

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

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Information Deadline for the
SUMMER 2021 (JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2021) NEWSLETTER
is Sunday, May 16!!

FIRST CHURCH HERALD

Vol. 40, Issue 2 Newsletter of First UCC Sch. Haven, PA

EASTER 2021 (APRIL & MAY)



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

WEBSITE – www.firstucc-haven.org

Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor

25 S. Margaretta St., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

(570) 385-5425 firstuccpastor@verizon.net Cell (570) 617-7185

OTHER STAFF

Minister of Music – Chris Evans

(chrisevans838@gmail.com or 717-329-6904)

Church Secretary – Jen Semanco (also Special Funds Treasurer)

Church Sexton – Penny Shade

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

2021 CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Harris Bradley, Vice President (385-1494); Brian Edling, Recording Secretary (385-7343); Keith Edling (385-1199); Carrie Ann Klinger, Treasurer (728-0173); Kenny Klinger, President (205-5465); George Rondeau; Rusty Searle (385-2533); Penny Shade (573-1449); Cheryl Strunk (610-750-1210); Lora Yoder (272-224-1905); & Peggy Zechman (366-1400).

PHONE & EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Phone & email are the quickest and easiest ways of getting information to church members. Please notify us of your current phone number and email.

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

SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN

Out of the Tomb

Only three days earlier, Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of Jesus in clean linen cloth, laying it in his own tomb hewn in rock, observed by Mary Magdalene and the other women who followed Jesus (if you're reading Matthew, Mark, or Luke). Nicodemus, a Pharisee who visited Jesus under cover of darkness, assisted Joseph, bringing about a hundred pounds of spices to wrap with the body (if you're reading the Gospel of John). Once the body was placed in the tomb, a great stone was rolled against the opening. As the Sabbath approached, the men and women left, waiting for Sunday to arrive so that they could properly anoint Jesus' body.

As the first day of the week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb. (In John, Mary Magdalene goes alone.) They found the great stone covering the opening moved out of the way. (Matthew clarifies that an angel, assisted by an earthquake, accomplished this.) Alarmed to find the tomb empty, their concern turned to amazement as the angel(s) told them, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here for he is risen!" Over the following 40 days, Jesus appeared to individuals, couples, and in larger gatherings, to lift doubt and fear from their minds, to offer peace and the Holy Spirit.

For the past year, we have experienced life in the tomb. We've sheltered not only from strangers but from our loved ones. We've confined ourselves out of fear and wisdom, following the best advice of the medical community as they gathered more information about the COVID-19 virus. Often it has felt as if death was sitting on our doorsteps, waiting for an unguarded moment. For too many, death has become a reality, upending their lives with cruelty.

Our extended Good Friday may be drawing to an end, the great stone in front of the door inching open. If enough of us receive vaccination, we can protect one another from the spread of this indiscriminate disease. (While the vaccines were developed in record time, the methods used are time-honored and well-tested. I have not yet heard of a physician who has refused immunization after studying the science behind the vaccines.)

Easter is upon us. Jesus' tomb is empty. Soon ours will be as well. Thanks be to the God of hope, to the God of new beginnings, and to the God of resurrected life. Christ is raised that we may live now and always.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Shawn

WORSHIP DURING EASTER

April 1 Maundy Thursday Passover Sacrifice
7 PM Worship; Sacrament of Communion and Tenebrae

THE SEASON OF EASTER: OUT OF THE TOMB

April 4 Easter Sunday Out of the Tomb
8 AM & 9:30 AM Worship; Sacrament of Communion
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The Good News Proclaimed
John 20:1-18 The Resurrection of Jesus

April 11 2nd Sunday of Easter Breathe
1 John 1:1-2:2 The Light of God
John 20:19-23 Jesus Appears Behind Closed Doors

April 18 3rd Sunday of Easter Reach Out
1 John 2:7-14 Live in the Light
John 20:24-31 Jesus Appears Again to the Disciples

April 25 4th Sunday of Easter Going Fishing
1 John 3:1-7 Children of God
John 21:1-14 Jesus Appears to the Disciples Again

May 2 5th Sunday of Easter Fasten Your Belt
Sacrament of Communion
1 John 3:16-24 Love Others
John 21:15-19 Jesus Talks with Peter

May 9 6th Sunday of Easter What is That to You?
Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home
1 John 4:7-21 Love Comes from God
John 21:20-25 The World Cannot Contain

