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First United Church of Christ Newsletter



Happy Birthday to:

February 03- Gretchen Spangler

February 06- Franklin Evans, Gretchen Hoffman, & Layne Paviol

February 08- Linda Lesher & John Wert

February 10- Mckenna Piper & Christopher Schwab

February 11- Bonnie Gutshall & Michael Stirling

February 12- T Georgann Bailey & Cara Karper

February 13- Dorothy Coady

February 15- Brian Gish & Rachel Kramer

February 16- Alice Schoffstall & Ann Shatzer

February 17- Richard Burkholder & Caroline Makibbin

February 19- Darwin Reich, Kurry Swigert, & Darlene Whisel

February 20- Hans Kramer

February 22- Eric Bonshock & Stephen Martson

February 23- Donna Hale

February 24- Lynn Schultz

February 26- Jonathan Roley

February 27- J Dallas Bailey & Myrna Barefoot



February 18 – Don and Linda Rutz

Happy
Anniversary!



Keep on the Sunny Side

“The Importance of Love: A Valentine’s Greeting”

By: Chaplain Donna Hale



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails...”

-First Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

I believe St. Paul’s message above can be applied to every day of the calendar—not just one special day. In the beginning of his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul shares what love IS; and, what love IS NOT.

He writes that love IS patient, kind, rejoices with the truth, always protects, hopes, and perseveres. Love NEVER fails.

Paul also specifies that love DOES NOT envy, does not boast/proud[ful], does not dishonor others, not self-seeking, not easily angered; [and] does not keep a record of wrongs. St. Paul continues that love does not delight in evil.

Some of us who are reading this column today, may recall the year 1969—YES—some of us are that OLD? And some of us routinely watched the popular television program, “American Bandstand,” hosted by Dick Clark. And, SOME of us heard Jackie DeShannon’s sing “Put a little love in your heart—[“and the world would be a better place”]. And, some of us still practice her message.

I was wondering if this Valentine’s Day 2022, we could send cards to those people who made a difference in our lives by encouraging us with positive messages of appreciation and love that we could make a difference in the world and make it a better place to live.

Glory Be to God, We Serve.





From the Editor

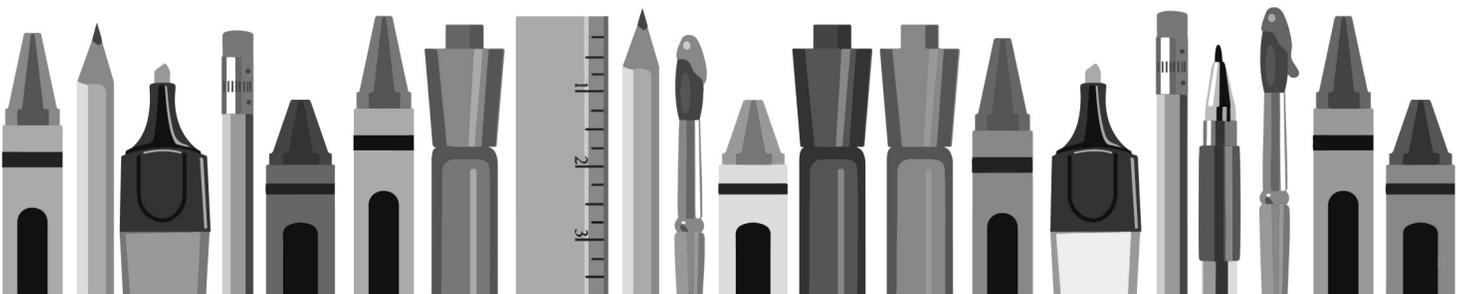
By: Lyndsey Hendricks

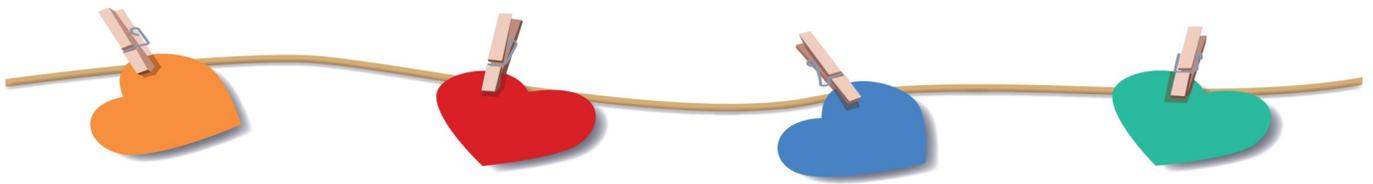
Schedule Update...

