



First Family News

June, 2017

LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

We are writing to you early this month. On May 20 we will be leaving for Israel for a once-in-a-lifetime experience – seeing the places Jesus walked, taught, and healed, and even where he may have been crucified. We are excited about what we will be seeing – our itinerary includes stops in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Megiddo, Masada, a kibbutz, and two active archeological digging sites.

Yet in all of our excitement, we both feel some apprehension – going to this part of the world where there is fighting and danger all around does give us some pause (although the organization under whom we are travelling has been doing this for over 40 years and they have not had a single bad experience in that time). We are trusting in those who are planning and leading this excursion – but we also have been praying for safety. We are definitely pushing our envelope with this trip, but we know that if we don't do this now, we never will.

We have similar feelings about the plans we are putting together along with Jon Bauman for the event happening at the bandstand on August 2, 3, and 4. As plans continue to be generated, songs written, church members volunteering, and dreams expanding we have a similar sense of excitement and nervousness. Our goal is to show Quakertown how much First Church cares about them and their life experiences. We want to give them the hope that comes from faith and belief in Jesus Christ in a way that is both moving and easy to understand. We don't know what the final shape will be like. We don't know what roadblocks and other difficulties might arise. We don't know about the weather. We don't know so many things. But the one thing that we do know is that God has moved within our congregation to reach out to the wider community with love, acceptance, and understanding.

In many ways we are standing in the doorway that may lead us to a new and wonderful phase of First Church's leadership in the life of Quakertown. We don't know what is awaiting us in Israel, but we are eager to find out. Similarly, we don't know what is awaiting us at the band shell in that first week of August, but we are eager to find out. We know that if we don't do this now, we never will. We hope to see each one of you at least one of those nights; you will not be sorry you took the time to come and see.

Blessings and peace, *Pastors Doug and Joyce Donigian*

LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

Almost forty years ago, in Columbia, South Carolina, a strange thing happened in a church. The congregation worshipping in the sanctuary was singing an ascension hymn, "Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious." At the very same time, unbeknown to the worshipers, fire had broken out in the Christian education wing. Smoke was pouring out of the windows. Fire engines were racing to the scene. The church had caught on fire, and the congregation was singing: "Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious."

It was a glorious sight on that first Pentecost when the early Christian church in Jerusalem caught fire. The congregation was gathered together before the Lord, "and there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and

resting on each one of them.” The fire spread to the Christian education wing because the apostles got up and taught like men inspired. The fire leaped to the pulpit when Peter got up and preached with burning conviction. The flames got over to the baptismal font because about three thousand persons were baptized in a flaming revival. The fire even reached the altar rail because the believers received the Lord’s Supper frequently together with a burning love for one another. The whole church caught fire on Pentecost from the Spirit!

John the Baptist said of Christ: “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Do you and I who call ourselves Christians ever smell of smoke?!!

Our Lord taught: “I came to cast fire on the earth; and would that it were already kindled.” In the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Christ cast fire upon the earth and kindled the church. There is no spontaneous combustion of a believer or of a church. The fire must fall from above through the Spirit.

A news article reported that three persons died in a fire started from an over-heated wood-burning stove into which six hymnals had been thrown. In St. Louis, Missouri, a retired paper baler from Concordia Publishing Company had tossed the discarded hymnals into the fire early on a winter morning. When he left the house, the fire raged out of control.

How often does that much fire come out of the use of six hymnals? And still, we do sing that hymn:

“Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Unite my soul with thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with thy fire divine.”

What does it mean for a Christian to catch fire for Christ...? Well, it means such an ardent love for the Lord that the believer lives his or her faith courageously out in the world, speaks for Christ boldly when the opportunity comes, lets other things go when somebody needs help, gives to church and charities with eager joy, suffers uncomplainingly, and lives inseparably with the Bible and prayer. Such a life is impossible without a firefall of zeal from the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean for a congregation to catch fire for the Lord...? Well, it means increasing services to community needs, brave attacks on social injustices, ministries to the prisoners and the forgotten, giving to the wider mission of the church proportionate to budgeting for congregational needs, and caring lovingly for one another within the church fellowship. Such a congregation cannot be without a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in response to prayer.

Pentecost is not just a date on the church calendar. It is a daily baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire. There is no limit to the infusion of the Spirit in the heart. There is no limit to the ardor of a pure faith in God and a burning love for neighbor.