May 16 7th Sunday after Easter Complete Joy
Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-14 Jesus' Ascension
John 17:10-13 Jesus Prays for His Disciples

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST: TESTIFY

May 23 Pentecost Sunday Groaning While We Wait
Sacraments of Communion & Baptism; Rite of Confirmation
Acts 2:1-21 The Coming of the Holy Spirit
John 15:26-27, 16:4a-7 The Spirit of Truth

May 23
4 PM Schuylkill Haven Area High School Baccalaureate on Zoom

May 30 Trinity Sunday Wind Blown
Memorial Sunday; Graduate Recognition
Isaiah 6:1-8 God Commissions Isaiah
John 3:1-17 Nicodemus Visits Jesus

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

THE SEASON OF EASTER

3/28 Holy Week: Palm Sunday; The Last Supper; Good Friday; Easter
4/4 Easter – No Children's Church; 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt
4/11 Jesus Appears to Thomas
4/18 Jesus Offers Peace
4/25 Jesus the Good Shepherd
5/2 Jesus the True Vine
5/9 Jesus' Commandment
5/16 Jesus' Ascension to Heaven; The Day of Pentecost
5/23 Pentecost: Confirmation Sunday, No Children's Church
5/30 Trinity: Isaiah's Call

Easter Egg Hunt 9 AM

Children are invited to meet in the Kline Room at 9 AM to prepare for an Egg Hunt set up by the confirmands and teens. Masks are required. Candy donations for the hunt are needed by Palm Sunday.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The following totals are up to and including the end of February 2021
plus a comparison to February 2020 & 2019.

	Feb.2021	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$ 47,046.72	\$ 43,620.37	\$ 46,376.43
REVENUE –	\$ 9,584.86	\$ 12,167.80	\$ 10,543.91
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$ 34,300.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 35,800.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$ 43,884.86	\$ 31,167.18	\$ 46,343.91
Gain/Loss –	\$ -3,161.86	\$ -12,453.19	\$ -32.52

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thank you notes have been received from church members and from the recipients of the Kline Tithe and Seeds to Grow Mission gifts. They are posted on the bulletin board next to the church office.

OFFERING

Communion & Food Pantry Donations

May 2

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

April 18 & May 16

This Special Offering is placed in an emergency fund for church members' use.

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)

April 25

The OCWM offering is used within the PSEC for local ministries.

Special Offering Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Maundy Thursday** (4/1), **Good Friday** (4/2), **Easter Sunday** (4/4), **Pentecost** (5/23), and **Anniversary Sunday** (5/30) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC.

If you are unable to join us for worship, please mail your offering envelopes to First UCC, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven PA 17972; or if you do online banking arrange to send a check to the church.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class, Sundays after Worship until Noon

The last class confirmation class of this year will be May 16 as we strive to catch up for missed Sundays. The confirmands are invited to participate in Pentecost worship and the rite of confirmation on May 23. If a confirmand is ill or will miss church for another reason, please leave a message at the church (570-385-2049) for Pastor Shawn, text or send a Facebook message. In addition to weekly participation in worship and confirmation class, confirmands help with:

- 4/1 Maundy Thursday Worship 7 PM - Arrive at 6:30 PM
- 4/4 Easter Egg Hunt set-up after 8 AM worship for 9 AM Hunt
Easter Sunday worship is offered at 8 AM and 9:30 AM
- 4/13 Confirmands meet with Consistory for approval, 6:30 PM

Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser

Just in time for Mother's Day and spring planting, the confirmands are selling bedding plants and hanging baskets. Order forms are available in the Narthex. The order deadline is Sunday, April 25. Flowers will be available for pick up Sunday, May 9, after worship. If that time doesn't work for you please call the church office. Thank you for supporting the confirmands who are raising funds for a gift for the church.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Currently, Jen and Pastor Shawn are limiting the amount of time that they are in the office together. Most days Pastor Shawn works from home. Jen is in the office Monday-Friday, 9 AM – 1 PM. Please call the office so that we may respond to your needs. If you do need to stop by the office, masks are required. Please know Pastor Shawn is available to you at any time.

Church Office Closed:

**Good Friday, April 2 -- Easter Monday, April 5
Friday, May 7 -- Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day)**

Office Drop Box

Reminder: a black drop box was installed to the left of the office door. This is a locked/secure box and a safe location and contactless way for you to deliver items outside of (or during) office hours. The box is checked daily.

