

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 FALL (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) 2021 NEWSLETTER is Sunday, September 12!!



FIRST CHURCH HERALD

Vol. 40, Issue 4

Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

SEPTEMBER 2021

THIS IS THE DAY
The LORD
HAS MADE
Let Us
REJOICE
And
BE GLAD IN IT

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. Margareta 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); Owen Owens; 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

Is it a secret? How do I live in each moment?

Scattered. I can't seem to get my brain to focus on one topic lately.

I think it might be the end-of-the-summer scramble. With school just around the corner and a fuller schedule at church ready to begin, it's now clear to me that I won't meet my goal of reading ten books and clearing junk out of one room let alone four.

Or maybe it's my version of COVID brain, not that I've had the virus, but it certainly has impacted my life, as it has for all of us. By now I thought we'd be relatively free of virus restrictions, that we wouldn't be worried about the virus surging again, still concerned about how to protect one another.

Maybe I'm fuzzy because I haven't focused on the most important priority, trying to do many things at once without concentrating on doing one well.

When I woke up feeling really frazzled recently, thinking about everything that needs to be handled NOW, Jeremy Camp's song, *Keep Me in the Moment*, came on the radio.

I've been thinking 'bout time and where does it go?

How can I stop my life from passing me by? I don't know.

Oh, Lord, keep me in the moment.

Help me live with my eyes wide open

'cause I don't want to miss what you have for me.

Oh, Lord, show me what matters.

Throw away what I'm chasing after

'cause I don't want to miss what you have for me.

If we focus on God through continuing confusion, we won't miss those moments when we see that God is truly working in our lives, showing us what matters. Jeremy's song seems like a good prayer for me to adopt for the next few days, weeks or even months.

Lord, help me to live right now to the best of my ability, trusting in you to guide me to what is most important, to reveal the secret of a life well-lived as I follow Jesus Christ in service to others and to you. Amen.

Yours in the Moment,

Pastor Shawn

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

2021 Fall Worship: What's the Secret?

Frequently in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus cautions his disciples to tell no one about him, or he arrives at a house but doesn't want anyone to know he's there, or he doesn't want anyone to know where he is going. What's the secret? Why does Jesus seemingly hide from others as if he's hiding who he is? Don't we--doesn't the world--need to know Jesus?

September 5 It's Not Fair!

15th Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

Daniel 1	Daniel Becomes the Babylonian King's Counselor
Ephesians 1:1-14	God's Overflowing Kindness
Mark 7:24-37	Jesus Heals a Girl and the Crowd Marvels

September 12 Mind Set

Faith-Full Sunday, 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Grandparents Sunday
Confirmation Organizational Meeting; Fall Newsletter Information Deadline

Daniel 2	Daniel Interprets the King's Dream
Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's Prayer for Believers
Mark 8:27-38	Peter Says Jesus is the Messiah

September 19 Afraid to Ask

17th Sunday after Pentecost; Confirmation Classes Begin

Daniel 3	Four Men in the Fiery Furnace
Ephesians 2:1-10	The Spiritually Dead Made Alive
Mark 9:30-37	The Disciples Argue about Who is Greatest

September 26 Stumbling through Life

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 4	The King Dreams about a Tree
Ephesians 2:11-22	Christ is the Way to Peace
Mark 9:38-50	Jesus Warns Against Temptation

FAITH-FULL SUNDAY

In past years we've called it "Rally Day", "Christian Education Sunday", and "Spirit Sunday." Sunday, September 12, we are returning to a **full** church schedule so this year we celebrate **FAITH-FULL Sunday**. Join us at 9 AM outside the sanctuary doors for breakfast fellowship and then move into the sanctuary for worship. Children ages 4 through fifth grade will be welcomed to Children's Church. We hope to see you on Faith-Full Sunday!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Communion & Food Pantry Donations

September 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.

Christian Education

September 12

The future of Christianity depends on how well we know the scriptures and how well we apply them to our lives. Our support of the Christian Education program for all ages at First Church is crucial to our service to God.

