

Worship

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**First United Church of
Christ Newsletter**



Renewed in Christ

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the **new has come**. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

-2 Corinthians 5:16-18

Spring is my favorite season. Everything that was once dead during Winter is coming back to life. It is so rejuvenating and refreshing to my soul. The first day I can walk outside and feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the tickling grass on my toes is like my body, soul, and spirit take a huge breath of fresh air. I am ready for change. I am ready for challenge. I am ready to be made new.



Spring is the perfect time for a lens change, as I previously mentioned in February's newsletter. I can gain new perspective on myself, on people around me, on who Jesus is, on dreams and goals, on pretty much anything the Holy Spirit wants to show me. Challenge yourself to embrace Spring with an open heart— an open heart to change, to what God wants for you in this season, and to joy.



Did You Know...St. Patrick's Day

1. St. Patrick's Day honors the death of St. Patrick, who was a Christian missionary to Ireland.
2. St. Patrick was originally believed to be born in Britain and sold as a slave at 16 by Irish raiders to a Celtic priest. He was a slave for 6 years before escaping back to Britain and then coming back to Ireland as a Christian missionary.
3. Leprechauns are based on Celtic fairies. Leprechaun comes from the word "lobaircin," which means "small-bodied fellow." Leprechauns were known as grouchy shoe makers for the other fairies.
4. Shamrocks are called "seamroy" by the Celts and regarded as a sacred plant representing the arrival of spring. The shamrocks were also used by St. Patrick to describe the Trinity to the Irish culture.
5. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was in America in the city of St. Augustine, Florida on March 17, 1601.
6. Prior to the immigration surge to America in 1845 during the Potato Famine, Irish immigrants were part of the Protestant middle-class. Once the Potato Famine hit Ireland, 1 million Irish Catholics poured into America to flee from starvation. Because Protestants and Catholics had such opposing views, the Irish Catholic immigrants were not welcomed into the American middle-class and had difficulty getting lowly jobs. It was not until the Irish figured out their political power by sheer numbers that the Irish finally began to make an impact on American culture.

"7 Surprising Facts About St. Patrick's Day", "History of St. Patrick's Day." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 21 Aug. 2018, www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day.

St. Patrick's
Day





Keep on the Sunny Side

“Carlisle’s Compassionate Community”

By: Chaplain Donna Hale



“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

~Colossians 3:12 (ESV)~

Apostle Paul, in his letter (written around A.D. 62), encouraged the Colossians to extend compassion (care and concern to others) by their acts of kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience . (I am always amazed when I read that many of Apostle Paul’s letters were written when he was in prison. How strong his faith was to remain positive and compassionately encourage others from his prison cell!)

During Covid-19, I continue to meet with others (church and community) through Zoom. I am always impressed with everyone’s dedication/commitment to use technology to continue their ministries and missions. Through my community network, I witness how compassion is practiced in our Carlisle churches, social service agencies, food banks, homeless shelters, schools, medical practices, first responders, and all persons who offer compassion to others during these long months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through my connections with other agencies beyond Carlisle, I learn that Apostle Paul’s words of encouragement are not just practiced here in our community. Because I am connected to a broader network of compassionate, caring communities, I know none of us are alone. We are all surrounded by compassionate neighbors.

With the conclusion of “Black History Month,” I close with the words of Coretta Scott King:

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members”.

Glory Be To God, we serve.

Chaplain Donna

Los Angeles Times.” January 17, 2000. “King’s Widow Urges Acts of Compassion.” [Cited in “Flying Colors: Let Your Imagination Take Flight!” Volume 21. Norwalk, CT: Penny Publications, LLC, 2020.



SACRED SPACES IN OUR SACRED PLACES

Pastor Rachel

As we begin the Lenten Journey toward Easter, I wanted to share this poem by Ann Weems, which gives texture to this time of preparation. May these words provide some reflection for each of us during our prayer and devotion time on this 40 day journey to the cross. May each of you be well, happy and peaceful....

“Lenten Poem” by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.



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.

Don't Forget to Spring Ahead!

