

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT – Chaplain Advocate

The Rev. Dr. Donna C. Hale, Chaplain Advocate

First United Church of Christ

May 13-June 22, 2021

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his Word, I put my hope” [Psalm 130:51]

As Chaplain Advocate, I am in the community most days; and, on most days I work along side both staff members employed by community agencies; AND, I work with the agencies’ volunteers (many are retired professionals and staff from other careers). The agencies acknowledge how important their volunteers are to their agencies’ vision and mission in the community.

As everyone knows from both personal and professional experiences, COVID-19 has tremendously impacted EVERYONE. Everyday, I hear COVID-19 stories, and, “hope is given for “why/how individuals coped since March 2020. Hope is believing in what is “unseen.”

After six years in the community, my schedule and agency work may seem “the usual” to the readers of my staff reports. Yes, the routine of going to Kiwanis – Carlisle Club meetings and its Board and planning meetings are routine. Yet, there is always much more to learn and do. I am now involved with NAMI – both as a Board Member and with family support meetings. I also am on the P.U.L.S.E. team that is focused on suicide prevention through training. I continued with KB working on GRAND families group we launched in October 2018. Maranatha is one of my agencies where I both serve on the Board and work with Maranatha’s staff programs in the community. (As you all know, I can talk at length about Maranatha—I’ve been involved with them since becoming part of the staff at First UCC. Thanks for always reading my staff reports—I know they can be long.) I appreciate your support and encouragement.

Cumberland County’s Treatment Court is back “in-person.” I started attending sessions again in early June and last week we had a Graduation Class for participants completing the program.

Carlisle Area Religious Council (CARC) is another six-year marker for my work in the Carlisle Community. And, from reading my previous reports, Consistory knows how involved that lay ministry program is for all members. (I am the only ordained minister on CARC because my ministry as “Community Chaplain” is based in the community. (Pastor Chris is involved with church leadership organizations in the community.)

I am a staff member of Church and Community Connections Council and attend our meetings sometime in-person, other times on ZOOM.

And, I work with other agencies and community groups. Please let me know if you would like to “hear more” about my community ministry.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD WE SERVE.

CHAPLAIN DONNA

June 22, 2021