FIRST UCC

200 Years of Service

The first official record of service by the Reformed Congregation of Schuylkill Haven was March 11, 1822, led by the Rev. F. C. Kroll. A little more than two months later, the first communion was recorded on Pentecost (Whit) Sunday, when 39 people received communion and nine believers were confirmed. Let's prepare for the next two hundred years with a time of celebration next spring. Please call the church office if you would like to help with the festivities.

GRADUATES

Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 30

Congratulations to Our Graduates! This coming spring, several of our young people are scheduled to graduate from high school, college, and graduate school. Graduates will be recognized in worship on Sunday, May 30. Please notify the church office if we have overlooked a graduate.

High School Graduates

Kaede Fessler (Schuylkill Haven)
Jack Fultz
Julia Kluge (Blue Mountain)
Jenna Mohl (Pottsville)
Malaki Nye (Blue Mountain)
Kera Paul (Blue Mountain)
Emily Reichert (Schuylkill Haven)

College Graduates

Austin Boyer (DeSales University)
Collin Fultz (Kutztown University)
Richard Scott (Elizabethtown College)

Masters Degrees

Joshua Semanco (Lock Haven Univ.)

PENNSYLVANIA SE CONFERENCE

2021 PSEC ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Friday, June 4 – Saturday, June 5

The PSEC's Annual Spring meeting begins Friday, June 4 with nationally celebrated social justice leader Sister Simon Campbell. Saturday offers conferring sessions, workshops and worship services to honor anniversary clergy and congregations, to lament the losses endured through the pandemic and to welcome the hope of better days ahead. We gather online in a new virtual meeting space called "Whova."

Documents for the meeting will be loaded the first week of May.

SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

SPRING MEETING – Faith Reformed, Landingville (tentative)

Sunday, May 2, 2:30 PM Reg., 3 PM Worship and Meeting

Join with brothers and sisters of the faith in the United Church of Christ for shared ministry. Talk to Pastor Shawn for more information.

Camping at Locust Lake State Park

The Schuylkill Association supports a summer chaplain at Locust Lake. Church members are always welcome to attend the 9:30 AM worship service! This year's chaplain is Tina Kensinger from Trinity UCC in Tamaqua.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Many US citizens have been adversely affected by the severity of winter weather. If you would like to help you can visit ucc.org to make a donation. Click on DONATE, then DISASTER MINISTRIES, specifying EMERGENCY USA. You can then note if you want a specific place to receive your gift. 100% of your gift will go to a UCC church in that community in that area to disperse to people in need. You may also give a gift through First UCC, noting it is for "EMERGENCY WINTER STORM AID."

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Online Worship Invitations

Inviting people to join us for worship can sometimes feel awkward, even with close friends. Our present circumstances requiring online worship make it easier to extend an invitation through Facebook or other social media for people to join First UCC for worship at a time convenient to them. Doing so we share the good news of the gospel that the time is now and God is here!

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Monthly Food Pantry

3rd Friday, 1 PM

April 16 & May 21

On the third Friday of the month, the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches distributes food at their Food Pantry, located on Market Street behind Evans Delivery (the old Walk-In Shoe Factory). Doors open at 1 PM.

Bloodmobile

Thursday, May 13, 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. A person can donate blood every 56 days. The donor's body replenishes the fluid lost from donation in about 24 hours. 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. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Council of Churches Meeting **Tuesday, May 25, 7 PM, Online**

Meetings are open to all church members. First UCC needs two representatives. The Council continues its monthly food pantry for people in need offered on the third Friday each month. The Council assists with utilities emergencies on a limited basis. Information about the Council can be found at schuylkillhavencouncilofchurches.org. Talk to Pastor Shawn for more details.

STEWARDSHIP

As the pandemic prevents the church from holding Meat BINGO presently, we are looking for new ideas for safe fund raisers. Talk to a Consistory member or Pastor Shawn if you have suggestions for new fund raisers.

Gardening with God. When you walk by a flower bed on your way to worship, please take a minute to pull a weed as we care for God's church entrusted to us.

2020 Kline Tithe Recipients. The five charities selected for the Kline Tithe are: Bethany Children's Home, Hillside SPCA, My Father's House/Servants to All, the three houses of the Schuylkill Haven Fire Dept., and Schuylkill Women in Crisis.

