

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
110 ROUTE 61 SOUTH  
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA 17972  
Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love*

Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
PERMIT NO. 59

**Information Deadline for the WINTER (DECEMBER/JANUARY) 2017/2018 NEWSLETTER  
is Sunday, November 12!**



**FIRST CHURCH HERALD**  
Vol. 36, Issue 4      Newsletter of First UCC      Sch. Haven, PA  
**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017**



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**  
*Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love*  
110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**PHONE** – (570) 385-2049      **FAX #** – (570) 385-3019  
**OFFICE HOURS** – 9 AM - 1 PM (Monday-Friday)  
**EMAIL** – [firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net)  
**WEBSITE** – [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org)

*If we are not in the office or have stepped away from the phone,  
please leave a message on the answering machine  
and we will get back to you as soon as possible.*

**Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor**  
25 S. Margaretta St., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
(570) 385-5425      [firstuccpastor@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccpastor@verizon.net)      Cell 570-617-7185

**OTHER STAFF**

**Minister of Music** – Chris Evans  
([Chrisevans838@gmail.com](mailto:Chrisevans838@gmail.com) or 717-329-6904)  
**Church Secretary** – Jen Semanco  
**Sexton** – Dale Mordosky

**WORSHIP** – Sundays, 9:30 AM  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** – Sundays, 9:30 AM

**2017 CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

**Elders**- Harris Bradley (385-1494), Brian Edling (385-7343), George Hosler (366-1400), Kim Quinn (622-8650), Kelly Schaeffer (385-0953) & Rusty Searle (385-2533)  
**Deacons**- Delia Edling (385-7343), Keith Edling (385-1199), Carrie Ann Klinger (385-5979), Kenny Klinger (385-5979), Kris Sonon (294-1243) & Peggy Zechman (366-1400)

**2017 CONSISTORY OFFICERS**

**President** – Keith Edling      **Vice President** – Kim Quinn  
**Recording Secretary** – Delia Edling  
**Treasurer** – Carrie Ann Klinger ([firstucctreasurer@verizon.net](mailto:firstucctreasurer@verizon.net))  
**Special Funds Treasurer** – Jen Semanco

**SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN**

**Conquer Evil with Good**

*Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord ...  
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*  
–Romans 12: 11 & 12

The destruction has taken place hundreds of miles from us. A thousand year flood in Houston due to Hurricane Harvey. Massive destruction in the Caribbean and Florida from powerful Hurricane Irma. The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico taking a direct hit from Hurricane Maria. Beyond these historic storms striking so close to one another, dual earthquakes leveled buildings in Mexico City and further south.

Although these disasters had not impacted us directly, we feel their impact for we are connected through Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)

The church hasn't always remembered it is one in Christ. While the church has been on earth for thousands of years, we have often struggled to be the body of Christ. The years have been filled with much turmoil and conflict including actions that are difficult to describe as Christian. Praise God, more recently the branches of the church have begun to seek reconciliation, remembering our faith in Jesus unites us and call us into mutual service together. This month we celebrate the church's 2000 years of existence, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and the 195 years that First Church has served Christ. God is good all the time.

The church can be a witness to the world of unity in the midst of diversity. With strife and disagreement in our society, the church's voice and influence is needed more than ever to speak against evil and violence.

As we gather special offerings and send them to people in desperate need, regardless of their religious orientation, our action is a response to God's mercy. Astonished by God's forgiving and giving action in our lives, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice that our everyday actions might become spiritual worship, our lives a witness to God's grace. May God continue to use us as a voice for peace and reconciliation as we seek the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Shawn*