The Compassion Fund

September 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.

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.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

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

	<u>July 2021</u>	<u>July 2020</u>	<u>July 2019</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$143,337.32	\$137,668.01	\$133,798.61
REVENUE –	\$ 40,941.91	\$ 37,598.08	\$ 44,942.82
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$104,800.00	\$ 96,275.00	\$ 94,900.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$145,741.91	\$133,873.08	\$139,872.82
Gain/Loss –	\$ 2,404.59	\$ -3,814.93	\$ 6,044.21

CARE CARDS

Volunteers are needed to send cards to members, i.e. thinking of you cards to shut-ins, get well cards, sympathy cards etc. Cards, stamps, and return labels are provided by the church. Please call the church office if you are able to help with this ministry of the First Church.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

If you are ready for small groups to resume, please let Pastor Shawn know if you would like to participate in: **Women's Fellowship, Bible Study, The Love Diet**, or another small group.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BCE Meeting, TBA

We will finalize plans for Faith-Full Sunday on September 12, review curriculum for the fall, plan for the Children's Sabbath on October 17, and look ahead to Advent activities. If you are interested in the church's Christian education program, please join us in the Weiser Board Room.

SPONSORS NEEDED

This is a great way to note an important event or honor a loved one. Sponsor the bulletin (\$12), newsletter (\$12), or flowers (\$30). Call Jen to reserve your date (570-385-2049). Order forms are in the Narthex.

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.

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 1/4" edge of paper. Please place the stamps in the marked envelope on the bulletin board in the hall next to the sanctuary.

GriefShare, 2nd & 4th 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.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Opportunity House provides assistance to veterans and their families who are homeless or facing homelessness. For more information call 570-604-6948.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Miracles of Jesus

Stories of the Bible lead children on the adventure of following Jesus.

9/5 Labor Day Weekend – no Children's Church

9/12 Faith-Full Sunday – Join us for breakfast fellowship at 9 AM under the Canopy and Celebrate Grandparents' Day. Water into Wine

9/19 Through the Roof

9/26 A Whole Hand

Thank you to our Children's Church teachers!

Delia Edling continues as our lead teacher with Wyatt Rondeau as her aide. Thanks to both of them! If you would be interested in teaching (and learning) with the children, please talk to Pastor Shawn or Delia.

"In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn."

– **Phil Collins** (yep, the vocalist/drummer from the band *Genesis*)

30th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration

"Where Does It Hurt? Listening to Heal Our Children"

Prayer Vigil for Children September 12 through October 17

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

- Children who are alone; afraid; disabled; ill; bullied; and poor.
- Children coping with the impact of the pandemic in the world.
- Children in our church and community; this nation; and God's world.

The youth of our congregation will lead us in worship on Sunday, October 17, as we conclude the Prayer Vigil for Children. If you have a specific concern for children you would like to address, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

Preparing Children for Communion: Sunday, September 26

During worship, Pastor Shawn will talk about receiving communion on the last Sunday of September. With their parents' permission, children would then be invited to receive their first communion on World Communion Sunday, October 3. At First UCC, parents decide when their children may receive communion. Through conversations about faith and communion, parents know when their children come to believe in Christ as their Savior. Children are strongly encouraged to participate in Children's Church to learn more about the Christian faith to prepare for confirmation class in sixth and seventh grades.

CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Deaths – **Shirley Wildermuth** passed away on June 25, 2021. Shirley is survived by her sister **Betty Wingle** and family.

CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

Borough Day Fund Raiser

Saturday, September 25

Baked Goods, Pierogis, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Beverages
Baked good donations are needed. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts to sell food. Please call the church office at 570-385-2049 if you can help.

