

Inside this issue

Exciting News.....1-2  
Keep on the Sunny Side.....3  
Self-Care.....4  
Readers & Church Events.....5  
Worship Service Update.....6  
COVID-19 Updates.....7  
Church Update and Upcoming.....8  
Community Aid Bin Announcement.....9  
Council News.....10-11  
Earth Stewards Tips.....12  
Church Group Activities Update.....13

**First United Church of  
Christ Newsletter**



## Some Exciting News...

We send their sincere thanks to the congregation for prayers for family members Dannah and Steve. Their kidney transplant surgeries were successful with continued monitoring. Blessings to all.

~Harold and Edna Shepler

## Harold and Edna Shepler's Wedding Anniversary!

Harold and Edna celebrated 65 years of marriage on **July 14th, 2021!** Happy Anniversary, Harold and Edna! What a blessing to have so many years together!

“Ever since the day we met  
I knew you were the one for me  
Without you, I can't even imagine  
How miserable everything would be  
My life's most beautiful memories are  
The ones that I've shared with you  
Thanks for sticking by through it all  
Without you, I wouldn't know what to do”

Yefimets, Svitlana. "Wedding Anniversary Poems: 14 Totally Inspiring Examples for You." Wedding Anniversary Poems: 14 Totally Inspiring Examples For You, Wedding Forward, 5 May 2021, [www.weddingforward.com/wedding-anniversary-poems/](http://www.weddingforward.com/wedding-anniversary-poems/).

## Lyndsey is Getting Married!

My now-fiancé, Mark, proposed Tuesday, July 20th. We will be getting married on **Saturday, August 28th**, and move into our new place Wednesday, September 1st. We will also be gaining a new member of our family, Tessa (a mini Labradoodle). We are so excited to start our new lives together!

\*I will be off from **Friday, August 27th** through **Wednesday, September 1st**.



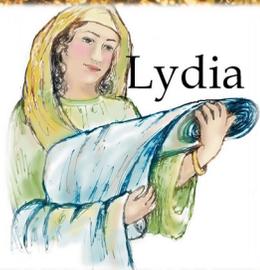
Congratulations, Harold  
and Edna!



# Weddings



The Future Mark and Lyndsey Hendricks!



Lydia

## Keep on the Sunny Side

“Come and Stay at My House” [Acts 16:15 (NIV)]:  
The ‘Radical Hospitality’ of Lydia”

By: Chaplain Donna Hale



### Scripture Reading from Acts 16:13-15

13: On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14: One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. 15: When she and the members of her house were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.”

The author of “Acts” is Luke. He writes that Lydia “listened” to the Apostle Paul.

Luke does not share what Paul discussed—just that Lydia listened.

All we are told by Luke about Lydia was she “was a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira; a worshipper of God; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message (Acts 16:14). Luke does not provide any details of Apostle Paul’s message. Paul must have been very persuasive because after he spoke, Lydia and “members of her household were baptized.”

Luke records that Lydia invited the Apostle Paul and his disciples to stay at her home. Perhaps there was some initial hesitancy on the part of Apostle Paul to accept Lydia’s invitation. Luke writes that Lydia said: “If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.”

The Apostle Paul must have found Lydia extremely credible because ultimately, he accepts her invitation. And, so does Luke and the other disciples. Luke emphasizes: “Lydia persuaded us” [Acts 16:15 —NIV].

So, I am wondering how we in our contemporary society today can adapt Lydia’s “radical hospitality” to convince individuals who hesitate to accept our invitations to come to church with us. And, what about those individuals who are members of our church; but, no longer attend? And, those brave folks who visit our church services; but not return the following Sunday?

We know Lydia listened to what the Apostle Paul said about God. She believed; and, was baptized along with members of her household. AND, she invited the Apostle Paul and his disciples to stay at her house.

What does today’s “believers in the Lord” do to convince others to “come and stay at my church.” Jesus said “my sheep know my voice.” Maybe, “radical hospitality” is just taking the time to listen to what people want to find at church? What comforts them when they need it most.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

Glory be to God, We Serve,  
Chaplain Donna



## Self-Care with Pastor Rachel

During July and August, my “Word for Wednesday” devotion on Facebook Live has focused on the **Fruits of the Spirit** from **Galatians 5: 22-26**:

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.”

We all love a fresh piece of fruit. I love being able to pick an apple or peach from the branch, remembering where the fruit comes from as I admire the tree and all it has produced. The “fruits” of faith are a bit different, as This letter from Paul to Galatia suggests. Yet, all the fruits of faith are deeply rooted in Christ Jesus. If we remember this – are faith should stay strong and firm...