## WORSHIP IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

**Transformed: A Witness to the World**      The Guidance of Romans 12

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>October 1</b>   | <b>A Witness to the World: Eating an Elephant</b><br>17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday; CROP Walk<br>Romans 12:1-11      Spiritual Fervor<br>Matthew 21:23-32      The Authority of Jesus Questioned       |
| <b>October 8</b>   | <b>A Witness to the World: PAST</b><br>18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Disabilities Awareness; Blessing Animals<br>Romans 12:1-12      Joyful, Patient, Faithful<br>Matthew 21:33-46      The Parable of the Tenants            |
| <b>October 15</b>  | <b>A Witness to the World: Practicing</b><br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Mental Health Awareness Sunday; Baptism<br>Romans 12:1-13      Practice Hospitality<br>Matthew 22:1-14      The Parable of the Wedding Banquet     |
| <b>October 22</b>  | <b>A Witness to the World: The Waste of Blame</b><br>20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Praise & Healing Service<br>Romans 12:1-14      Bless, Do Not Curse<br>Matthew 22:15-20      Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar             |
| <b>October 29</b>  | <b>A Witness to the World: Great Suggestion</b><br>Reformation Sunday; Children's Sabbath & Teen Sunday; Annual Reports<br>Romans 12:1-16      Harmony<br>Matthew 22:34-46      The Greatest Commandment                                 |
| <b>November 5</b>  | <b>A Witness to the World: All About (Jes)Us</b><br>22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; All Saints; Totenfest; Communion<br>Romans 12:1-18      Live at Peace<br>Matthew 23:1-12      A Warning Against Hypocrisy                   |
| <b>November 12</b> | <b>A Witness to the World: Burn</b><br>23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Veterans' Recognition; NL Info Due; Annual Mtg<br>Romans 12:1-20      Feeding Enemies<br>Matthew 25:1-13      The Parable of the Ten Virgins             |
| <b>November 19</b> | <b>A Witness to the World: Extravagant Opportunity</b><br>24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Thanksgiving Sunday; Harvest Home<br>Romans 12:1-21      Overcome Evil with Good<br>Matthew 25:14-30      The Parable of Bags of Gold |
| <b>November 26</b> | <b>Glorious Inheritance</b><br>Reign of Christ Sunday<br>Ephesians 1:15-23      A Prayer for the Faithful<br>Matthew 25:31-46      The Judgment of the Nations   |

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Communion & Food Pantry Donations**      **Oct. 1 & Nov. 5**  
As we come to be fed at the Lord's Table, we remember those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. Our donations of non-perishable foods to the SH Food Pantry are much needed and appreciated.

**The Compassion Fund**      **Oct. 15 & Nov. 19**  
This Special Offering is placed in an emergency fund where 90% helps church members in need and 10% may be used for emergency community needs.

**Strengthen the Church**      **October 29**  
Plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults through this offering.

**Meat BINGO**      **November 12**  
The envelope offerings collected for the Meat BINGO will go to the general budget to supplement the efforts of those who spend a lot of time and energy in making each fundraising event a success.

**Neighbors in Need**      **November 19**  
Confront evil, alleviate suffering, and advocate for the powerless as we work to eradicate hunger and promote peace. This offering also supports the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry.

**OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)**      **November 26**  
The OCWM offering is used within the PSEC for local ministries.

**Church Change Special Offering**      **Every Sunday**  
During the month of October, our Church Change offering will be dedicated to hurricane relief in Florida.

## EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The following totals are up to and including the end of August 2017  
plus a comparison to August 2016 & 2015.

	<b>Aug 2017</b>	<b>Aug 2016</b>	<b>Aug 2015</b>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$141,765.21	\$133,621.64	\$141,822.49
REVENUE –	\$ 50,603.38	\$ 50,314.50	\$ 54,300.29
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$ 95,607.85	\$ 82,991.00	\$ 87,250.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$146,211.23	\$133,305.50	\$141,550.29
Gain/Loss –	\$ 4,446.02	\$ -316.14	\$ -272.20

## ADULT SMALL GROUPS

### **Bible Study, The Book of Acts, Thursday Mornings, 11 AM**

The history of the early church is recorded in the Book of Acts. The stories of Peter, Paul and the other disciples reveal the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the world to further God's mission of salvation for all people. We are an informal group and occasionally cancel class at the last moment. If you are joining Bible study for the first time, please call the church office at 570-385-2049 to make sure we are meeting.

*Please note: Bible Study will not be held on October 19 and November 23.*

### **Women's Fellowship**

#### **Sundays, October 22 and November 19, 4 PM**

All women in the church are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and food with no set agenda: we'll simply talk about whatever comes to mind and enjoy our time together as sisters in faith. Bring a snack to share.

If you have an idea for a small group, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual Congregational meeting to approve the 2018 Proposed Budget, 2017 Committee Reports, and 2018 Consistory members is scheduled for:

# Sunday, November 12, 2017

Please plan to attend and participate in the important issues to be addressed.

### **ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

If you are planning to submit a committee report for the Annual Meeting (covering the time period from October 2016 thru September 2017), please have it typewritten and submitted to the office (preferably by email) no later than **Sunday, October 15**. Annual Reports will then be available to the congregation on **Sunday, October 29**. (2 weeks before the meeting).

The contents of this newsletter can be found on the church's website, [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org), so that you can access them easily on line.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### **Serving Jesus with Love**

We serve Jesus when we put our love for God and others into action. The Book of Romans Chapter 12 shows us how we can be more like Jesus.