Friends Helping Friends, Boscov's

Wednesday, October 20

Buy a 25% shopping pass for \$5 to use on most purchases at Boscov's Tuesday, October 16. The church will keep the \$5 for every ticket sold. The day includes refreshments, entertainment and prizes. Please contact Carrie Ann Klinger at 570-728-0173 to buy your shopping pass ticket or if you would like to help sell the shopping passes for the church.

Meat BINGO & Basket Raffle

Saturday, October 23

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

Filling Sale

Order Deadline, Sunday November 10

Do you need filling for your Thanksgiving dinner or do you just need to restock your freezer? An order form will be in the October/November newsletter.

Shank's Vanilla

8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$7 per bottle. The vanilla is a great ingredient for baking.

CHURCH STAFF & OFFICE UPDATES

Staff Resignation

Chris Evans, our Minister of Music, has submitted his resignation effective as soon as we can find another musician, to spend more time with his family.

Church Office Closed:

Friday, September 3 (Last Friday of the Summer Office Hours)

Monday, September 6 (Labor Day)

Friday, September 10 (Jen – Jury Duty)

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.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Organizational Meeting

Sunday, September 12, after Worship, Kline Room

Who am I? Can Jesus help me understand God? myself?

The Confirmation Program at First UCC seeks to help youth explore who they are as people made in the trinitarian image of God, physical, intellectual and spiritual. Young people in sixth grade and older are invited to affirm their baptism into the Body of Christ through the Rite of Confirmation. Youth and their parents or guardians are invited to an organizational meeting in the Kline Room after 9:30 AM worship. We will select a weekly meeting time based on your schedules. The confirmation process is a two year program. Confirmands are required to attend worship on a weekly basis, attend weekly confirmation class, and participate in periodic church activities.

If you have questions about confirmation, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

Pastor Shawn's Annual CROP Walk Challenge to the Confirmands

Pastor Shawn is challenging the confirmands to see who can raise more money for the CROP Walk against hunger on Sunday, October 3. Consequences for the loser(s) have yet to be determined but a cream pie facial has been employed in the past. Information will be provided at the organizational meeting on September 12. For more information on the CROP Walk, see the information under "Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches."

CONSISTORY

Landscaping updates have occurred thanks to the efforts of Penny Shade and Todd Roberts. A car show was held August 7 involving about 40 cars; another event will be held next summer. The church will have a stand on Borough Day, September 25, organized by Fred Edling. Please sign up to help. Celebration of the church's 200th anniversary was discussed; Penny Shade volunteered to coordinate plans and would like help from others. Consistory meets next on Thursday, September 9. All Consistory meetings are open to church members.

CELEBRATE 200 YEARS

First United Church of Christ's beginnings took place 200 years ago, starting with the first worship service on November 11, 1821, and culminating in its first communion and confirmation on May 26, 1822. Penny Shade, whose name is synonymous with hospitality, has volunteered to lead planning for our bi-centennial celebration and would like your help. Could we plan an event specifically for seniors, could we invite the public, and/or could we include neighboring organizations? Share your ideas and interest with Penny.

EVANGELISM

Welcoming the White and Blue in God's Pews

With Penn State back in session, students may join us for worship, along with other visitors. God draws people into the church, so our effort to welcome "God's Guests" is part of Christian hospitality as we share the joy of our faith. Welcoming others is pretty simple: treat others the way you wish to be treated. Say hello, smile, introduce yourself, show others where to find the hymnal, invite them to stay for fellowship, and welcome children to be children (and strangers to be strange, if you know what we mean).

Hospitality is not first a duty and responsibility; it is first a response of love and gratitude for God's love and welcome to us. – Christine Pohl

FELLOWSHIP

Faith-Full Sunday, September 12, 9 AM Fellowship

Gather before worship under the Canopy on Sunday, September 12, as we return to our full fall schedule, with Children's Church offered weekly. We look forward to catching up on summer adventures over breakfast snacks, fruit and beverages. Please join us!

Schuylkill Haven Borough Day, Saturday, September 25

While we support the church's community outreach, at the same time we can visit with one another and with our neighbors in the community. Sign up for the fun between 8 AM and 3 PM!