Yet, sometimes we pick the fruit and forgot about the branch or the tree it came from. The fruit is so delicious! We get caught up in the smell of the fruit, the taste, the texture, the joy of it all.

Then we start hoarding the fruit for ourselves, we forget that the fruit is for everyone. We can easily forget that the fruit was given to us by God.

I encourage us to think about the fruits of the Spirit, as gifts from God that keep us spiritually fed and sustain our faith journey. Let us take time to pray on each of these fruits that Paul mentions –

Love, Joy, Peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

-Which of the fruits are easy for us to “digest”?

-Which of the fruits of the spirit are “hard to swallow”?

How can we better embrace each fruit as part of our spiritual “diet”?

As we celebrate the fruits of our faith – help us to take time this summer to embrace the Lord’s goodness!

Thanks be to God, Pastor Rachel





## Looking for Readers! We are Bringing Readers Back into Worship!

We are introducing Readers back into Worship starting **Sunday, September 12th**. If you are interested in being a Reader, please email Lyndsey (Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org) or call the Church Office (717-243-2512) by **Monday, August 30th**.

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### Church Events

#### Theology Pub:

**Sunday, August 15th**

The next Theology Pub will occur on Sunday, August 15th. Starting at 4 pm, people can gather on the plaza at the church. Beverages will be supplied, although you are welcome to bring your own. Some snacks will be provided, and people can certainly bring their favorite snack to share. At the last Theology Pub, we discussed spiritual warfare, unity in community, and trips we might like to take. Shenanigans are likely to re-surface when it comes to Theology Pub. Blessings to one and all, and look forward to seeing you at the next event. [#1ucccarlisle](#)

#### No Agenda BBQ:

**Sunday, August 22nd**

Hello Folks! The next **No Agenda BBQ** is scheduled for **Sunday, August 22nd** at **6 pm** on the **church plaza**. Food and drink will be provided. Please bring a chair and a plate and utensils. If it is hot, there are a couple of pop-up tents the church owns that can be used for shade. It would probably be a good idea if people could bring additional tents or coverings. Looking forward to seeing you at the next No Agenda BBQ.

**\*Please bring a canned item for donation to Project Share.**

#### Music, Food, & Rummage Sale: **Saturday, September 18th**

This is our Summer Project. We are looking to host a **Community Rummage Sale** with music and food on **Saturday, September 18th!** We are also going to be handing out free re-usable water bottles to anyone who comes to the Rummage Sale. If you would like to host a table at the Rummage Sale, please email Lyndsey or call the church office by **Friday, September 10th**. If you would like to donate any funds towards this project, please send it to the church office. More information will be sent out to everyone by **Friday, August 6th**.

# Worship Service Update

**\*We are open!**

June 28, 2021

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



Consistory met this Monday, June 28, 2021, and some changes to policies have been made regarding being in the church building. There will continue to be one Sunday worship service starting at 10 am. CE Sunday activities are on summer break until September 12. Consistory determined that starting July 4th, people who have been fully vaccinated do not have to wear masks while in the church building. People who have not been fully vaccinated will still need to wear masks when they are present in the church building. If people are completely vaccinated but wish to continue to wear masks, people may do what makes them feel most comfortable. As we move into these changes, it is expected that everyone will respect one another and their choices. As people of faith, we need to be intentionally loving toward one another and non-judgmental in our actions and words. Consistory also determined that social distancing is still encouraged during worship and events. Bibles can be found in the pews starting July 4th. For now, there will be no congregational singing during Sunday worship. This may change in the fall, depending on the decisions of Consistory. We truly appreciate the continuing patience you have been showing during this difficult and challenging time.

Additional information to be aware of: It was decided by the Property Council and the Consistory in recent meetings that there will only be one open door to gain entrance to the church on Sundays, and that will be the gray parking lot door. Furthermore, this gray door will be locked, once worship begins. There will be a phone number posted on the gray door people can call, if they arrive late for church service. These steps are being taken to further ensure safety and security for people in the building. We ask that you also keep these steps in mind when attending church on Sunday.

Virtual worship options are continuing to be available, in addition to in-person worship. 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](http://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 an hour or two after worship.