10/1	Romans 12:11	Serving God by Serving Others
10/8	Romans 12:12	Praying to God
10/15	Romans 12:13-14	Saints and Strangers
10/22	Romans 12:15-16	Joy and Harmony
10/29	No Children's Church: Reformation Celebration and Children's Sabbath	
11/5	Romans 12:17-18	Living in Peace
11/12	Romans 12:19-20	Feeding Enemies
11/19	Romans 12:21	Good Overcomes Evil
11/26	Matthew 25:34-40	Helping Jesus

### **Live in Harmony, Rejoice with Hope**

#### **Prayer Vigil for Children; Now through October 29**

During the annual Prayer Vigil for Children you are invited to pray for:

- Children who are alone; afraid; disabled; ill; bullied; and poor.
- Children in our church and community; this nation; and God's world.

The teens and children of our congregation will lead us in worship on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, to conclude the Prayer Vigil for Children. If you would like to share a specific concern for children, please see Pastor Shawn.

### **Pennies for the Church**

The children are collecting pennies in three containers to illustrate the history of the church. One container will collect 2000 pennies to represent the life of the Church Universal, 500 pennies to note the years of the Protestant Reformation, and 195 pennies for the years that First Church has existed. Please drop your contributions in the containers in the Narthex.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETINGS:**

**Tuesday, October 3, 6 PM & Tuesday, November 7, 6 PM**

Children's Church, Children's Sabbath and Teen Sunday, fall activities, and Advent planning are on the agenda. Our meetings are open; please join us.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CONSISTORY MEETINGS: 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, October 12 and Thursday, November 9**

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

**New Members** – George Rondeau and Tracey Shistle were welcomed as new members on Sunday, September 10, 2017.

**Baptisms** – Wyatt Robert Paul Rondeau was baptized on Sunday, September 10, 2017. Wyatt, born August 29, 2008, is the son of George Rondeau & Tracey Shistle. His sponsors are Paul F. Shistle Jr. & Kay Krell.

## COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

### Al-Anon Meetings, Wednesdays and Fridays

Two meetings are offered weekly in Schuylkill Haven for families and friends of alcoholics: Wednesday evenings here at First Church and Friday evenings at Grace EC Church. For info call Sara 570-449-1830 or Tanya 570-497-0356.

### Eastern Star Stamp Collection

Eastern Star gathers cancelled stamps from envelopes as a fund raising project. If you would like to help, tear stamps off envelopes leaving a ¼" edge of paper. Place the stamps in the marked envelope on the bulletin board in the hall next to the sanctuary.

### GriefShare, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 1:30 PM, Bethesda EC Church

GriefShare is for people mourning the death of a loved one, even if that death happened years ago. For more information call 570-739-2241.

### Smoke Detectors

Do you have working smoke detectors in your home? Do you change the batteries at least once a year? If you need a smoke detector, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

### Support Our Schools for Free!

Schuylkill Haven Area Elementary Center collects General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Labels to earn free merchandise for the school. Place the GM Box Top coupons and Campbell's labels in the marked envelope on the bulletin board in the hall next to the sanctuary. Campbell products include Franco-American, Prego, Swanson, Pace, and Pepperidge Farm. For a complete list of participating products visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

## CONFIRMATION

### Confirmation Class Sundays after Worship until Noon

A new format is planned for Confirmation Class this year as church members join with Pastor Shawn to share their interests with the confirmands.

10/1	9:30 AM Covenant with the Congregation No Class: participate in the CROP Walk instead 12:45 PM Walk Registration, SH Food Pantry <i>Please turn in your donations before worship!</i>
10/8	God's Call: Abram *Noon Blessing of Animals and Visit to Hillside SPCA
10/15	Exodus: Who is God and How Does God Save?
10/22	Sinai Covenant: Loving God
Wed. 10/25	*5-7 PM Trunk or Treat at the Church
Sat. 10/28	*4-7 PM Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser for Hurricane Relief
10/29	Teen Sunday Worship No Class: attend Reformation Sunday Brunch
11/5	Promised Land: Joshua
Sat. 11/11	*Meat BINGO Service Project 11 AM – 3 PM
11/12	Promised Land: Future
11/19	David's Rule
11/26	Division, Loss and Hope

*\*Bonus Points can be accumulated to offset absences when you help with church fund raisers and service projects.*

If you have questions about confirmation, please talk to Pastor Shawn. Please contact Pastor Shawn as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend worship and/or class.

### Confirmation CROP Walk Challenge to the Congregation

Gavin Fry, Riley Moyer and Pastor Shawn are challenging the congregation to match the funds the three of them will raise for the CROP Walk. As much as possible, all donations are due this Sunday, October 1. Those who donate at least \$10 will have the option of applying a whipped cream pie to the face of the person of their choice: Gavin, Riley or Pastor Shawn.

## EVANGELISM

### **Halloween Trunk or Treat, Wednesday, October 25, 5-7 PM**

In conjunction with Penn State's Safe Trick or Treat event, we will offer an early trick or treat opportunity. Church members can park in the parking lot to pass out candy from their trunks. Decorate your trunk for a little extra fun. If it rains, we'll simply move into the Kline Room with our candy.

