Little Lies – Liane Moriarty
3. This Tender Land – William Kent Kruger
4. A Woman of No Importance – Sonia Purnell
5. The Henna Artist – Alka Joshi
6. Firefly Lane – Kristen Hannah
7. The Huntress – Kate Quinn
8. Lost Roses – Martha Hall Kelly (current selection)
9. The Dutch House – Ann Patchett
10. The Stationery Shop – Marjan Kamali

If there are any other groups currently meeting and would like to update the congregation, please send Lyndsey an email (Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org) with a summary and it will be included in the next newsletter.