At this year’s celebration of Pentecost (Sunday, June 4th), as well as throughout the entire Pentecost Season, may you and I be open to God’s Holy Spirit as our hearts are stirred by Christ’s passion and our commitment to Christ’s service is ignited by the Spirit’s life-giving energy.

Blessings on you and yours!

Grace! Peace! Love!!

With You in Christ’s Service!

The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Moyer

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 11 – PROJECT CHEMA CROCHET – Join the Girl Scout Junior Troop 21303 on Sunday, June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. as they work toward their bronze award project and hold a blanket building party. Refreshments will be served.

June 24 – MUSIC FESTIVAL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR QUAKERTOWN FOOD PANTRIES – at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Applebachsville, the 7th biennial Joyful Noise Music Festival is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (rain or shine/under tents) to raise funds for all of the Quakertown-area food pantries. Free Admission. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for seating. Music program begins at 11:00 a.m. craft show, antique and classic car show, activities for children, tours of the historic 1855-era Lutheran church, and basket raffles.

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. Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month.

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.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT THIS SUMMER! Spanish Full-Immersion Group June 30-July 27 (28 days), single placement, students ages 13-16; All Girl Japanese ESL Group July 14-August 3 (21 days), single placement, high school students; Chinese Middle School ESL Group July 9-15 (7 days), double/triple placement; Chinese College Group July 8-23 (16 days) double placement. Host families need to provide transportation, carpooling assistance provided, stipend paid to host families. For more information or to sign-up to host, contact Group Director Rosanne Kelsall rosannek@amhomelife.org or 215-206-9815

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Another FANTASTIC year of Sunday school has come to a close. Thank you so much for all your support throughout the Sunday School year. Very special thank you to our volunteers for prioritizing the children and being such a great influence on the future of our church. Please thank these folks when you see them for all their hard work and dedication.

Denise Parker, Stephanie McFadden, Missy Molnar, Judy Elsner, Kelly Charlton, Sandy Parks, Cheryl Tice, Alyse Federsel, Jocelyn Kilhefner, Karen Wallace, Hannah Federsel, Julie Interiano, Dory Jones, Dean Wilson, Ray Miller, Lisa Miller, Jon Bauman, Jane Divok, Janet Frey, Beth Interiano, and Barry Tice.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - July 10 – 14 - Sign up for attendees and volunteers is now open for our fun-filled week of VBS. Please come and join in the fun with the 120 children of the community and the 70 volunteers. Our study this year is 'Paul - and the Underground Church.' Come and spend the week in Rome with all these fantastic people!

HELP IS NEEDED this year to fill our volunteer needs. We have many of our teens that have taken on full-time summer jobs that will be unable to spend the week with us. Please consider spending the 2 1/2 hours, for 5 days, guiding our children through their adventure. The positions we have open are family leaders, assistant leaders and crafters. You will be trained on your task and will never be stranded, it truly is not difficult. Your time is greatly appreciated. Contact Linda with any questions about volunteering. If your children/grandchildren have completed 7th grade and would like to assist, please sign them up, I would be happy to keep them busy too. Sign-up to attend or help at www.firstucc.net and add your name to the list! Thank you in advance.

LIVE LOVED – Summer Bible Study – Girlfriends, you are invited to attend the Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study summer session (10:00-12:00) as we dig deep into a powerful study by Lysa TerKeurst. Materials are needed but you may also attend this class without the materials by gathering on Wednesdays to view the DVD and participate in the group discussions, if you cannot to commit to every week or prefer not to have “homework.”

NOTES FROM JON BAUMAN

My message for this month's newsletter is one that I preached in our Sunday evening service on May 21st, but I hope that you are encouraged by it nonetheless! It is about how God worked in and through people at many times and in many ways; never giving up on us.

How could we ever respond to such a love?

Please read the following passage - John 14:15-21 in the Common English Bible:

15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. 17 This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.*

18 *"I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. 19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.*

Take a moment to reflect on those words...

"If you love me, keep my commandments."

That's what Jesus said. And it is certainly a challenge. Because it wasn't spoken by a far-off God who set the world into motion and then stepped back to watch it progress and digress... It was spoken by a God who lived, breathed, and ate with his audience. A God that became human in order to save humanity from their own pride and greed.

If the people kept their Savior's commandments, when He would later leave, He wouldn't abandon them; He'd send them a companion... a comforter.