Starting next week (February 7th), I will only be working **Tuesday through Thursdays** from **8:00am to 2:00pm**. I will continue this schedule up until I have the baby sometime in April.

Once the baby is here, I will be off for 3 months on maternity leave (approximately May through the end of July, depending on when the baby is born).

A few members have indicated on their SOS sheets they would be willing to help out in the office while I'm on maternity leave. Pastor Chris and I will reach out to individuals before I leave to make sure certain tasks are covered while I'm gone. Further details on which tasks are to be accomplished and hours will be sent out in an email once the individual(s) have been chosen.





Church Events

HAVE a HEART for the HOMELESS in FEBRUARY!



Community CARES urgently needs warm winter clothing for men, women and children of all ages and sizes.

Especially needed are coats, warm hats, sweaters, sweatshirts, scarves, socks, long underwear, warm pants, gloves, and boots for ALL ages and sizes.

A volunteer from our Church & Community Connections Council will be available to accept your donations at the **Parking Lot Entrance** of the Church **EACH SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY** from **NOON to 2:00 PM. (February 5, 12, 19, 26)**

Please put items in a plastic or other type of sturdy bag.

You may also drop off your donations, in person, at the **Community CARES building, 50 W. Penn St., Carlisle**, between **7:00 AM and 6:00 PM** daily.

For pick-up of items at your home, contact **Mike and Suzy Coulson** at **717-574-4595**.

The need for warm clothing is greater than ever this year, and your generosity is very much appreciated.

Worship Service Update

*Update on Locked-Door Procedure and 8am Service



Locked-Door Procedure

Please know there is only one entrance to the church for office hours and worship days. It is the gray parking lot door.

Once the worship service begins, that door will be locked. If you happen to arrive slightly late to service, you can ring the church office doorbell to be let inside. This will be monitored for up to 15 minutes into the worship service.

After 15 minutes, the church office will be empty, so please try to be timely when it comes to attending church services.

8am Service

A survey was taken about the 8am service. Data was collected and compiled from 23 people to help assess the needs and wants of the congregation regarding the earlier service. These people were polled to get a sense of opinions and perspectives of the church. Apologies to anyone who has attended the earlier worship and was not polled. These results were given to the Church and Ministry Council.

Based on the results of the survey and the recommendation from this council, Consistory decided, at this time, the church will continue to offer one worship service at 10am. This is a decision based off of the results of the survey, the pandemic concerns, and dynamics of the congregation. This decision will be re-visited at a later time. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Chris, or any member of Consistory. Blessings to the entire congregation as we move into the year 2022!

COVID-19 UPDATES



Covid Update

Submitted by Greg Lewis

October 2021

I have continued to review Covid statistics as published in the Sentinel this month and would like to give an update on where Cumberland County stands and the implications for First UCC.

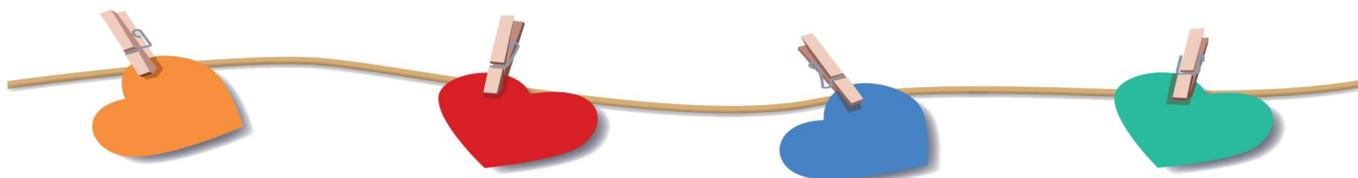
The statistics for Tuesday, October 21st are the most recent ones that I have at the time of this update but realize that these numbers fluctuate daily—sometimes up and sometimes down. As a general trend over the past several weeks the number of cases in adults and children have trended slightly lower. The CDC still puts Cumberland County as a high transmission County.