### **Welcoming God's Guests**

What makes people feel welcome? Being noticed, smiling at them, showing them where to find printed music, introducing yourself more than once, respecting their personal boundaries without pushing for information, and welcoming children to be children.

## HEALTH

### **October Disabilities Awareness Month**

Many people in our church and community live every day with disabilities: physical, emotional, spiritual, developmental, education, and psychological. Accessibility to buildings, medical care, counseling, and church support is essential as the church advocates for the needs of all of God's people.

### **November Homelessness Awareness Month**

Many Americans are living on the edge, forced to choose between basic necessities like purchasing food, paying rent, or going to the doctor. 43.1 million Americans live below the poverty level; 549,000 Americans are homeless on a typical night; 42 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger; and 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live in poverty. Worldwide 795 million people do not have enough to eat; 767 million people live on \$1.90 a day or less; 6 children die each minute of a hunger-related disease; and 65.3 million refugees have been driven out of their homes.

What can we do? Volunteer our time, donate to organizations that fight homelessness, and educate ourselves so that we can raise awareness. As a society, we have the resources and knowledge to end hunger and homelessness.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Hospitalization***

**When someone in your home is hospitalized, please call the church office to let us know. Most hospitals DO NOT call the church office when members are admitted.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## FELLOWSHIP

### **Pumpkin Patch at Island Park, Sunday, October 15**

Meet on the Island for activities including a hayride, pumpkin activities, games, a hay bale maze and more. Snacks will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch will support the continued development of the Island Park. Check Sunday worship bulletins for additional details.

### **Haunted House, Saturday, October 21, 7 PM**

Meet at the church to carpool to North Schuylkill's Haunted House at the old Cardinal Brennan School. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under age 10.

### **Reformation Celebration Brunch Sunday, October 29, after Worship**

We are having a birthday party for the church! After thousands of years of existence, 500 years of on-going reformation, and 195 years of service at First Church, we will break bread together after worship, giving thanks to God for the body of Christ which sustains our faith and encourages our continued growth in service and praise. Please sign up to attend by October 22 if possible. Reservations are appreciated but not required.

### **Eagle Watch, Hawk Mountain, November 4, 9 AM - Noon**

Golden and bald eagles migrate south in the greatest concentration during early November. If you would like to visit Hawk Mountain to see these beautiful birds, bring the appropriate clothes, walking shoes and binoculars, meeting at the church at 9 am. A new handicap accessible path is open to the South Lookout. Cost: adults \$10, seniors \$7, children 6-12 \$5, children under 5 free. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you have questions.

### **Christian Rock-N-Bowl, Sunday, November 26, 2-4 PM**

Meet at Strike Zone Alleys for two hours of bowling including use of balls and shoe rental. Cost: \$10 per person. Snacks are available at additional cost. Please call the church office by Wednesday, Nov. 22 if you plan to bowl.

### **Hanging of the Greens Setup, Sunday, November 26**

After worship please take a few moments to help the confirmands prepare the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE!

### **Annual Church Christmas Party, Friday, December 1, 6:30 PM**

## MISSION

### **CROP Walk Service Project, Sunday, October 1, 12:45 PM**

Sponsored by the Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven Council and Vicinity, the CROP Walk raises funds to fight hunger at home and abroad. Ask Pastor Shawn for a collection envelope and gather donations to fight hunger. Donations are due that same day.

### **Blessing the Animals, Sunday, October 8, Noon**

Our pets hold a special place in our hearts. In honor of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, we will ask for God's blessings on the animal friends in our lives. Bring your pet to church in a carrier or secured with a leash to ensure their safety. This short service is open to anyone in the community who would like to have their pet blessed.

### **Hillside SPCA Donations Delivery, Sunday, October 8**

We are gathering items needed at Hillside SPCA to care for the animals there. Monetary donations may also be made to "Joe's Fund." Place your donations in the box in the Narthex. After the Blessing of the Animals at noon at church on Sunday, October 8, we will deliver our donations to Hillside and ask for God's blessings on the animals there.

### **Hurricane Relief Spaghetti Dinner, Sat., October 28, 4-7 PM**

Seeing the dire situations facing God's people as they recover from the ferocious damage of recent hurricanes, we are offering a community dinner to raise money to help. Volunteers are needed to set up, to prepare food, to clean up and to donate food items and/or baked goods.

### **Potato Peeling, Thursday, November 16, 6 PM**

Volunteers are needed Thursday evening, November 16 to peel potatoes so potato filling can be made for our fall fund raiser.

### **Thanksgiving Food Offering, Sunday, November 19, 9:30 AM**

At the holidays, the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry sees increased need for food donations. Bring your favorite non-perishable holiday food to share with people in need in our community.