But this isn't something unique to Jesus as God the Son.

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all seek out their lost people...they don't let them wander off, and then refuse to let them back in the good graces of God. Instead, the love of God is pursuant.

The Love of God is like the love of the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. It always yearns for the lost to come home, and it RUNS after lost children who think they aren't deserving of love.

In the Old Testament, God the Father did not abandon the Israelites. He had to teach them some hard lessons, but He never abandoned them. He always stayed with them, and at times, He pursued them.

In the Gospel accounts of Jesus, we see God the Son refusing to give up on God's chosen people. But more than that, we see Christ, who is the fullness of God (Col. 2:9), reaching out to people who weren't originally in the "group" that made up the original chosen people. Instead, Christ reached out to Prostitutes, tax collectors, gentiles, adulterous women, and He even allowed a bunch of children to hear his message as they sat at His feet to hear what he had to say.

Jesus was all about breaking boundaries to speak about the Good News of God's love for the world, and the Apostle Paul followed suit.

Please read Acts 17:22-31 in the Common English Bible (CEB)

22 *Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. 23 As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. 25 Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. 26 From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. 28 In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'*

29 *"Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. 30 God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. 31 This is because God has set a day when he intends to*

judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

In the Acts passage, we see God the Spirit working within the Apostle Paul to walk inside of the religious and philosophical hub of ancient Greece, with its statues, temples and monuments, and carrying the message of God to a people group who didn't simply worship another God, but who worshiped many different gods and goddesses.

Also, let's not forget, Athens was the hub of education and culture. The Apostle Paul, as a nobody, was led by the Spirit to talk about His one God to the spiritual and philosophical elite of the day.

And notice how Paul did it. With gentleness and humility. (Peter wrote of how we are to share about our faith with gentleness and humility in 1 Peter 3:13-22)

God did not abandon Athens.

And it is because of this that we know that God did not and will not abandon us. Because if these things are true from the John passage about the Holy Spirit, and from the Acts passage of God's love and message extending to all peoples, then God is dwelling in each one of us as the Holy Spirit.

And what are we called to in return?

If you love me...keep my commandments.

It would be easy if all we needed to do would be to say that we believe something. But it's another thing altogether to be committed to that belief through a changing of our hearts. A changing in how we go about things.

And we commonly think of these things that need changing as obvious. But isn't it by the power of the Holy Spirit for Paul, someone who used to approve of the killing of those who violated his faith, to engage in this conversation with the Greeks about Jesus? And he did so not as someone screaming at them from a street corner, but as someone who showed them respect...someone who knew their own faith and philosophies well enough to be able to make an intriguing case for the reality that His God was the only God. And that God still has not given up on them?

Sometimes God even changes the areas in our lives that we think are good because God knows more than we ever could.

Application

My challenge for us this week is that we likewise don't give up on God.

When times are difficult...God is still there

When we turn away...God pursues us

Yet when we feel like God is not there, we have a tendency not to pursue Him.

This week, be intentional and purposeful in praying regularly.

This week, be intentional and purposeful in meditating on the many blessings that God has provided.

This week, be intentional and purposeful in what you take in your ears and eyes; let things that may distract you from God be washed from your memory.

This week, be intentional and purposeful in planning your next venture with God. Ask yourself how you can feel closer to him.

This week, be intentional and purposeful in keeping Christ's commandments to love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind, and to love others as you would like to be loved.

"If you love me, keep my commandments"

Blessings, Jon Bauman, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the following *Sundays at 9:15 am (unless otherwise noted)*

- Pentecost Sunday, June 4 9:15 am
- Summer Communion Sunday, August 13 9:15 am
- World Wide Communion Sunday, Oct 1 9:15 am

- Advent Sunday, December 3 9:15 am

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

- June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, and December 3

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

CHURCH BANNERS - Since 1994, you have seen six banners displayed in the Narthex with one placed up front in the church symbolically depicting the various liturgical seasons and holidays of the Christian church. You may not have realized that one was missing.

The Church Development Team decided to take on the project of having the missing Trinity banner created to complete the set. We felt this was particularly important since the Trinity season is by far the longest in the church year and focuses on celebrating the key Christian theology of the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Creating this banner was no easy task since the original source of the earlier banners was no longer in business and contacts in Minnesota and Belgium had to be identified and detailed specifications developed to ensure a banner that would be compatible with the rest of the set. That challenge was accepted by Lorraine Hrabina and Kathy Walp and together their efforts yielded outstanding results. A Trinity banner drawing by Janet Stever for the church, was pulled from the files and portions of it redesigned by Kathy Walp before her death in December, 2016.