Meat BINGO, Saturday, October 23

Although BINGO is a service project to raise funds for the church's ministry as we host games and provide refreshments for guests, it's also a great time to be together, sharing in work and play. Please join us!

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Beginning in 2022, the newsletter will no longer be mailed as a bulk mailing. The plan is to continue posting the newsletter on the church's website and email it to our members. Copies of the newsletter will also be available for pick up in the church office or in the narthex. We realize that some members do not have access to the internet, so we will mail it to them by request.

Please email the church office (firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net) or call (570-385-2049) to let Jen know the following:

- I need the newsletter mailed to me. (I don't have internet.)
- I will pick up a newsletter at church.
- Please email a newsletter to me.

MEAT BINGO & BASKET RAFFLE – COMING SOON

Our next Meat BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, October 23.

There will also be a Basket Raffle. 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.

2022 BINGO dates: Will be announced in the coming months. Please check your next newsletter as well as our website & Facebook page.

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.



Face Masks are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED in the church building to protect children and unvaccinated persons.

MISSION

Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence

Schuylkill Women in Crisis has a new name: Schuylkill Hope Center. As society changes, community needs change. At times the old name presented unnecessary obstacles to those in need of free and confidential services regardless of gender. The Center's 24 Hour hotline is 800-282-0634 or text HOPELINE to 20121 Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

Donations Needed for Free Winter Clothing Give-Away

St. John's UCC will offer a free winter clothing event for the community on Saturday, October 23 (rain date: Saturday, October 30) from 9 AM to Noon. Clean, gently used winter clothing can be dropped off at St. John's, corner of Dock and Main, any Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30 AM to 3 PM or Thursday, October 7 or 14 from 5 to 7 PM. Donation deadline: October 14.



PICNIC

Two Worship Services and Annual Picnic Sunday, August 29

Those who prefer indoor worship may gather in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM. Around 11 AM we'll meet at the Nice Pavilion for outdoor worship, followed by a picnic. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided along with beverages. **Please bring side dishes and/or desserts to share.** Don't hesitate to join us the day of the picnic if your plans change at the last minute.

PSEC

Do You Need Narcan to Save a Loved One from Overdose?

The PSEC Addiction and Recovery Taskforce is working to get Narcan to families in need. There is no liability if you use Narcan after taking a 12-minute video training on its administration to receive certification. For more information contact Pastor Shawn or visit psec.org.

In-Our-Backyard Mission Opportunity

Many families in Philadelphia's Eastwick neighborhood are still struggling to recover from severe flooding in last year's Tropical Storm Isaias. You are invited to give a helping hand and hope to 60 families like: *the elderly couple who sat holding hands as water rose around their necks; the elementary schooler who now panics every time it rains; and the Katrina survivor who was forced to evacuate from the second floor.* Teams of 2-5 volunteers are welcome for 1 day or more. Talk to Pastor Shawn or find details at psec.org.

PSEC Fall Meeting November 14, 2021

This will be a virtual meeting. Watch for registration to open soon.

SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION UCC

Fall Meeting, Sunday, October 17, St. Peter's Orwin or online

Led by Association Moderator Rev. Ken McDowell, we'll continue to learn from one another how to be church in a pandemic.



SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Monthly Food Pantry

Friday, September 17, 1 PM

Between 170-180 households in our area receive food every month through the Council of Churches Food Pantry. The pantry needs canned products, especially soup, peas, red beets, fruit; stuffing; cake mix; and juice. Food is distributed on the third Friday of each month at the Food Pantry, located on Market Street behind Evans Delivery (the old Walk In Shoe Factory).

Bloodmobile

Thursday, September 23, 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 donate blood. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Council of Churches Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 7 PM

The meeting will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Summer Hill Road. The Council of Churches provides emergency assistance for homeless people, assists with utilities on an emergency basis, and organizes a monthly food pantry for people in need in our community. First Church needs two lay representatives to serve on the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested in community ministry.

