



# First Family News

September, 2016

## LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

Since summer is almost over and school is beginning, we thought you might enjoy a joke about school: Mrs. Mollard had been giving her second-grade students a lesson in science. She had explained about magnets and showed how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron. Now it was question time, and Mrs. Mollard asked, “My name begins with the letter ‘M’ and I pick up things. What am I?” Tim, a little boy in the front row proudly said, “You’re a mother!”

We can all smile at the young man’s response, but it is true – mothers do a lot of picking up. Whether it is picking up clothes, dirty dishes, towels, or children, mothers are busy picking up all the time. These days, fathers may also fill this role. And, in the process, both develop special attachments, even beyond the biological, to their children.

In today’s busy, task-filled lives, we would ask you to stop for a moment and pray for mothers and fathers at the beginning of this school year. Some will cry when they see their little child leaving for kindergarten; others will switch their summer schedule to the fall schedule and continue to transport their children to sports or music activities instead of to the pool. Others will be trying to work out a car pool for their children because their work schedules are not totally compatible with their children’s transportation needs. Others will scramble to find sitters for those days when their child may be sick and they still have to go to work. And some are experiencing loneliness and concern as they watch their grown children take on the challenges of college. It’s tough to be a mother or father today.

If you are willing to pray for mothers and fathers of school-age children but don’t know how to begin, here is a prayer that might help you get started: “O Loving Lord, You have created mothers and fathers in love and blessed them with children. As they work tirelessly to support their families may they be showered with Your blessings. Give mothers and fathers strength to exercise compassion as they live each day under Your care. May those who are joined in Your love, support mothers and fathers by their promise of spirit and devotion to prayer. Amen.”

So you see, mothers and fathers really need our prayers!

Blessings and peace,

*Pastors Doug and Joyce*

## LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

An autumn drive down a country road introduces us to something “terrifying without danger” – the scarecrow. In cornfield and garden patch, in the “lower forty” and the backyard, these un-unionized security guards

watchfully work around the clock. They do not eat, drink, or complain about the weather. They require no holiday, no pension, no perks, no pay.

Scarecrows are content to wear farmer Bob's cast-offs or farmer Bertha's hand-me-downs. Unlike mannequins that appear to have a supply of fashionable clothes for all seasons, scarecrows, happily following Jesus' instructions, keep their wardrobes to a minimum.

If you ever have occasion to undress a scarecrow, you will discover that every scarecrow's skeleton is a cross. In fields they take their stand leaning on the everlasting arms. When west winds tatter the clothes that hang upon the one who hangs in the garden, when winter frosts sag head, flap arms, twist legs, the imaginative eye "at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me."

All of us have scarecrows in our lives – harmless things that somehow scare us all life long. In abstract society we call them phobias, but in concrete terms they are scarecrows. Although scarecrows would not hurt a crow, we build up fearful images of creatures made of straw. Terrified without danger, some people see bridges as scarecrows. They will not cross a bridge for love or money! Other people may see elevators as scarecrows: such individuals climb twenty flights of stairs on a hot day rather than ride with the scarecrow.

A healing exercise would be for such individuals to get together and talk about the scarecrows in their lives. I don't believe it is true that to kill a werewolf you have to drive a wooden stake through its heart. However, I do know that to get rid of the scarecrows running and ruining our lives, we must expose them for the harmless critters they are. In The Wizard of Oz, "Scarecrow" confides... "There is one thing in the world I'm afraid of... a lighted match."

While St. George is said to have slain the dragon all by himself, none of us alone can banish the scarecrows from our lives. A healing, supportive community is what's needed to exorcise scarecrows from our minds and put them out to pasture. We may even want to give this experience and opportunity a name: Scarecrow Therapy. Such "therapy" can be as simple as gathering together people of faith as caring individuals who band together to put an end to panic without substance and terror without danger.

September might be a good month for a Scarecrow Sunday to be observed. Maybe we could have a contest and give the creator of the best entry a chance to put his or her scarecrow to work. Make the scarecrow a scapegoat: lay all our fears on it, and let the prize-winner take it away to a place where winter's winds will disperse those fears forever.