As we begin the Trinity Season during the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation, we are thankful for the gifts that were given to make it possible to produce this banner and to install the lighting that will soon be in place to light all of the other displayed banners in the Narthex.

In Memory of
Mrs. Helen Ely
by
Joan and Floyd Bless

And

In Memory of
Kathleen M. Walp
by
Phillip Walp, Brother
Mrs. Sue Walp
Nancy and Lloyd Levy
Karen Lerch
Robert Lerch and Donna Kramer
Janet Drauch
Edward and Hilda Schreiter
Linda and Robert Lerch
Craft Group: Lynne Kelly, Irena Ulrich,
Lynda Ulrich, and Susan Reiss

Serve In God's Needs – SIGN - That's the name we've given to the new volunteer sign-up station in the hallway just outside the church office. We are encouraging those seeking volunteer help to use the sign-up boards there. The intent is to avoid congestion at the Narthex tables currently used for sign-ups and to make the sign-up boards much more visible and accessible. Those seeking volunteers for their committees, groups and projects, please place your sign-up sheets on one of the clip boards. If you need assistance, drop a note in the office and Lisa Jorgensen will be happy to prepare a sign-up sheet and the name sticker you would like on the plastic cover sheet.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Scott and Stephanie Suida at the birth of their first grandchild, Leon Kenneth on May 10. Both Baby Leon and Mommy April are doing fine. Leon is also the first great grandchild to Lorraine Suida.

Congratulations to Rev. Deborah P. Schwartz, who was installed as Pastor of Friedens Reformed UCC, Sumneytown, on May 21. Rev. Schwartz is the daughter of Suzanne Parker, and sister/aunt of Frank, Denise, and Natalie.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!

Quakertown Community High School

Nathan Amey will be attending Bucks County Community College in the fall, majoring in fire science.

Nathan Chabak will be attending DeSales University in the fall, majoring sport and exercise physiology, pre-physical therapy.

Lake Friday will be attending University of Pittsburgh in the fall, majoring in computer science.

Delaney Mitchell will be attending Bucks County Community College for two years, starting in the fall, then transferring to a 4-year university to pursue a career in social work.

Drew San Angelo will be attending Bucks County Community College for two years, starting in the fall, then transferring to Temple University to study geology.

Leah Schaffer will be attending West Virginia University in the fall, majoring in speech pathology and audiology.

Brett Wagner will be attending Temple University in the fall.

Jacob Wooden will be attending DeSales University in the fall, majoring in sport and exercise physiology, pre-physical therapy.

21st Century Cyber Charter School

Alex Conrad plans to enter the work force and possibly attend classes at Montgomery County Community College after graduation.

Commonwealth Charter Academy

Bethany Melton will be attending Montgomery County Community College in the fall.

College Graduations

Abigail Clark graduated from Delaware College of Art and Design with honors, and earned an associate's degree of Fine Arts in Animation. Abbey will pursue a bachelor's degree of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute, New York in the fall.

Allyson Clark graduated from the University of Florida with a master of business administration, which is her third master's degree. She has future plans to pursue a doctoral degree, but in the meantime, Allyson will concentrate on her job in the analytical and forecasting department at Disney, enjoy her new house, and spend time with her boyfriend and cats.

Kasey Jones graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a master of communication sciences and disorders. She has accepted a position as a school-based speech-language pathologist through the Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 in Easton.

COUNCIL NEWS

At the regular meeting of the church council on May 8, the following matters of business were attended to:

- The minutes of the regular meeting of council in April were approved.
- The bills of the month were presented and approved to be paid.
- Council members discussed matters of the August event in the Park.
- Church Development team reported that the Trinity Banner should be in place by June 11.
- Property reported that the removal of the spire is scheduled for the week of June 26.
- Missions reported that the Quakertown Rotary Club made a \$2,000 donation to the One Dream Mission Team.
- Christian Ed reported that VBS volunteers are needed.
- Technology Committee reported that John Edge installed a new node and the Wi-Fi signal has improved.
Thank you, John!
- YouthWorx reported that Jon Bauman is looking for a pool to borrow for youth summer events. *If you have a pool that the youth might be able to enjoy, please contact Jon Bauman.*

The next meeting of council is scheduled for June 12.