### **My Father's House Homeless Center**

The vision of My Father's House is to create a center where individuals in need of work and shelter can find support and assistance, and in turn, give back to the community. The Center needs: coffee, peanut butter, antiperspirant, adult underwear, pillows, small Styrofoam cups, sugar, paper towels, and bottled water. Please drop off your donations at church or at My Father's House Homeless Center at 4 SOUTH Centre Street in Pottsville.

## MEAT BINGOS

**Our next Meat BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, November 11.** Doors open at 11 AM; games begin at 1 PM. The prizes will be packages of meat. There will be 20 games for \$15. Specials & Raffles are extra. Food and refreshments will be available. We are also looking for helpers age 13 and older. Please call the church office if you are able to volunteer.

**TENTATIVE 2018 BINGO dates: February 17 & April 21**

**PARKING:** When parking for our fundraisers, we ask that all workers park in the upper lot so the spots in the lower lot are available for our patrons.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### **Chime Choir Rehearsal Starts October 1, 8:15 AM**

Through the creative encouragement of our Minister of Music, Chris Evans, some new faces and hands will be joining the bell choir. New members are always welcome. If you have questions about the church's music program, you can contact Chris Evans, our Minister of Music, at 717-329-6904 or email him at [chrisevans838@gmail.com](mailto:chrisevans838@gmail.com).

## NEW MEMBERS

### **New Members Welcome, Sunday, October 29**

As we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and God's continuing call to renew the church, we will welcome new members into the Christian fellowship of the church on Sunday, October 29, during worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of the church, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

## SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)

SOUL consists of senior members of the congregation who like to get together at local restaurants on the second Tuesday of the month at Noon. If you would like to join SOUL for any of their upcoming luncheons, call Iris Weller (366-0897) so that they can save a seat for you!

**Tuesday, October 10, Noon – Blue Mtn Restaurant, Shartlesville**  
**Tuesday, November 14, Noon – JA Buffet, Hamburg**



## PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

### **PSEC Fall Meeting, Saturday, November 18, 10 AM – 3 PM**

We have been asked to host the one-day fall meeting of the Conference, hosting close to 300 people. Members gather for worship, workshops on church life, and to plan for the future of the church. A report on the proposed conference merger will be one item of business. This may be the first time the conference has gathered in Schuylkill County; please consider attending in order to interact with our brothers and sisters in faith.

### **PSEC Disaster Ministries**

The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is active in Texas and Florida even as they continue work in areas hit by disasters in previous years, like West Virginia and South Carolina. Mission trip opportunities for disaster recovery will be announced in coming months. Recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Donations may be sent to <http://www.ucc.org/disaster>.

## SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

### **Fall Meeting, Sunday, October 15, 3 PM**

St. Paul's Mahanoy City will be our hosts for the bi-annual meeting of the Schuylkill Association of the Pennsylvania SE Conference of the United Church of Christ. We'll hear reports on local church activities, upcoming mission projects and ways we can grow as the body of Christ. Talk to Pastor Shawn for additional details. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## MEAT BINGO

**Saturday, November 11, 1 PM**

**Doors open at 11 AM**

**Tickets - \$15**

**Raffles & Specials are extra  
Food & Drinks are available**



## SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### **World Communion Sunday CROP Walk**

**Sunday, October 1, 12:45 PM, Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry**

Enjoy a beautiful walk through the Schuylkill Haven Borough with friends AND raise money to feed hungry people at the same time. Prizes will be offered for "feets" of accomplishment for the walker who raises the most money, the fastest walker, and the oldest and youngest walkers. Receive a participant's envelope from Pastor Shawn. Registration begins at 12:45 PM.

### **Monthly Food Pantry**

**Third Friday, 1 PM, October 20 & November 17**

About 170 households in our area receive food every month through the Council of Churches Food Pantry. Food donations are needed to restock the Pantry shelves prior to Friday, September 15, when the food will be distributed to people in our community. The Food Pantry is located on Market Street, behind Evans Delivery on Columbia Street (the old Walkin Shoe Factory).

### **Bloodmobile**

**Thursday, November 9, 12:30-5:30 PM**

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Council holds a Bloodmobile for the American Red Cross every other month at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. You must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be healthy in order to be able to donate blood.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Service & Choir Festival Sunday, November 19, 7 PM, Jerusalem Lutheran Church**

The community is invited to join in a worship service of Thanksgiving filled with joyful music. A reception will follow the service.

### **Bi-Monthly Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 28, 7 PM**

The meeting will be held at Covenant UMC, 215 East Main Street, Schuylkill Haven. The Council of Churches provides emergency assistance for homeless people, assists with utilities for families in need on a one time basis, and organizes a monthly food pantry for those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. First Church is in need of lay representatives to serve on the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested.





## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Avoiding Charity Scams

The vast majority of charities in the United States follow both IRS regulations and the law. However, a very small number of fraudulent entities and scams undercut the trust of donors by posing as real charities. Unfortunately, many of the scams pretend to raise funds for veterans. Research the legitimacy of charities by checking with watch groups like CharityWatch, Charity Navigator and Guidestar to learn more about the organization: is it registered with the IRS, what percentage of donations actually goes for assistance, how much does the CEO make, what are net assets?

## STEWARDSHIP

### The Way of Jesus: Journey to Generosity

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest." --Matthew 9:37*

Jesus had compassion on people as he saw their needs, traveling through cities and villages, teaching and proclaiming the good news of God's realm. Speaking to his disciples, he stressed the importance of using resources wisely to further God's word. As we use the time, talent, money, and other resources which God has provided for us, we encourage the growth of the Christian community extending beyond the church. When we improve the quality of life in our community, we know we are part of something that is larger than ourselves. We know that we have served as good and faithful servants of Christ. May we be inspired by God's generosity to us as we invest our resources to serve as laborers in God's harvest.

### Reasons for Giving to the Church

- It feels good to give.
- It makes our church, our community and our world better.
- When my money is added to your money it has greater power.
- While I could buy many items which I really don't need and which will not add to the value of my life, that same money can make a huge difference to someone else with truly basic needs.
- Giving is a way to say "thank you" for all the gifts that God has given to me.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Facebook

If you are a Facebook user, please "LIKE" the church's Facebook page. This will allow you to receive regular updates and messages from the church office.

\*\*\*\*\*

## STEWARDSHIP & CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

### October Yard Work, Saturdays, October 14 and/or 21, 8 AM

Meet at the church to winterize the flower beds. After an hour or so of work, Pastor Shawn will treat us to breakfast.

### Friends Helping Friends, Boscov's, Tuesday, October 17

Buy a 25% discount card for \$5 to use on most purchases at Boscov's. The church will keep the \$5 for every ticket sold. The day includes refreshments, entertainment and prizes. See Carrie Ann Klinger to buy a ticket.

### Strengthen the Church Offering, Sunday, October 29

Plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults through this offering.

### Meat BINGO, Saturday, November 11

Please sign up to donate food items to sell and/or donate your time to help with the event. Doors open at 11 AM.

### Neighbors in Need Offering, Sunday, November 19

Confront evil, alleviate suffering, and advocate for the powerless as we work to eradicate hunger and promote peace. This offering also supports the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry.

**Filling Sale.** Do you need filling for your Thanksgiving dinner or do you just need to restock your freezer? An order form is on the inside back cover.

**Rada Cutlery.** Brochures will soon be available in the Narthex. Call the office or contact Carrie Ann Klinger if you would like to place an order. Please check the weekly bulletins for an order deadline date.

**Shank's Vanilla.** 8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$6 per bottle. The vanilla is a great ingredient for baking.

**Boyer's Tag.** Boyer's SKU Tags are available in the Narthex. When you purchase groceries at Boyer's, ask to have your tag read. Periodically, Boyer's will tally the readings and send a check to the church. (No need to hand in Boyer's receipts.)

**Redner's Save-A-Tape.** Pick up a Save-A-Tape card at Redner's and use it whenever you buy groceries. Hand in your Redner's receipts by placing them in the box in the Narthex. Totals of the tapes will be submitted to Redner's who will then provide the church with a check.

## THANK YOU NOTES!!

**Thank you** to **everyone** for your wonderful support during September for the Meat BINGO and Borough Day Stand!!!! Your help was greatly appreciated!!!!

**Thank you** to **everyone** who placed money in the Church Change can!! Thanks to your generous giving \$300 was raised for hurricane relief in Texas!!

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Three Great Loves

The UCC launched a new mission at General Synod 2017. Named "Three Great Loves," the mission project will run until General Synod 2019. The Three Great Loves are: Love for Children, Love for Neighbor, and Love for Creation. God's love shines through us to light the way to a better world, a more just world – for children, for our neighbors, and for God's creation.

### Disaster Preparedness

What is most important to you? In one moment, everything can change, threatening what is of value. Hurricanes, earthquakes, epidemics and civil unrest can disrupt our lives. Instead of living in fear, we can prepare for change. Grocery stores only keep two to three days' worth of items on their shelves. Water and nonperishable food needs to be stored which can sustain your family and pets for several days or weeks. Coping without electricity may be necessary. Alternative light and heat sources may be needed. Essential paperwork should be stored in waterproof bags/ammunition containers, including birth certificates, insurance policies, passports, Social Security cards, medical records, prescriptions, bank account information, house and car deeds, pet medical records, and memory sticks storing computer data. Additional lists of necessary items can be found at [ucc.org/disaster](http://ucc.org/disaster) and [readypa.org](http://readypa.org).