Scarecrows are imaginative art forms made in our own image. They are made to scare crows and delight people. Let's get them out of their hiding places in our minds where they are terrorizing us, and put them where they rightfully belong – out in our fields and gardens supposedly scaring crows.

Grace! Peace! Love! Blessings on You and Yours!

With You in Christ's Service!

*The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Moyer*

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

## **MESSAGE FROM PATRICIA CONRAD**

To the congregation of First United Church of Christ, Quakertown - For the past sixteen years, I have had the privilege of being the Director of Music Ministry of First UCC, and I have enjoyed the many relationships and spiritual growth that have been a part of my time here. Therefore, it was with much sadness that I decided to resign my position this summer. While it has been a very difficult decision for numerous reasons, I believe that God is calling me in some new directions at this point in my life, and I am sensing that the time is right to make a change for both myself and for the church.

There are not sufficient words to express my gratitude and love for First UCC and its members and leaders who have embraced not only me but also my family these past sixteen years. We felt welcomed and encouraged from the first moment we stepped through the doors, and those feelings have only deepened over the years. On a professional level, I have always felt supported and respected by the congregation and the leadership of both the music program and the church as a whole. My time here has allowed me to strengthen my craft, and I will always credit this church and its members for giving me a place to dream and fully express my worship of God through music in the fullest way possible.

I want to express my profound thanks to this church, its leadership, and its members. God brought me to this place sixteen years ago, and I will always cherish the many spiritual gifts and the love and friendship that have graced my time here.

With much love and fondness,  
*Patricia Conrad*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOU'RE INVITED!! JOIN US FOR FIRST FELLOWSHIP** – First Fellowship is located in fellowship Hall. Come down the hall and bring a friend, and have some coffee, snacks, and enjoy some fellowship. This is also an opportunity to get to know our new members or visitors. Stay for a few minutes or longer if you can. Here's a chance to relax, catch up, and enjoy the treats provided by our church committees. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

**EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT – SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP** - Come out at 5:15 p.m. for our Sunday Evening service in the Chapel for a time of music, teaching, and discussion.

**GIANT GIFT CARDS** will be on sale on the first Sunday of every month in the Narthex after the service. YouthWorx has a limited supply of gift cards in stock, ready for you. Thank you.

**September 4 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND MOVIE** - Join us in the Parlor on Labor Day, September 4 at 10:30 a.m. If your picnic is not until the afternoon, join us for a DVD in the beautiful setting of Colonial Williamsburg for a lesson of faith and freedom. During the 1730's-1750's, the Great Awakening shook Virginia, touching men and women whose spiritual needs had been neglected for too long by the Anglican Church. In homes, meetinghouses, and open fields, the rich and poor, black and white, men and women mingled to hear emotional messages of a personal God and of salvation. Through the insights of Thomas Jefferson, we see how the First Amendment came to be.

**USHERS** - Would you consider becoming an USHER for Sunday mornings? If you have a welcoming attitude and can arrive at 8:45 several weeks during the year, we could use your help. We're reorganizing for the fall with info sessions planned for long-time and new volunteers. If you're interested, sign up on the back table or speak to Pastor Doug or Judy Elsner, and we'll be in touch!

**TUESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST CHURCH** – Did you know that you can do Zumba at First Church? Zumba instructor, Karen Sylsberry, from Quakertown YMCA and former Work-Out Plus, lead an hour-long class of this energetic dance fitness program to Latin-inspired music. First UCC members are \$5! Non-members and walk-ins are \$8. Punch cards are available for an even greater value! Every Tuesday night in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Typically, classes have at least 20 persons and about half of them are from First Church – so come and join the fun!

**SANCTUARY ARCHITECTURE** - Have you ever wondered the meaning behind our beautiful stained glass windows? Interested in the architecture of the Sanctuary? Then check out our "Sanctuary Architecture" Web-Series on our website by visiting: <http://www.new.firstucc.net/category/sanctuary-architecture>.