KITCHEN MINISTRIES

Thank you to everyone that came out to help last week for the May Community Meal. What a great team effort! It was a very busy night as we served 111 guests, had 20 take outs, and set up a few extra tables! Thanks to the WOW group for such GREAT preparation for the meal. The chicken was tasty and enjoyed by all as they gobbled up every bite! The next community meal is on June 15 – Join us!

JUNE FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Pickles, Relish, Pork and Beans (*Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.*)

MISSIONS

Friday, June 9 - 2017 MISSION TEAM GOLF OUTING - 12:00 Registration/1:00 pm Shot Gun Start at Butter Valley Golf Port, Barto, PA, \$90 per Golfer/\$40 Dinner Only - We are looking to fill the course again this year! Please take a pamphlet from the hallway and join us and share with your friends. If you are looking to support the Mission Team we are also collecting sponsorship. You can sponsor a hole or cart for just \$75.00. We would be happy to put an encouraging note for the team or your business information, on your sign! Please take a pamphlet and see the ways that you can help out. Thank you!

Still looking for about 5 groups of golfers to join in our event, we have filled the course each year so far and would like to do it again! The cost is just \$90 per golfer - that's a great price for the day! Delicious steak dinner with all the great sides, door prizes, golfer only drawing and many competitions on the course. Please feel free to take a pamphlet to friends and/or family to have them join us too.

NOT A GOLFER BUT WANT TO HELP - We are asking for desserts for the meal at the outing. If you are willing to make something for us, please sign up on the NEW sign up board outside the office. Contact Linda with any questions. dce@gmail.com or call the church office 215-536-4447. Thank you in advance!

PRAYER PALS - The Mission Team sets off on their adventure on July 22, just a short 2 months away. As most of you know we rely on prayers for all aspects of our trip. If you are willing to be one of our prayers pals, please sign up on the NEW sign up board outside the office. You may assign yourself to a specific team member or sign up and we will assign you a partner. Thank you!

MUSIC NEWS

Join us on Sunday, June 18th for the premier performance of a new adult handbell choir at First Church.

PROPERTY

JUNE 3 – WORKDAY - 8:00 a.m. to noon - Please help with some gardening on our church property. Bring your favorite gardening tools and pitch in! Here are some of the tasks:

- Courtyard-weed & mulch gardens, plant flowers, trim trees
- Plant annuals in existing gardens
- Weed & mulch gardens along Park Avenue including at the building and at the sign

If you have questions, talk to Janet or Joe.

STEEPLE UPDATE - We have chosen Atlantic Roofing to do the work of removing the steeple and the associated tasks. Paperwork has been submitted to the borough and they have issued our permit to proceed with the project. In a meeting with Atlantic Roofing and the borough we decided that the week of June 26 would be best for everyone's schedule. We expect the work will take most of that week. In the event of bad weather, we have reserved the following week as our contingency even though it is the July 4th week. Please direct any questions to Joe Juretus.

SAFE FAMILY FOR CHILDREN

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) becomes more active in the Quakertown area by the day. As this is being printed, we are helping a host family by supplying diapers and a gift card to assist with their family's added grocery expenses. Our families who are interested in being Family Friends, Family Coaches or Host Families need to complete their applications and do their background clearances. Everyone can learn more by going to Philadelphia.Safe-families.org and finding descriptions and applications and more ways to help make this a successful ministry. You can also call our Safe Families Church Coordinator, Elaine Ely, through the Church Office.

63rd STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND LAWN FETE

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 – 63RD ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - Join us on Saturday, June 10 from 4:30 to 8:30. We will be serving hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, baked beans, strawberries, ice cream & homemade cakes & pies at a reasonable price. We will have a silent auction & games & the Quakertown Band will entertain us with their wonderful music. Please join us for the fun & fellowship that this evening brings. The evening's proceeds will go to our Church School & Christian Education program. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed on Saturday to help set up, clean strawberries, serve at the food stands, help in the kitchen, waitress, cut cakes, wash dishes and trays, help with the games, clean up & many other duties. If you can help as a volunteer, please sign up on the list in the Narthex or call the Church Office. We will again have an early and late shift. The strawberry festival is only possible because of the many caring people who pitch in to help & also because of those who attend & support our church. *Thank you!*

SILENT AUCTION AT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - The Committee is busy soliciting donations for gift cards, etc. But we also need the participation of the congregation! Please consider donations for the Silent Auction. This can include gently used items, new items, gift certificates, or gift baskets. Please bring your donations to the church before June 1, if at all possible. Come in from the parking lot, turn left into the Sunday School hall, and go to the first door on the left past the large closet (sign on the door). Place your donations in this room. Thank you for your support.