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 3, 1 PM

Meet at the Council Food Pantry

Enjoy a beautiful walk through the Schuylkill Haven Borough with friends AND raise money to feed hungry people. Receive a participant's envelope from Pastor Shawn. Registration begins at 1 PM, with worship and the walk kick-off at 1:15 PM. Participants are encouraged to register on-line, inviting their friends on social media to support their walk. Register at www.crophungerwalk.org/schuylkillhavenpa.

THANK YOU

Thank you to **everyone** for your support over the summer! You met the church's needs with generosity, increasing the love of God between neighbors, using your gifts to share God's gift. Special thanks to **Todd Roberts, Penny Shade** and **Darrell Spotts** for all of their work maintaining the church property over the summer.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Car & Truck Show. Our profit exceeded \$600.

STEWARDSHIP

Friends Helping Friends, Boscov's, Wednesday, October 20

Buy a 25% discount card for \$5 to use on most purchases at Boscov's Wednesday, October 20. The day includes refreshments, entertainment and prizes. See Carrie Ann Klinger to buy a ticket.

Rooted in Love

They are like trees planted by streams of living water, which yield their fruit in its season. –Psalm 1:3a

What fruit can we yield when planted in God's love? To be fully planted in God's love, we might need to change our mindset, to move from a fear of scarcity to a trust in abundance. Instead of thinking there can't possibly be enough for everyone, we see the fullness of God's love. Through Jesus, we see the power of that love in action, saving, restoring, making all things new.

Boiler Fund

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.

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.



CHURCH PICNIC

First UCC Pavilion

Sunday, August 29, Outdoor Worship (11 AM)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9/2- Heather Corby (1980)
Chris Evans (1986)
Dwayne Reichert Jr. (2005)
Tom Stewart Jr. (1974) | 9/13- Bill Harp (1963)
9/14- Sean Spotts (1993)
9/15- Becky (Sikora) Klimas (1983)
Jara Strunk (2006) |
| 9/3- Eric Heck (1988)
Suzanne Schrader (1943)
Quinlan Spotts (2003) | 9/17- Alesse Coover (1984)
9/18- Braylon Ludwig (2012)
9/19- Rusty Searle (1955)
Pastor Shawn (1958) |
| 9/6- John Pritiskutch (1961)
9/7- Beth Fryer (1951)
9/8- George Rondeau (1961)
9/9- Bill Corby (1970)
Mary Stewart (1978) | 9/20- Jeff McCormick
Billy Schaeffer (1990)
9/21- Jim Haeseler (1972)
9/26- Lily Fenstermacher (2007)
Grayson Fessler (2008)
Marcia Harp (1964) |
| 9/10- Beth Eckert (1958)
Helen Kimmel (1963) | 9/29- Corey Mentzer (1981) |
| 9/13- Brian Harp (1963) | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9/11- Gary & Gloria Ebling (1976) | 9/20- Harris & Joan Bradley (1969) |
| 9/12- Brandon & Becky Devlin (2015) | 9/26- Brian & Marcia Harp (1998) |
| 9/12- Bob & Carole Lee (1997) | |

If we missed a birthday or anniversary, 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.

KNOWING OUR JEWISH ROOTS

Jesus and his followers were Jewish, observing Jewish festivals as noted in the Gospels when Jesus visited the Temple in Jerusalem. Two important Jewish holidays fall in September this year. Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year signaling the start of High Holy Days decreed in Leviticus 23, falling on September 7 this year. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is **observed on September 16 as the holiest day of the year in Judaism.** Its central themes are atonement and repentance, traditionally observed with a day-long fast and intensive prayer. A standard **Jewish year** has twelve months but the months follow the lunar orbit which is about 29.5 days, so most years have 354 days. As a result, holidays fall on different days every year of the Gregorian calendar which the western world follows.