FACEBOOK - This summer our Church Facebook page (FirstUCC-Quakertown) has reach over 150 members! Thank you for helping us reach this milestone. Now, the Tech Team has set a challenge: 200 likes by this Christmas. To reach 200 likes, we are asking for your help. Please 'share' Church Facebook posts, recommend the page to friends and 'check-in' before worship on Sundays. Each of these actions will show your Facebook friend on their timelines of the fun and great things that happen at First Church!

D.I.B. SCREENS - The Tech Team is excited to formally announce the arrival of our new two Digital Information Board screens (D.I.B. screen for short). Over the summer, we have been testing the capabilities of the screens to share church announcements, news, and photos. Now, we are welcoming the submission of announcements, news, and photos to be displayed on the D.I.B. screens. Simply email [webmaster@FirstUCC.net](mailto:webmaster@FirstUCC.net) with the image(s) and information you wish to send in for posting.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated on the following *Sundays at 9:15 am*

- World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2
- Advent Sunday, November 27

Holy Communion will also be celebrated on the following *Sunday evenings at 5:15*

- September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4

BULLETIN BOARDS - Our bulletin boards in the main hall are designed to tell our story as a church. Since their installation they have been used somewhat randomly. One idea that has been suggested is that committees and groups are assigned bulletin board space to tell their individual stories. If you represent a group or committee and would like to have space, please let the Church Development Team or Council or the pastors know and suggest how much space. If you have a suggestion, not as a specific committee or group member, but as a general view of what would best represent us as a church, please let us know that as well.

SIGN-UP SHEETS - We use sign-up sheets when we want to know who will help with various activities, whether as VBS helpers, dessert bakers, or prayer vigil participants. These sign-up sheets have been placed in various locations: the Narthex, the Main Hall, and the Parking Lot entrance. On occasion there have been several sign-up sheets for the same purpose. The Church Development Team would like to have a single attractive and convenient location for clip boards and sign-up sheets. Several would like to have this be in the main hall across from the church office. Please let us know any suggestions or concerns as we move toward designing this space.

COUPON CLIPPERS - September....crisp cooler days and nights, children heading back to school and Coupon Clippers of First Church back to cutting and clipping, sorting and counting Coupons for First Church, the Community and our Troops. We have been doing this since January and have found what works and in conjunction with the Upper Bucks Senior Center and Quakertown VFW, we are helping many people to save and share what they can. However, since I gave the group the summer off, you and your help are certainly needed and appreciated. If you are able to help in any way, by saving coupon inserts from your Sunday newspaper and bringing them in during the week, or by clipping, sorting, or counting coupons, please join us. Many hands make lighter work and we do share in some laughter and fellowship as we whistle while we work. I would like to have 7 people join us. Will you be one of them? We will meet once a month now, beginning with Wednesday, September, 28 in the Parlor 1:00-3:00 p.m. Any questions, or to see how you can help, please speak with Lisa Miller.

GRAND VIEW HEALTH HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSE – Grand View Hospice is looking for caring people willing to share their time with this important program. Training includes instruction in hospice philosophy, listening and communication skills, the experience of death, dying and grief and practical information needed to assist patients and their families. Beginning Monday, September 12, the 7-week training session will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The course is free and if you are interested in

this rewarding volunteer experience, please contact the volunteer coordinator, Carlene Meyers at 215-453-4149 to schedule an interview. Registration deadline is Friday, September 2.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September 11 – SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAITH FACTORY begins at 10:30-11:30 - Everyone ages 3 through 12th grade meet in classroom #6, everyone else will meet in your class room. We have a class for everyone! Birth-3 years old, 3 (potty trained), 6th grade, 7th grade to 12th grade, college age and young adults, and 2 options for adults (in Parlor and in Classroom by parking lot doors). Looking forward to seeing YOU!