## YOUTH AND TEENS

Youth & Teens includes Grades 5-12.

### CROP Walk Service Project

**Sunday, October 1, 12:45 PM, Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry**

See the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches page for details.

### Support Our High School Athletes – See You at the Games!

Varsity Football Games: Blue Mountain – Brendan Fox; Schuylkill Haven – Jake Haeseler and Kyle Donati.

**Monday, October 9, 5 PM:** Blue Mountain Girls' JV Soccer at the Blue Mountain Stadium with Julia Kluge and Kera Paul

**Wednesday, October 18, 3:30 PM:** Schuylkill League Cross-Country Championships at Pottsville Area HS with Jacob Kluge

**Monday, October 30, 5 PM:** Blue Mountain vs Schuylkill Haven JV Football at Blue Mountain with Brendan Fox and Kyle Donati

### Blessing the Animals, Sunday, October 8

See the MISSION page.

### Fall Yard Work, Saturdays, October 14 and/or 21, 8 AM

See the STEWARDSHIP page.

### Teen Sunday & Children's Sabbath, Sunday, Oct. 29, 8:45 AM

Lead worship with the other young people of the church. Please arrive at church for worship preparation at 8:45 AM.

### Potato Peeling, Thursday, November 16, 6 PM

See the MISSION page.

### Christian Rock-N-Bowl, Sunday, November 26, 2-4 PM

See the FELLOWSHIP page.

Many of the options listed above will count toward community hours for school. Questions? Call the church office at 570-385-2049.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>10/01- Vernell Alexander (1980)<br/>         10/02- Jaylee Alexander (1981)<br/>               Adrienne Donati (1998)<br/>               Matthew Marmas (2010)<br/>               Kayla Stewart (1999)<br/>         10/03- Bonnie Coover (1962)<br/>         10/04- Lexi Baver (2007)<br/>               Amanda Coffey (1961)<br/>               Linda Williams (1949)<br/>         10/05- Tanner Swirsky (2005)<br/>         10/06- Mandy Spofford (1985)<br/>         10/08- Roger Kramer<br/>         10/09- Darrell Spotts (1958)<br/>         10/11- Craig Luckenbill (1954)<br/>         10/12- Chrissy Fenstermacher (1977)<br/>         10/13- Jess Schrader (1976)<br/>         10/14- Hannah Cherry (2005)<br/>               Brandi Eiler (1978)<br/>         10/16- Jimmy Fenstermacher (1978)<br/>               Cole Fry (2007)<br/>               Linda Pritiskutch (1966)<br/>               John Shive (1959)<br/>         10/17- Russ Krobert (1948)<br/>         10/18- Jen Semanco (1972)<br/>         10/19- Bob Lee (1947)<br/>               Charles Marx (1945)<br/>         10/21- Helen Gasparetti (1934)<br/>               Riley Moyer (2003)<br/>         10/24- Elizabeth Corby (2014)<br/>               Sammy Krobert (1952)<br/>               Linda Marx (1947)<br/>               Adam Moyer (2001)<br/>         10/25- Shirley Riegel (1937)<br/>               Mark Spotts (1966)<br/>         10/27- Emily Heffner (1993)<br/>         10/28- Scott Buffington (1949)<br/>               Ed Deschler (1970)<br/>               Ruth Ann Deschler (1960)</p> | <p>10/28- Linda Lopez (1950)<br/>               Jay Newswanger (1955)<br/>         10/30- Logan Buccieri (2007)<br/>         11/02- Jim Fisher (1953)<br/>               Sue Heffner (1959)<br/>               Cydney Van Dyke (1991)<br/>         11/03- Glenn Spotts (1955)<br/>               Delores Truscott (1935)<br/>         11/04- Brian Edling (1969)<br/>         11/05- Danielle Heffner (1990)<br/>               Rob Wensel, Sr. (1967)<br/>         11/06- Mike Storm (1982)<br/>         11/07- Sara Keller (1990)<br/>               Adelynn Klimas (2013)<br/>         11/08- Amanda Hickey (1989)<br/>               Dwayne Reichert (1964)<br/>         11/09- Sarah Bressler (1996)<br/>         11/11- Brandon Donati (1996)<br/>               Roger Hubert, Sr.<br/>               Mel Wensel (1968)<br/>         11/12- Killian Skocik (2004)<br/>         11/14- Brittany Heffner (1987)<br/>               Alexis Unger (2001)<br/>         11/15- Jack Fisher (1934)<br/>         11/16- Emma Tuite (1940)<br/>         11/22- Jim Harner<br/>               Matt Williams (1983)<br/>         11/23- Mary Saul (1955)<br/>         11/24- Sue Stewart (1952)<br/>         11/25- Owen Owens (1949)<br/>         11/27- Audrey Hummel (1949)<br/>               Nicholas Semanco (1995)<br/>               Joshua Tuite (2002)<br/>         11/28- Linda Deatrich (1960)<br/>               Dylan Leymeister (1998)<br/>         11/30- Justin Cramer (1985)<br/>               George Heffner (1958)<br/>               John Pettit, Sr. (1956)</p> |
|--|---|

*If we missed a birthday, listed an incorrect date or do not have the year, please call the church office so that we are able to correct and/or update our records.*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!