Grace and Peace to one and all,

Michael Coulson, President	717-574-4595
Pat Frey, Vice President	717-249-7528
Gail Havens, Secretary	717-249-5198
Susan Stott, Treasurer	717-701-1120
Pastor Chris Schwab	717-422-8543



# COVID-19 UPDATES



## Summary of 1st UCC – Carlisle reopening progress (7/1/2021)

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](http://www.1ucc.org)), Youtube.com, and the Church’s Facebook page.
2. All congregation members who have not been fully vaccinated should come prepared to wear a mask during the service. Those without a mask will be given one at the door. The mask should cover their mouth and nose. All congregation members who have been fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask.
3. We ask that all Church attendees practice safe-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.
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 and Bibles will return to the pews starting July 4th.
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. We discourage close social gathering afterwards in the Church or parking lot.
11. Cleaning and sanitizing related to both elevator use and bathroom use will be provided to you.
12. The Church will be cleaned and sanitized in the days before each Church service.
13. For those overflow congregants who do not have a seat in the Sanctuary or balcony—Fellowship Hall is available to listen to and/or view the Service.
14. Please note that for all building usage and visiting the church building beyond worship, social distancing and wearing masks (if you are not fully vaccinated) will be required.



## Church Update

### Council Meetings

Consistory– 3rd Monday Every Month

Church & Ministry- 1st Monday Every Month

Advisory– Quarterly

Caring Fellowship– 2nd Tuesday 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

Special Mission– Stay tuned until Fall. The Special Missions will be announced quarterly going forward.

\*You can find all council reports on the church website ([www.1ucc.org](http://www.1ucc.org)). If you would like a copy, please email Lyndsey ([Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org](mailto:Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org)). Check out the “Council News” for highlights!

### Project Share and Community CARES Collections

#### Don't Forget!

**Project Share (Spaghetti and Sauce) and Community CARES (Ramen noodles) collections!**

- ♦ 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.



\***Note:** Pastor Chris and Pastor Rachel will be on vacation **August 1st – August 10th**. Pastor Lewis Burgett will be covering pastoral concerns, please contact him if you have any needs. Rev. Brian Percy will be leading worship on **August 1st and August 8th**.

## BRING YOUR GOOD, USED CLOTHING, PURSES, AND SHOES TO CHURCH TO BENEFIT PROJECT SHARE

First United Church of Christ is now collecting good used clothing, purses, and shoes year-round to benefit the community and our Community Aid Partner, Project Share.

Our first Community Aid cart-full of donations is on its way to those in need!

Our cart was FULL when this picture of project organizers Lyndsey Wilston and Suzy Coulson was snapped, and now it is ready for MORE! As a Community Aid partner, First UCC earns 4 cents per pound and other benefits for Project Share.

Please keep the donations coming!

**Items needed:** Clothing for all ages and sizes, shoes, and purses. Please put donations in plastic bags, with shoes and purses in separate bags from clothing. Bags are available beside the cart, across from the Church Office.

Home Pick-up of donations is available - call Lyndsey at 717-243-2512 or text/ call Suzy at 717-580-8063.

Thank you for your support of this community project!



**Our cart is ONLY for clothing, shoes, and purses.** If you wish to donate other items, you may take them to the local Community Aid Thrift Store - 4833 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. Please let them know that you are a member of First UCC's Project Share partnership. Ask them to credit **Project Share Partner Number # 10166**, so those donations will count, too. Receipts are available upon request.

Questions? Contact Susan Coulson 717-580-8063 or [sccoulson@comcast.net](mailto:sccoulson@comcast.net); or Lyndsey Wilston in the Church Office 717-243-2512 or [lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org](mailto:lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org). For more information about Community Aid go to the website at <https://communityaid.org>.



### Christian Education

Join us **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00am for **Launch Sunday!**

Classes for everyone from Elementary to Adult.

**Elementary** – Bill Harrison and Theresa Martin – Join in Bible lessons, music, crafts, and snack.

**High School** – Lisa Harrison - Read the Bible in a year.

**Adult** – Book Chat and Donna Hale - "First Families of the Bible".

### Church & Community Connections

CCC will be serving a meal at **My Brother's Table** from **12:00pm to 1:00pm** on **Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to donate **Hamburger Rolls (Packets of 8)**, please bring them to the church by **Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**.



### Christian Education– Adult Sunday School

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>—Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Fellowship Hall**

**8:45am to 9:45am**

Donna Hale is leading an adult Sunday School class entitled "The Impact of Drama and Trauma on the 'First Families' in Genesis."

Bring your BIBLES, a notebook, pen, curiosity, and voices as we begin a "close reading" of the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and their brother Seth. We will continue the family narrative through Noah's family.

With our "close reading" and "sleuthing" skills polished, we will spend the next four weeks of class discussing how the "drama and trauma" of the "Genesis families" is depicted in the film version of John Steinbeck's novel: "East of Eden" starring James Dean and other famous 'movie stars' whose acting we all know and appreciate.

The last week of the class wraps up our families' stories with a discussion of the mysterious "Tower of Babel" and its connection to the "First Families."

If any questions about the class, please contact Chaplain Donna at 717-243-2512, Ext. #9.