September 11 - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (in the Classroom by the parking lot doors) - The Book of Daniel is much more than the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. Learn what God says Daniel's dreams mean in the book of Revelation!!! *Starting Sunday, September 11 at 10:45 a.m.*

September 11 - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE PARLOR - All are welcome to the Adults in the Parlor Class as we join together in fellowship, and through various DVD's, we learn, discuss, and share, as each is able, our understandings, thoughts, and personal growth. On September 11, 18, and 25, we will view and discuss two DVD's based on the devotional book, Streams in the Desert, written by L.B. Cowman, Part One, "Discovering God's Call" and Part Two, "Words of Life." This beloved devotional is still in print and is 90 years young. L. B. Cowman worked as a pioneer missionary with her husband in Japan and China from 1901 to 1917, during which time they helped found the Oriental Missionary Society. When Mr. Cowman's poor health forced the couple to return to the United States, Mrs. Cowman turned her attention to caring for her husband until his death six years later. Out of Mrs. Cowman's experiences and heartbreak came her first book, Streams in the Desert. Discover how the mission work they started decades ago continues because of her writings.

September 14 - LADIES BIBLE STUDY – Join us on Wednesdays from 10:00 to no later than 11:30 a.m. starting September 14 as we gather for lively fellowship, shared prayer requests, topical scripture reading, and a meaningful prayerful activity (a different activity each week), while we practice communication with the Almighty. We will focus on personal prayer requests, but also concentrate on praying for our church, our community, our state, our country, our world, missionaries around the world, children of our church, community, schools, and around the world, widows, widowers, orphans, leaders, the earth and its resources... the list goes on and on!

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Just a brief update to keep everyone posted on the current activities of the Church Development Team. As you know, we are working on improvement opportunities for our church Narthex focused on "The Visitor's Experience." Our goal is to make our Narthex a space that better facilitates the transition from the secular world to a place of worship and also to make it a more welcoming space.

Activities currently underway by several sub-teams include:

- Creating the one missing banner for Ordinary Time/Trinity and providing lighting for all banners displayed in the Narthex. We have the final design for the banner and plans for creating it and obtaining a formal proposal are currently being explored.
- Establishing a better sign-up process and location for sign-ups for various congregational activities and related support. We have received suggestions from key users of current sign-up sheets and are working on final plans for providing an improved sign-up center.
- Recruiting and working with ushers that includes dealing with health and safety issues. Suggestions have been obtained from current ushers and information folders are available for those who could not attend either of two meetings. If you are interested in ushering or have any related suggestions to share, please contact Judy Elsner or Pastor Doug.



- By now you have noticed some seating and supplemental lighting placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street “nook” areas of the Narthex. We have received many favorable comments on those minor additions. Before doing anything more in those areas, we will await the decision of the success of Fellowship Hour trial in Fellowship Hall.

Should you have any suggestions or questions regarding any of the above activities, please contact any member of the Church Development Team or Pastors Joyce and Doug

## COUNCIL NEWS

A summary of the regular meeting of Council was held on August 8 as follows:

- Minutes of July meeting were approved. The finances of the church were reviewed. Bills of the month were approved to be paid.
- Members of the Mission Team met with council and gave a report about the 2016 trip to Camden.
- Property Committee reported that they are receiving bids for roof leak and spire issue, are replacing the kitchen mats, refrigerator monitors are nearly hooked up, and the parking lot is being repaved.
- Staff Committee continues to receive applications for the position of Director of Music, interviews will begin taking place on August 9.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for September 12.

## KITCHEN MINISTRIES

AUGUST COMMUNITY DINNER – Our August 18 dinner was a big success! We served 100 guests. They enjoyed stuffed peppers, grilled hot dogs, corn on the cob, summer tossed salad, drinks, and dessert with ice cream. It was great to see a few more church members! Remember it is open to all! Our next dinner is Thursday, September 15 at 5:30 pm. Please come and bring your friends!

SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Boxed Cereal, Oatmeal, Tomato Soup, Hearty Soups, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce. *(Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.)*

## MEMORIALS

We express thanks for a gift given In Memory of Grace Musselman, presented by Art and Cheryl Bryan.