- 10/10- Matt & Stacey Bucolo (2004)  
 10/10- Mike & Amy Storm (2009)  
 10/11- Roger & Peg Spotts (1958)  
 10/18- Randy & Linda Spotts (1975)  
 10/21- Kim & Robert Quinn (2005)  
 10/26- Bill & Patsy Wingle (1991)

- 11/07- Charles & Linda Marx (1992)  
 11/12- Bill & Kelly Schaeffer (1988)  
 11/19- Jim & Leanne Haeseler (1994)  
 11/21- Robin & Alex Alexander (1987)  
 11/23- Frank & Cyndi Miholics  
 11/29- Owen & Kath Owens (1975)  
 11/30- Ann & Larry Risser (2001)

*If we missed an anniversary or listed an incorrect date, please call the church office so that we are able to correct and/or update our records.*

## DECEMBER PREVIEW

Friday, December 1	6:30 PM	Church Christmas Party
Sunday, December 3	9:30 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Communion
Sunday, December 10	9:30 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17	9:30 AM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – BCE Advent
Sunday, December 24	9:30 AM	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24	7:30 & 11 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, December 31	9:30 AM	Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Call the church office 570-385-2049 when:**

- **Someone is admitted to the hospital**
  - **You plan a meeting**
  - **You are moving**
- **A new baby arrives or a death occurs**
- **Your telephone number or address has changed**

**If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Altar Guild

10/1- \_\_\_\_\_  
 11/5- \_\_\_\_\_

### Care Cards

October- *Lora Yoder*  
 November- \_\_\_\_\_

### Liturgist

10/1- \_\_\_\_\_  
 10/8- \_\_\_\_\_  
 10/15- *Dale Mordosky*  
 10/22- \_\_\_\_\_  
 10/29- *Children's Sabbath*  
 11/5- \_\_\_\_\_  
 11/12- *Dale Mordosky*  
 11/19- *Kelly Schaeffer*  
 11/26- \_\_\_\_\_

### Acolyte

10/1- *Riley Moyer*  
 10/8- *Cole Paul*  
 10/15- *Lilly Edling*  
 10/22- *Gavin Fry*  
 10/29- *Riley Moyer*  
 11/5- *Cole Paul*  
 11/12- *Lilly Edling*  
 11/19- *Gavin Fry*  
 11/26- *Riley Moyer*

### Children's Church

10/1- *Delia & Malaki Nye*  
 10/8- *Delia & Lisa Edling*  
 10/15- *Delia & Linda Lopez*  
 10/22- *Delia & Linda McDonald*  
 10/29- *NO Children's Church*

11/5- *Delia & Malaki Nye*  
 11/12- *Delia & Lisa Edling*  
 11/19- *Delia & Linda Lopez*  
 11/26- *Delia & Linda McDonald*

### First Sunday Fellowship

10/1- *The Bradley's*                      11/5- *The Sonon's*

If you cannot serve on the date listed above, please find a replacement and call the church office @ 385-2049 with the change. Also, please call the church office if you are able to cover any of the blank dates.

### **NURSING HOME PARISHIONERS**

**Pinebrook Personal Care Center, Orwigsburg PA 17961**  
 2 Woodbridge Drive                      Bernice Roberts                      (Room 26)

### **HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS**

Jim Madenfort; 2240 Tonto Drive; Auburn, PA 17922  
 June Schoffstall; 285 Blue Mountain Road; Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**\*\*Please note:** If you are homebound and wish to receive home communion, please contact the church office. If you know of someone not on either the Nursing Home or Homebound list, please notify the church office.

## THANKSGIVING POTATO FILLING SALE

Sponsored by:  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**110 Route 61 South**  
**Schuylkill Haven**  
**385-2049**

Order Deadline: **Sunday, November 5, 2017**

Pickup: **Saturday, November 18, 2017**  
**9-11 AM (Only use KITCHEN Door!!)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Containers @ \$7 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Each Container holds 2 pounds of filling.  
 That's \$3.50 per pound.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PAYMENT IS DUE WITH YOUR ORDER FORM.**