

BACK-TO- SCHOOL

Inside this issue

The Impact of Generations.....	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**

The Impact of Generations...

Parents are gearing up to or have already sent their kids back to school. Some students are attending in-person and some are attending online. No matter how old our kids are or what environment they're in, they have the ability to impact the world around them.

I heard a story from a mother that has forever impacted me. This mother was in the grocery store with her small daughter (about toddler age). Her daughter had wandered over to this person close-by and spoke the words "knee ouchy." As she spoke these simple words, this little girl lifted up her hands and placed them on this person's knees. What the little girl or the mother didn't know is this person had been struggling with knee pain for years. As soon as this small toddler touched this person's knees, the knee pain was completely gone. Through the Holy Spirit, this small toddler healed a random person's knees in a grocery store. This told me God places something inside each one of us that we can cultivate at any age.

This made me wonder how do I instill this in my kids? How do we encourage kids to explore the gifts God has given them? We teach them and encourage them to pursue what we see in them, no matter how old they are. We ask the



Holy Spirit to lead us and our kids in what He has placed in them. Parents and grandparents have such a wonderful opportunity to instill great wisdom and inspiration in our kids. It's amazing to witness generational movements within families. A choice you made 50 years ago can impact your children and grandchildren today, positively or negatively. What do

we want to instill in our children and grandchildren? Do we want to instill courage, faith, strength, and confidence in who they are as Children of God? Or do we shy away from gifts because we think they're too young to understand?

I would love to see children and grandchildren looking to their parents and grandparents for spiritual guidance. I would love to see kids free to express the gifts God has placed in them. I truly believe kids will flourish with the support of parents and grandparents watching over them and cultivating who God has designed them to be.

Future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Psalm 22:30-31, NRSV



“Holy Spirit, pour out your grace and wisdom on us to teach our children and grandchildren how to respond to what you’ve placed in them. Amen.”



I WILL CAUSE YOUR NAME TO BE



CELEBRATED IN ALL GENERATIONS

PSALM 45:17, NRSV

Keep on the Sunny Side

“A Reflection”

By: Chaplain Donna Hale



Psalm 84:10-12: I'd rather be a doorkeeper in God's house than live in the tents of wickedness.”

For me, it is impossible to describe one day in Heaven. The psalmist assures us that one “day” in “Heaven” is “better than contemplating “a thousand days elsewhere.”

I recognize Heaven is beyond my “wildest” imagination. I believe my grandmother had the best explanation whenever I asked her to describe Heaven. Her response was: “We don't know; no one has ever come back to tell us.” My grandmother's faith was like steel. She had no doubts about the existence of Heaven. I agree. Heaven is God's promise of everlasting life. I look forward to Heaven as a place where we eternally worship God. There will be no time-keepers, schedules to maintain, and no misunderstandings. Heaven is a place of permanent peace. No rushing from place to place, no technology that provides more time to increase our workplace productivity.

As someone who is always off to another meeting, either in person, or now by “Zoom,” I can identify with Lewis Carroll's (Alice in Wonderland) “White Rabbit” who always was checking his watch to discover that once again, he was running late. Our 21st century world of technology provides more ways to expand our lives to include not only work, school, and family time; but, also time to consult with our physicians, and “Zoom” with family members.

In our lectionary readings for this past Sunday (August 22), the psalmist longs for “a day” in God's house rather “than a thousand elsewhere.” And, the psalmist recognizes that being “a doorkeeper in God's house is preferred to living in “the tents of wickedness.”

I understand that doorkeepers—in the Old Testament protected the temple...the house of worship. Doorkeepers protected the “ark of the covenant.” Today, “doorkeepers” are found at hotel entrances to greet and assist with parking valets and check-in services. Hospitals have employees at the “Visitors' Desk” who can answer questions and provide directions. Churches have “door-keepers” at doors to both open and lock doors. And, in churches as well as throughout our communities, doorkeepers also, provide directions and instructions—especially now during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I struggle to comprehend exactly who “lives in the tents of wickedness.” Obviously, “tents of wickedness” would be out-



side “the House of Worship.” Were the “tents of wickedness” places where “others” reside with the potential to “lead us”—“tempt us” into wickedness?