### Anniversary Committee

**SEND US YOUR "THEN and NOW" MEMORIES and MOMENTS –**

In celebration of First UCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our 30 N Pitt St location, our newsletter will feature "Then and Now - Memories and Moments" contributed by our members. EVERYONE can help with this project!

**Share** a moment that was memorable about your church experience at First United Church of Christ, Carlisle in the PAST and something you appreciate about your church experience TODAY.

Our members will enjoy these "Then and Now - Memories and Moments", as we celebrate this milestone together.

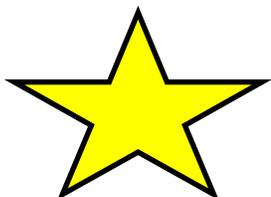
**Submit** your responses to our Office Administrator, Lyndsey –

- ◆ **By mail** to First United Church of Christ, 30 N Pitt St, Carlisle PA 17013
- ◆ **By email** to [lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org](mailto:lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org)
- ◆ **By calling the Church Office** at 717-243-2512.

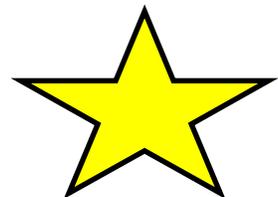
Please include the words "Then and Now" on items you submit.

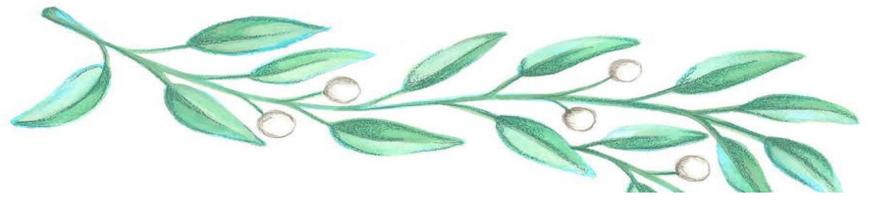
**Start thinking** of your special "Then and Now - Memories and Moments" today, and submit them for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project.

**Questions?** Contact Lyndsey Wilston, Church Office Administrator.



# 100 YEARS





# Earth Stewards

## August Tip of the Month

### PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU



#### BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS



#### reduce REUSE recycle

Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

#### choose sustainable



Learn how to make smart seafood choices at [www.FishWatch.gov](http://www.FishWatch.gov).

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.



#### PLANT A TREE



#### EDUCATE

When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

#### CONSERVE WATER



The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.



Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.



#### Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.

#### Volunteer!



Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!



#### Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA

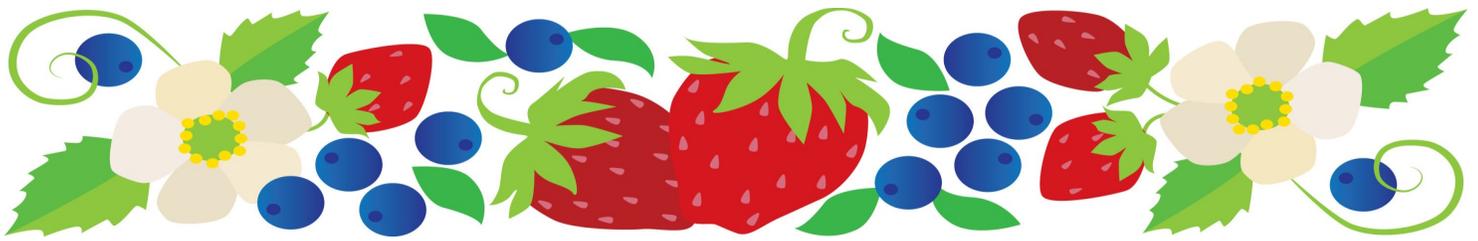
Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!



[oceanservice.noaa.gov](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov)

Have an Earth Stewards Tip to SHARE? Email: [sccoulson@comcast.net](mailto:sccoulson@comcast.net) or text or call 717-580-8063. Let's ALL WORK TOGETHER to help the Planet!





## Church Group Activities Update

### Lunch Bunch News!

Ladies, it's been a long time since we have gathered for fellowship and lunch! Come and join us for **Ice Cream at Leo's** on **August 26th** at **1:00pm**. We will get caught up with each other, and plan to resume our gatherings for lunch in September.



### Color, Craft & Fellowship!

Yearning for some fun and fellowship? Well, come join us on **Wednesdays** from **2:00pm** to **4:00pm** to **Color, Craft & Fellowship!** Bring your coloring books, markers, paints, crochet hooks, knitting needles, or whatever craft you feel like doing that day! If you are interested in joining, please contact **Lyndsey** at **[Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org](mailto:Lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org)** or **717-243-2512**.



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