For this Tuesday there were 33 deaths in Cumberland County in October—the highest since there were 36 in February. 114 people are hospitalized in Cumberland County hospitals and 22 are in the ICU and 15 are on ventilators. These numbers are high but slightly improved over the past several days. Only 10 of 113 ICU beds are available to patients. In children during the 7th school week there have been 118 cases of Covid and 1070 for the school year. The percent of cases testing positive is 11.5% (Under 5% is recommended for showing that the Covid is beginning to go away). The incidence of new cases per 100,00 population is 198.1 and under 50 cases is recommended for good Covid control. About 71% of eligible patients in our county are fully vaccinated.

In the UPMC's 4 hospitals—approximately 18 to 20% of fully vaccinated people have been admitted with Covid. Most of these breakthrough Covid cases are mild and in general do not require ICU admission or ventilators—but there are a few exceptions to this.

I would like to make several points about the current Covid environment in Cumberland County. First the cases are slowly diminishing, but case counts are still high, and some fully vaccinated people are being admitted to the hospital. Second, there are several children with Covid and although they usually don't become seriously ill, they can carry the virus home and infect their parents and grandparents and possibly their family's friends—even infecting those who have been fully vaccinated. Remember that many of us have been vaccinated 6 or more months ago and our immunity is diminishing. Also, since many of us are older, we have a higher susceptibility to the virus. For this reasons Booster shots have been recommended and Flu shots for the coming Flu season.

In summary, because of the Covid situation in our County and the Covid numbers among the adults and children, I believe the Science dictates that our Church continue to take preventive Covid measures and continue to wear masks in Church and socially distance. I also believe with more vaccinations and Booster shots that soon we can relax some of these restrictions and maintain a healthy environment, although with an increased awareness about how vulnerable we are to some of these more serious infectious diseases.



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– To be announced later in February.

*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). 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.



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

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



Remember when you're organizing your closets and drawers, First UCC is accepting year-round donations of good, used or new clothing, coats, boots, shoes, socks, purses, hats and gloves for all ages. Place your items in the bin across from the Church Office during hours the building is open.

First UCC earns a monetary percentage of items donated to Community Aid. More importantly, our donations are made available free or at low cost to people who shop at Community Aid in Mechanicsburg.

When we hear of a specific need from Community CARES, our donations are taken to them directly. This winter First UCC donated numerous coats and cold-weather wear for all ages, which was greatly appreciated by CARES and the people they serve.

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.

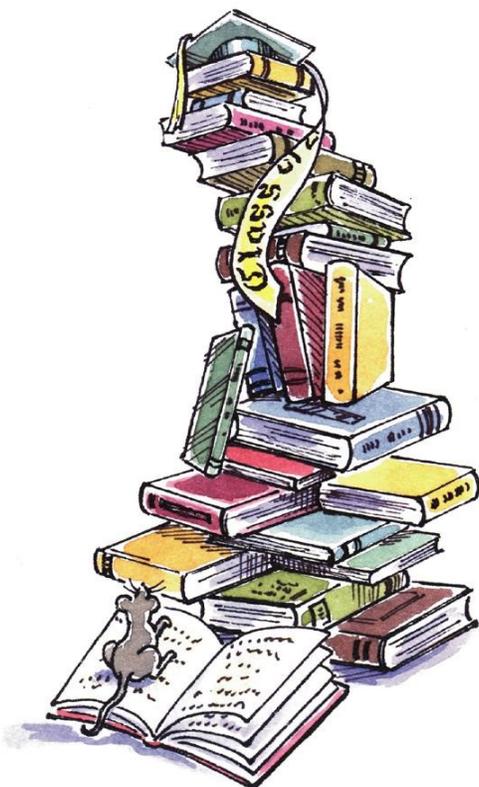
Questions? Contact Susan Coulson 717-580-8063 or sccoulson@comcast.net; or Lyndsey Wilston in the Church Office 717-243-2512 or lyndsey@1stuccofcarlisle.org. For more information about Community Aid go to the website at <https://communityaid.org>.