Boiler Replacement. The congregation adopted a three year plan in 2019 to replace \$37,000 borrowed from the Kline Fund for our new boilers. Thank you for your continued contributions to pay back this expense. Mark your gift "Boiler Donation" when you submit it to the church or look for specially marked envelopes in the Narthex after we return to worship in the sanctuary.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

4/7- Don & Deb McCormick (1973) 4/9- John & Carol Donati (1965) 4/15- Dwayne & Treasure Reichert (00) 4/20- Kris & Pam Sonon (2013) 4/27- Brad & Angela Moyer (1997) 5/3- Bill & Mandy Coffey (1986) 5/3- Ed & Ruth Ann Deschler (1997) 5/6- Dave & Linda Williams (1972) 5/8- Gil & Sylvia Beury (2004)	5/10- Ernie & Lynn Moyer (1975) 5/10- Jack & Corin Paul (2003) 5/12- Harry & Pat Painter (1991) 5/19- Craig & Terri Luckenbill (1979) 5/22- Kevin & Ali Marmas (2010) 5/22- Tom & Mary Stewart (1999) 5/24- Tim & Cathy Burian (1997) 5/31- Harry & Beth Eckert (1980)
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

4/1- Jarrod Fenstermacher (1984) Roger Hubert, Jr. Lynn Moyer (1955) 4/2- Lillian Coover (2013) 4/3- Tyler Schaeffer (1996) 4/4- Kaede Fessler (2003) Reese Frushon (2020) 4/8- Craig Beck 4/9- Robert McCord, Sr. (1934) 4/10- Josh Siluk (1993) Iris Weller (1941) 4/11- Michael McCormick (2001) Robyn Sonnon (1967) 4/12- Jeff Paul (1972) 4/13- Matthew Mabry (2000) 4/14- Jill Minakowski (1989) Mallory Brennan (1989) Robert Shaup 4/15- Corey Spotts (1991) 4/17- Corin Paul (1980) 4/18- Sarah DeCaluwe (1989) 4/19- Daniel Devlin (2020) Shawn Pritiskutch (2000) John Lang (1969) Macy Marmas (2012) 4/20- Jake Haeseler (2000) 4/23- April Rohrer (1995) Emerson Spotts (2007) 4/24- Mark Madenfort	4/28- Melissa Fox (1975) 5/1- Bobbie Donati (1961) Joel Spotts 5/3- Nicholas Spotts (1989) 5/4- Alicia Kimmel (1993) Megan Moyer (2000) Richard Scott III (1999) 5/5- Wally Foose (1940) 5/6- Steven Spotts (1982) 5/7- Kim Quinn (1970) 5/8- Brendan Fox (2001) 5/12- Claire Frushon (2017) 5/13- Robin Bayliff 5/15- Misty Bressler (1963) 5/16- Rachel Sonnon (2001) 5/17- Anna (Fultz) Haller (1975) 5/18- Riley Bradley (2010) Taunia Darcangelo Mary Alice Ross (1932) 5/19- Linda Spotts (1956) 5/20- Jacob Kluge (2000) Pat Sprague (1936) 5/22- Ali Marmas (1984) 5/24- Katie Fox (1995) Maleca Tuite 5/25- Diane Newswanger (1959) 5/28- Brian Moyer (1968) Briar Rose Uniman (2020)
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If we missed an anniversary or 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.

2021 SPRING FLOWER SALE

Orders are due by Sunday, April 25. Payment is due with the order.
 All flowers can be picked up on Sunday, May 9, 10:30-11 AM,
 OR by other arrangement with the church office.
 Call 570-385-2049 Monday-Friday 9 AM-1 PM.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please specify your color choice.

We cannot guarantee your color choice, but we will do our best to match it.

	Color Choice	Amt. Ordered	Total Cost
<u>11" Hanging Baskets</u> -- \$14			
Nonstop Begonia			
Petunia – Trailing Type			
Double Impatiens			
Fuchsia			
Geranium			
<u>4.5" Seed Geraniums</u> -- \$3			
<u>5" Gerbera Daisies</u> -- \$4			
<u>5" Dahlietta</u> -- \$4			
<u>Bedding Plants</u> Flat=\$14 Half Flat=\$8 (smallest order allowed = ½ flat)			
Alyssum			
Begonia			
Celosia			
Coleus			
Dianthus			
Impatiens			
Lobelia			
Marigold			
Petunia			
Salvia			
Verbena			
Grand Total:			

The proceeds will benefit the Confirmation Class of 2021. Please give your order & payment to a Confirmand, Pastor Shawn or the Office.