Sunday, March 14th remember to turn your clocks ahead an hour. We're going to jump right into spring with a lot of joy and hope!



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!



Re-Opening Update



Members of 1st United Church of Christ – Carlisle:

Good day to you. The following is information on COVID statistics reported in the last week of January 2021.

Greg Lewis shared the following at the Re-opening Task Force meeting and with Consistory. The statistics for Cumberland County: The total number of cases have been down in the past week, but there continues to be double digit deaths. The percent positivity rate is 10%--which is down from 13.3% the previous week. The incidence of COVID cases per 100,000 is 198.5 and that is down from 296 the previous week. The numbers for COVID that are considered ideal to begin to open socially-- are a positivity rate below 5% and an incidence under 50 per 100,000.

The numbers have been decreasing, and people in the community are starting to get vaccinated. The data has not reached the possible benchmarks that have been suggested by the CDC. Consistory has decided unanimously to have the church building remain closed for worship for the month of February 2021. Consistory will continue to be in conversation with the Re-opening Task Force and potentially consider re-opening the church for worship in March 2021.

Please note some of the following points: When the church re-opens for worship, there will continue to be the protocol of the wearing of masks, social distancing, and temperature taking, as we had done previously. 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. When the church does re-open for 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 consider going back to only offering a virtual worship service again.

In the meantime, worship continues to be placed on the internet. It is livestreamed on Sundays at 10 am on Pastor Chris's Facebook page. There is also a teleconferencing option for people who do not use computers (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
Susan Stott, Treasurer	717-701-1120
Michael Coulson, Vice Pres	717-574-4595
Pastor Chris Schwab	717-422-8543
Karen Byers, Secretary	717-243-2609



COVID-19 UPDATES



Summary of 1st UCC – Carlisle reopening progress (10/5/20)

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 or has returned from a recent visit to a State with a high Covid19 incidence (please see Governor Wolfe’s recommended guidelines concerning this), 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 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).

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.

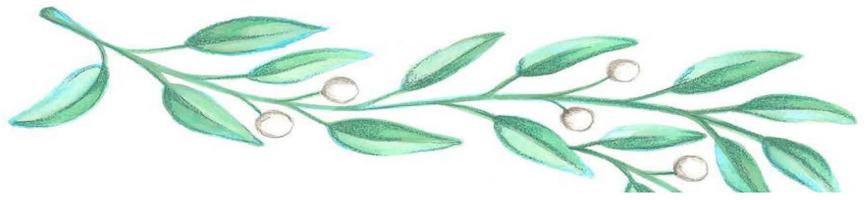


- ◆ On the second Wednesday of every month from **10 am – noon**, there will be a table at the parking lot door of the church where **Community CARES** donations can be dropped off (or handed to a volunteer). This is the day when we will receive packets of **Ramen noodles** for the organization.



- ◆ **Every Friday from 8am to 1pm (January-March)** there will be a blue barrel outside the back door for jacket, blanket, and sleeping bag donations. These donations will be given to Community CARES and Safe Harbour.

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



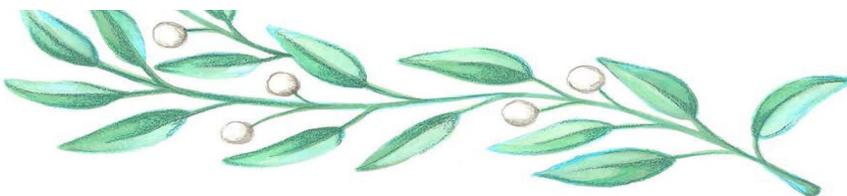
Earth Stewards

March Tip of the Month

How do we use our water?

On average Americans use approximately 88 gallons of water per day. Over a span of a year that equates to approximately 32,120 gallons per year. That is a lot of water! Not only do we use a lot of water, but how do we use it? Consider placing a bucket of water in the shower to catch the extra water, then using it to flush your toilet. Or wash your dishes in a plastic bin, and then use the nutrient-rich water to feed your plants.

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 Activities Update



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.