This is a project of the Church & Community Connections Council of First United Church of Christ. We appreciate your support!

Looking for a place to donate books, movies, CD's, etc.?

Bosler Bookery Donations

Are you interested in donating books? Our local Bosler Bookery at 158 W High Street - inside the East Wing of The Bosler Library - accepts a variety of donations year-round. The Bookery sells gently-used or new books, puzzles, games, music, greeting cards, artwork, and many other items that have been donated by the community. Proceeds help the Bosler Library. Bookery guidelines are printed on flyers available in the hallway across from the Church Office. If you are unable to come to the church for a flyer, you may call to request one from the Church Office to be sent to you by mail. Or go to boslerfriends.com website on your computer and click on The Bookery section or call The Bookery at 717-243-3313.



THE BOOKERY'S DONATION POLICY

WE ACCEPT DONATIONS OF:

Books – hardback and paperback books in **good, salable condition.**

Artwork – All types – for the ongoing art sale

Audiobooks

Books – hardback & paperback

Comics

Games – board games and computer games

The Great Courses – on CD or DVD

Greeting cards with envelopes

Magazines – current 3 months

Movies/TV on DVD

Music on CD/DVD

Puzzles

Records, Vinyl – up to 25-30, no more at one time without prior approval from Bookery mgr.

Textbooks - published since 2016

Unusual items – contact The Bookery's manager if you have something else that you would like to donate. From time to time we have sold donated needlepoint pillows, antique teacups, etc.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

Cassette tapes.

Condensed Books.

Damaged Books - that are very dirty, smell, or have been wet. **Rule of thumb - If you would not give us \$1 for the book you are donating, no one else will either!**

Encyclopedias – we do not accept encyclopedias.

Ex-Library Books.

Magazines - older than the last 3 months. Including old Life, Look, National Geographic, etc.

Old sheet music

Records in bulk – to donate more than 25-30 talk to the Bookery Mgr. first.

Textbooks - with a copyright date older than 2016.

VHS tapes

What you can do with some of the things we don't accept:

Books - Chambersburg Waste Paper will recycle books 2047 Loop Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17202, 717-264-4890

Magazines – you can recycle any type of glossy paper in the Ronald McDonald dumpster generally located in the parking lot of one of the local McDonald's.



Christian Education

Join us **Sunday, September 12th** 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.

Church & Ministry

- ◆ **St. Paul's Brass** will be playing **February 27th** for the virtual service. Tune in on Facebook or UberConference to listen to some great music!

Church & Community Connections

- ◆ CCC Council will be sending a financial donation to support the Mercersburg Association Program called "Chaplains in the Park" and the outreach ministry of Chaplain Tim Bremmer. This program involves Chaplain Tim delivering Gospel to campers in Cowens Gap St. Park and Burnt Cabins Campground.

Property Management

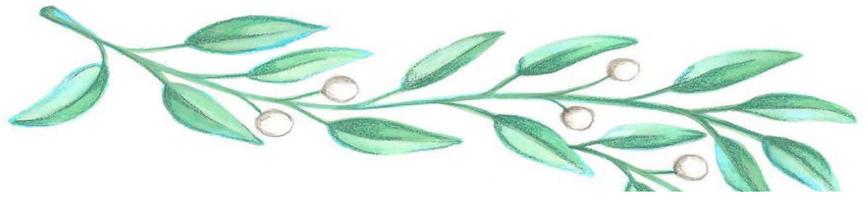
Although COVID-19 has limited the use of our beautiful structure there are ongoing maintenance projects that need attention. It is the intent and responsibility of the Property Management Council to keep our church property safe and attractive.