How can a “doorkeeper” prevent “wickedness?” Possibly one way could be helping others who need assistance. Recently, I saw an older man in downtown Carlisle pushing a walker in front of him, and pulling another cart behind him with fresh produce he just purchased from the Wednesday market on the Carlisle Square. I asked, if I could help him. He smiled and thanked me explaining he liked to do these activities because the exercise kept him active and agile. (He looked that way too.)

Another example is to take time to listen to people when they want to talk about what is upsetting them. By providing an opportunity for them to share their story sends a message to them that someone cares about what is going on in their lives.

Often when I am out in the local community, I encounter people I have met over the years as community chaplain—now over seven years. And, sometimes they describe events in their lives that create difficulties. Just having someone listen to them helps alleviate their stress and anxiety.

In our communities, we have agencies and social clubs that need volunteers to help with their programs. And, we have many professionals who provide counseling services to help alleviate negative situations that may cause anxiety that sometimes leads to misunderstandings.

We are our communities “doorkeepers.” We can assist others when they experience “evil”—situations—hardships, difficult personal and professional situations that may be alleviated when we take time to listen. By our compassionate presence to others' who need assistance, we are alleviating their problems by our interest and support.

At one time or another, any one of us may find ourselves struggling with physical, emotional, and spiritual problems. When an earthly door-keeper is present to provide assistance, individuals may be rescued from the “evil” (negative situations) that create havoc and discord in our society.

Praise to Our God, our door-keeper who provides shelter when we face uncertain times. And, one day, we will be met by the Heavenly door-keeper to begin our eternal life. Amen.



Self-Care with Pastor Rachel

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. -Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season...how many seasons have we lived and experienced in our lifetime? There are many seasons, not just the autumn, winter, spring and summer variety. We experience the seasons of life and death, transitions of new jobs, new school year, new relationships, weddings, births, anniversaries.... God's seasons are endless and ever changing and transforming.

As the weather shows signs — falling leaves, changing temperatures, loud cicadas...we too can show signs -physical, emotional and spiritual — of a change in season. Perhaps, we gain allergies, or feel more tired, or want to sleep in or get outside more. Maybe our knee aches when it rains.

These are all physical signs of change. What about -spiritual or emotional changes? Maybe we feel challenged by going back in the school environment around people again. Maybe we are joyful about reconnecting with friends or family again. Each moment, each joy or pain,

creates a new season within us.

Change seems hard at times, and maybe we resist it as much as we can — however we cannot avoid it. Eventually, everything changes. God reminds us of this in the passage from Ecclesiastes. What I love about this scripture is that it isn't just one change or one season — it is many. And the seasons repeat. Some are difficult, some are beautiful. But seasons are everlasting and there is always another season that provides hope. My hope is that each of us will remember the following tips for embracing change of seasons in our lives.

Change is ever-present. We change every day. Take a moment each day to find gratitude in one or more parts of the day that will help you embrace change no matter how big or small. Stay away from things that stagnate and cause us to think change will never come or keep us in a negative mindset— turn off the news, get outside, take a walk, call a friend!

Find things that nourish us in each season. When the routine of one season has ended. Think and pray about new things, activities you would like to try. Join a community that will support you in all seasons!

Spend time with God each day in spoken prayer or silence. Remind yourself of your favorite seasons and pray for strength and peace.

Have a wonderful season—wherever God takes you!

Rev. Rachel Schwab





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**.