## MUSIC NEWS

### CHOIR FIRST REHEARSAL DATES

Thursday, September 1 at 7:15 p.m. will be the first rehearsal for Sanctuary Bell Choir (adults).

Wednesday, September 7 will be the first rehearsals for children's and youth choirs.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | Chime Choir ( <i>bell choir for Grades K-2</i> )      |
| 6:30 p.m. | Cherub Choir ( <i>vocal choir for Grades PreK-2</i> ) |
|           | Carillon Choir ( <i>bell choir Grades 3-6</i> )       |
|           | Crusader Choir ( <i>vocal choir for Grades 7-12</i> ) |
| 7:15 p.m. | Carol Choir ( <i>vocal choir for Grades 3-6</i> )     |
|           | Agape Bells ( <i>bell choir for Grades 7-12</i> )     |

Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. will be first rehearsal for Chancel Choir (adults).

BELL CHOIR INTEREST - Do you enjoy listening to hand bell music on Sunday mornings? Would you like to learn to play bells? If you're interested in learning to ring hand bells, sign up on bulletin boards in the office hallway to show you're interested. If enough people sign up, a beginner's adult choir may be formed. Have questions, please speak with Gregg Reighard or Ryan Miller.

## THANK YOU

THANK YOU for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to us last week from our church family. We appreciate them and your kindness very much. *Ruth and Jimmy Clemmer*

THANK YOU so much for thinking of me and bringing flowers. I'm sorry that I was not in when they were delivered, but they are beautiful and very much appreciated. *Janice Peischel*

## WOMENS MINISTRIES

LADIES READING CLUB – Join us on Monday, September 19 at 7:00, we will meet to discuss “Olive Kitteridge” by Elizabeth Strout.

October 4 – WOMEN’S GUILD - The October 4 Women’s Guild meeting will feature Debbie Parker Schwartz, a native of Quakertown and currently pastor of Trinity UCC in Leesport. Debbie will present a program on her experience walking the Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James), a 500 mile spiritual pilgrimage across northern Spain." The full schedule for the coming year will be included in the October newsletter.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### First Fellowship

***Open to Whole First Church Family***

### Greeters

Virginia Servas, Beth Interiano, Lora Mayer

### Lay Readers

9/4 Gwyn Clark  
9/11 Deb Wanamaker  
9/18 Christine Moll  
9/25 Joan Bottor

### Ushers

Kathy and Roland Felix, Robert Egner, Richard Miller

USHERS - Would you consider becoming an USHER for Sunday mornings? If you have a welcoming attitude and can arrive at 8:45 several weeks during the year, we could use your help. We're reorganizing for the fall with info sessions planned for long-time and new volunteers. If you're interested, sign up on the back table or speak to Pastor Doug or Judy Elsner, and we'll be in touch!

8/25/2016

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First United Church of Christ

September 2016

## Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Labor Day Movie 10:30a-First Fellowship in Fellowship Hall 5:15p-Evening Worship	<b>5</b> Labor Day Office Closed	<b>6</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 2:00p-Reminisce 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:00p-AARP (Meeting at 1:00P) 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00a-Fellowship Hall RSVD
<b>11</b> 9:15a-Worship, Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC Preaching 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship in Fellowship Hall, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>12</b> 7:00p-Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	<b>14</b> 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs 6:30p-Knit One, Pray Too	<b>15</b> 5:30p-Community Dinner 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship in Fellowship Hall, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship	<b>19</b> 7:00p-Ladies Reading Club	<b>20</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome) 7:00p-Church Development Team	<b>21</b> 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs	<b>22</b> 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Faith Factory, First Fellowship in Fellowship Hall, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 7:00p-Zumba in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome)	<b>28</b> 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 1:00p-Coupon Clippers 6:00p-Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs	<b>29</b> 7:00p-Property Meeting 7:15p-Sanctuary Bells	<b>30</b>	



**First United Church of Christ  
151 S Fourth St  
Quakertown, PA 18951**

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## SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