Here are a few of the projects completed in 2021:

- ◆ Installation of safety "crash bars" on the three front doors in the front of the church at the top of the steps
- ◆ Regular repairs of the central air condition unit that cools the sanctuary and social hall
- ◆ Caulking of the front steps leading into the front of the church and other areas to prevent freezing/thawing issues with the concrete
- ◆ Replacement of a large window in the social hall as the result of a broken seal
- ◆ Placement of a floor model air conditioning unit in the second floor classroom
- ◆ Repair and refinishing of the hand rails on the steps leading into the front of the church
- ◆ Deep cleaning of carpets (back entrance to front of church, church office, and parlor)
- ◆ Monthly sanitization for COVID-19 and Flu viruses of the church building in an effort to help keep everyone safe and healthy
- ◆ Repair of a loose piece of siding on the church bell tower roof

In addition, there are plans to place security cameras on the exterior of the church in early January 2022 and to begin the process of replacing the central air condition unit before the cooling season begins. This unit is approximately 38 years old and has served us well, but it is now time for it to be replaced based on the maintenance issues we experienced this past summer. A new unit will certainly be more energy efficient and reliable!

Please feel free to reach out to Dallas to discuss any issues or concerns you make have regarding the overall maintenance of our church property.



Earth Stewards

February Tip of the Month

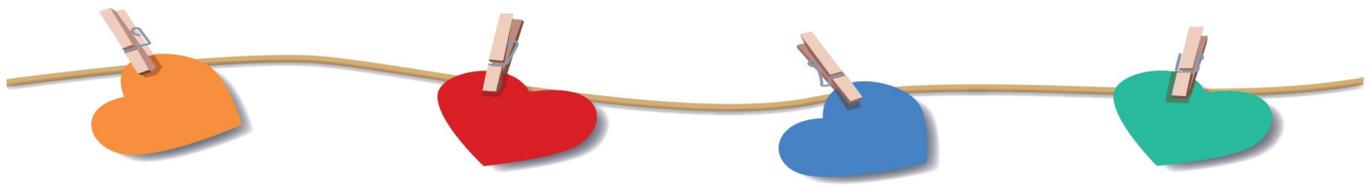
Green-Tips for the Office:

Businesses can make a big difference when it comes to helping the environment! By placing RECYCLING containers beside trash containers in every location, encouraging bring-your-own water bottles, and adjusting thermostats by 2-degrees, it all helps the Earth we share when employees work as a team.

Here are some other Green-Tips whether "work" is in an office or at home.

- Instead of printing hard copies of your documents, save them to your hard drive or email them to yourself to save paper.
- Use recycled printer-paper and office supplies.
- Make your printer environmentally friendly. Change your printer settings to make double-sided pages. Use small-point fonts when possible and use the "fast draft" setting when possible to save ink.
- Pay your bills via e-billing programs when possible to save paper.
- Use paperclips (over staples) when possible.
- Reuse large envelopes and file folders by sticking a new label over the previous one.
- Motivate your coworkers to buy green products and help reduce waste. Look for the RECYCLED or SUSTAINABLE labels.
- Save Energy - Turn off desk and room lights when you're leaving for more than a few minutes, and especially when you're finished for the day.

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



Church Group Activities Update



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 or **717-243-2512**.

Book Chat News!

Our Book Chat is back to meeting virtually via Zoom meetings, in accordance with church guidelines. The group is wrapping up the discussion of the non-fiction book, *So You Want to Talk About Race?* by Ijeoma Oluo. This book has inspired thoughtful discussion and furthered the group's awareness of problems of inequality that are caused by systemic racism in our society.

The next Book Chat selection is *Resistance Women* by Jennifer Chiaverini. This historical fiction novel tells the story of American graduate student Mildred Fish who marries a German citizen. She and her German friends secretly gather intelligence as part of the Resistance against Adolf Hitler and the Nazis in WWII Germany.

Questions about Book Chat may be forwarded Lyndsey Hendricks in the church office.



Lunch Bunch News!

The Lunch Bunch Ladies will be meeting the following dates at **12pm**:

- ◆ **February 24th:** Misceno's
- ◆ **March 24th:** North Hanover St. Grill
- ◆ **April 28th:** Snapper's

If you are interested in joining, please call **Barb Simon-ton** at **(717) 329-0123** for reservations.