Church Events

Theology Pub: Sunday, September 12th

The next Theology Pub will occur on Sunday, September 12th. Starting at 5 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](#)

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), 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 (8/24/2021)

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 COVID-19 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.lucc.org), Youtube.com, and the Church’s Facebook page).
2. All congregation members should come prepared to wear a mask during the service, even those who have been fully vaccinated. Those without a mask will be given one at the door. The mask should cover their mouth and nose.
3. We ask that all Church attendees practice social 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). 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.



***Note:** Lyndsey will be on vacation from **Friday, August 27th** through **Monday, September 6th**.

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; 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>.



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.

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



Christian Education— Adult Sunday School

Sunday, September 12th—Sunday, December 12th

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 100th 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
- ◆ **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 100th Anniversary project.

Questions? Contact Lyndsey Wilston, Church Office Administrator.

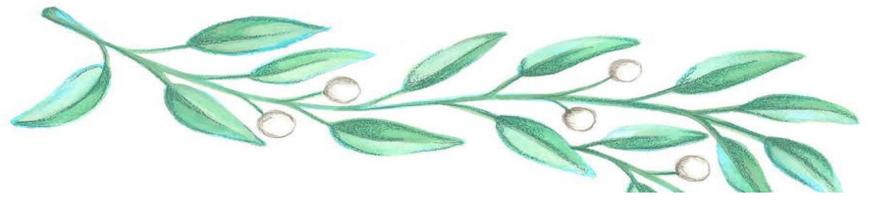
Church & Ministry

The Fine Arts Committee reports that guest musicians will provide special music at our Sunday morning services as follows:

September 12 – Buzz Jones Jazz Quartet

October 17 – St. Paul's Brass

Council is currently working on getting historical documents in our Church Archives professionally scanned and electronically saved. This will be a multi-year process.



Earth Stewards

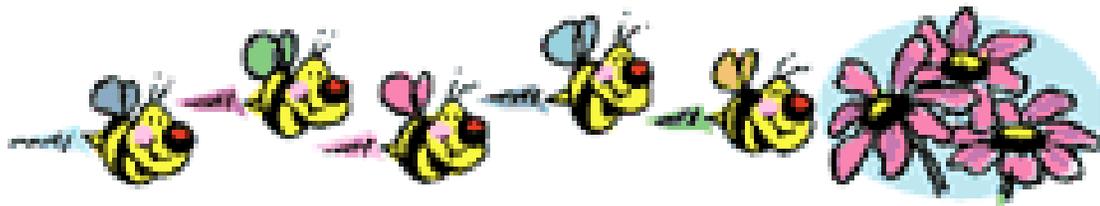
September Tip of the Month

Pollinators and Birds need your flowers - even when they're brown and seedy!

At this time of year, our blooms may be starting to look a bit bedraggled. However, insects, such as bees, and also birds, greatly benefit from the nectar still in the centers of the flowers, and also the browned seeds that will soon form on many of our perennials.

If you must cut the spent perennials, consider putting the seed-heads on the ground somewhere in your garden, so birds can still find the seeds.

Being Seed-Savers for wildlife will help us carry out God's plan for us - to be good stewards of the earth and the creatures with whom we share this precious planet.



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!

Book Chat meets for devotions, book discussion and fellowship at 11:00 AM after the 10:00 AM service on the first and third Sunday of each month.

The group gathers on folding chairs under the tree at the parking lot entrance of the church. Members who can't make it in person are included via Zoom technology on computer.

The group is currently reading a non-fiction selection - *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss. It is a detailed and fascinating history of women's effort to gain the right to vote in US elections. In addition it also covers numerous related issues that both concerned and affected the lives of women (both pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage) throughout this generations-long struggle.

Book Chat reads all types of genres, voted upon by the members of the group. New members are welcome and questions may be directed to group facilitator, Michelle Brode, through the church office.

Book Chat future reading list:

The Book of Lost Names, Klara and the Sun, The Four Winds, So You Want to Talk About Race, Resistance Women, The Midnight Library, Leave the World Behind, The Island of Sea Women.