BAND CONCERT PATRONS NEEDED FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Each year, we enjoy the music of the Quakertown Band during our annual Strawberry Festival Lawn Fete. Our goal is to cover the entire cost of \$675.00 with contributions. If you would like to be a patron, please bring or mail your check (made payable to First UCC Church School Association, marked Quakertown Band Patron) to the Church Office.

____ Yes, I want to be a Patron to help with the cost of the Quakertown Band at our Strawberry Festival and Lawn Fete.
NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

SYMPATHY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of Richard Davis, who passed away on May 5.

We express our sympathies to Jon and Courtney Bauman and their family at the passing of Jon's grandmother, Ruth Hackman, on May 13.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU for all the meals, the cards, and for keeping me in your prayers over the last weeks. It was so greatly appreciated. *Thanks again, Karen W.*

THANK YOU - Many thanks for the wonderful celebration last Sunday in honor of our combined 100 + years in music ministry here at First Church. The cards, gifts, well wishes, and remembrances were very touching. We will miss the children more than you can know! *Sincerely, Marilyn M. and Barbara S.*

To my precious Church Family, Words seem inadequate to express my appreciation for your loving support, first to Bob and I during his long health struggle, and then to me following his passing. Your many acts of loving-kindness, including the care of Pastors Doug, Joyce, and Don, visits, phone calls, flower delivery, cards, attendance or help at the memorial service or reception, and kind words and hugs (which I love the most) have all touched me deeply. I am comforted and strengthened by your continued prayers and feel blessed to have such a caring faith family. Many, many thanks. I am so grateful for each of you. *In the love of Christ, Lenora W.*

WOMEN'S GUILD AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

JUNE 6 – WOMEN'S GUILD - Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Women's Guild program has changed for June. We are going to have a craft night to make graduation cards. The cards created can be donated to the guild's "bank" of cards for next year or members may take one home for personal use. We hope to have Diane S. speak to us next year when she is recuperated from her illness. The meeting starts at 7 in the church parlor. All are welcome.

GRADUATES - The Women's Guild would like to acknowledge our graduates. If you have a high school or college student in your family that will graduate this spring, please turn in the name and address to the church office or give it to Barbara. *Thank you!*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

Acolytes

6/4 Simon Fletcher, Alex MacCauley, alt.
6/11 Hannah Federsel, Matthew Wanamaker, alt.

Greeters

Nadine and Bill Nagurny, Audrey Fletcher

First Fellowship

Women's Guild, Barbara Stoneback, chair

Lay Readers

6/4 Dave Mann
6/11 Sarajayne Fraley
6/18 Audrey Fletcher
6/25 TBD

Ushers

Jim Stoneback, Dean Wilson, Karen and Jimmy Mackewitz



**Our 63rd
Year!**

First United Church of Christ
4th Street at Park Avenue, Quakertown
invites you to our annual

Strawberry Festival

Saturday June 10 4:30-8:30 pm

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Barbecue
French Fries, Baked Beans
Strawberries, Ice Cream
Homemade Cakes & Pies!**

SILENT AUCTION
Fun, Games, Prizes

QUAKERTOWN BAND

in our air-conditioned Sanctuary 6-8:00 pm

Proceeds benefit our Christian Education programming.



2017 MISSION TRIP GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017

12:00 pm Registration
1:00 pm Shot Gun Start

**Butter Valley Golf Port
Barto, PA**

**\$90 / Golfer Greens Fees, Cart, Food
Beverages, Soda, Water,
Steak Dinner & Gift Bags**

**\$40 / Dinner Only 6:30 pm Dinner
and Festivities at
the Pavilion**

**FIRST UCC Quakertown
TRINITY LUTHERAN Quakertown
AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN Trappe
PROCEEDS BENEFIT 2017 MISSION TRIP**

Our goal is to help families improve everyday lives by making needed improvements and modifications to their homes. Teens and adults from 3 churches will join again this summer to make a difference.

**PLEASE HELP US MAKE
THAT DIFFERENCE**

MORE INFO: CALL FIRST UCC AT 215-536-4447



CONTESTS • GREAT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD Sponsor • SILVER Sponsor • HOLE Sponsor • Raffles • Monetary Donations

Opportunities to help at ROME—Paul and the Underground Church

Here are descriptions of the different VBS “jobs” available. Please look them over and check which you would like to do. Please list a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice.

Fill out the form below and return it to Linda as soon as possible.

TRIBE LEADERS (Age 16+) - *Need 12.* Tribe (Family) Leaders are key to the program. They are in charge of 1 “family” of approx. 10 children, leading short “Family Time” sessions twice a day, and accompanying them from location to location through the morning. You are the ones with whom the kids will bond most closely.

ASSISTANT TRIBE LEADERS - *Need 12 (grade 6 and over).* Assistant Tribe Leaders help the Leader, take children for bathroom runs and help the children with their crafts.

FOOD MARKET and PREP - Karen Wallace and Kellie Mensch. Children will come to your shop for their daily snacks.

GAMES: - *1 leader and 2 assistants. (An adult leader if we have extra's.)* Lead the children in their 15-minute daily Game session (4 sessions per day).

ACTORS: *Need 2 or 3.*

REGISTRARS - *2 adult volunteers, 1 extra needed for Monday.* Help register the children each morning. Extra help on Monday appreciated!

NURSERY ATTENDANTS - *Need 1 leader and 1 teen.* A service to our volunteer staff. Baby sitting for children from birth - 3 years while their parents are volunteering with VBS.

CARPENTRY SHOP - *Need one leader and one assistant.* The children will put together and paint a wooden top.

ARCHITECTURE SHOP—*Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* The children will come and play the ‘Aqueduct Game’. You will teach them the importance of getting water around the city.

BASKET WEAVER’S SHOP— *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* In Bible times baskets were used to carry almost everything. Our children will join the tradition of weaving a mini-basket.

WREATH MAKING SHOP - *Need 1 leader and 2 assistants.* The children make their very own wreath to wear throughout the day.

LEATHERWORKING SHOP - *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* Assist the children in putting together a colorful leather wristband.

METALWORKING SHOP - *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* Help the make a *bull*, which is a small ornamental necklace.

SCRIBE SHOP - *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* Using a very special pen and scroll the children will write a note then seal it with a special seal.

JEWELRY - *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* You will help the children put together a prison chain bracelet.

OLYMPIC TORCH SHOP - *Need 1 leader and 1 assistant.* The children will create an Olympic Torch of their very own!

“KATHY’S CRAFT-A-DAY” SHOP (Easier crafts for pre-schoolers) - *1 leader and 2 assistants.* Simpler craft for each day, for the youngest ages.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP AT VBS

☐ NO, I CAN'T HELP THIS YEAR

1ST CHOICE: _____

2ND CHOICE: _____

3RD CHOICE: _____

5/25/2017

08:35 AM

First United Church of Christ

June 2017

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Pentecost 9:15a-Worship, Holy Communion 10:30a-First Fellowship 5:15p-Evening Worship, Holy Communion 6:30p-YouthWorx	5 7:00p-Beginner Bells Rehearse in Sanctuary	6 9:00a-Guild Set Up Parlor 2:00p-Reminisce 7:00p-Women's Guild	7 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	1 9:00a-Pastors Donigian-Away 6:00p-Silent Auction Deadline	2 9:00a-Pastors Donigian-Away	3 8:00a-Property Work Day 9:00a-Pastors Donigian-Away
11 Trinity Sunday 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-First Fellowship 5:15p-Evening Worship	12 7:00p-Beginner Bells Rehearse in Sanctuary 7:00p-Council Meeting	13	14 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	15 5:30p-Community Dinner	16	17
18 Fathers' Day 9:15a-Worship, Beginner Bells, Guests: Gideons 10:30a-First Fellowship 5:15p-Evening Worship	19	20 7:00p-Church Development Team	21 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	22	23	24 8:00a-Fellowship Hall RSVD
25 9:15a-Worship, Baptism 10:30a-First Fellowship 12:00p-Fellowship Hall RSVD 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	26 8:00a-Spire Removal	27	28 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	29 7:00p-Property Meeting	30	

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

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TIME VALUE – DO NOT DELAY

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

