

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

Information Deadline for the
May 2022 NEWSLETTER
is Sunday, April 10!!

FIRST CHURCH HERALD

Vol. 41, Issue 1

Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

LENT & EASTER 2022 (MARCH & APRIL)

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father WHICH ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED BE THY NAME,
THY KINGDOM COME.
THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN
HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO
temptation,

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL:
FOR **thine** IS THE **Kingdom**
AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR EVER.

Amen

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 – Jacqueline Engel

Church Secretary – Jen Semanco (also Special Funds Treasurer)

Church Sexton – Penny Shade

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

2022 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; Rusty Searle (385-2533); Penny Shade (573-1449); 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.



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

SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN

Whole & Holy Souls

Wasn't the 21st Century going to be an improvement over the 20th Century? As time passes, we hope to learn from our mistakes, leading to a better society. Instead in the past twenty years we've seen terrorism, cultural division, and a pandemic moving into its' third year. Throw in war and the threat of war, hurricanes and blizzards and our blood pressure hits new highs. We are burned out on stress.

We need the intercession of prayer and there's no prayer more healing and helpful than the Lord's Prayer. During Lent we will take a closer look as this simple yet deeply profound prayer which draws us naturally and directly into communion with God. Jesus gives us a positive view of God and our role in God's actions on behalf of this mixed-up world.

In 65 words, give or take a few depending on the translation, Jesus offered a universal prayer which can change lives. The prayer speaks to our deepest identity, to our souls. By soul, I mean the most complete version of ourselves: mind, body, spirit, emotions, faith and actions.

George MacDonald, a 19th century Scottish minister, explained with these words: "You don't have a soul. You are a soul." Our souls are made in the image of God, which is why Jesus tells us to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love with all of our being.

By living, thinking, feeling and acting in love for God and others, Jesus' prayer invites us to become whole.

If you're ready to move beyond anger, anxiety, burnout, depression, division and negativity, to positivity and unity in the midst of diversity, join us for the Sundays in Lent as we seek wholeness through Jesus.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Shawn

Pastoral Care Coverage: I will be on vacation March 19-27. Pastor Kevin Fruchtl at St. Mark's UCC Cressona is on call at 610-334-5130. Pastor Ken McDowell at St. Paul's UCC Summer Hill is on call at 610-207-4783.

WORSHIP DURING LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT:

March 2 Ash Wednesday Whenever

Sacrament of Communion; Imposition of Ashes

Joel 2:1-2, 12-13, 15-16a

Repentance and Prayer

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Giving, Praying and Fasting

March 6 1st Sunday in Lent Wholly Holy

Sacrament of Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

Romans 10:8b-13

Salvation for All

Luke 4:1-13

Wilderness Temptation

Daylight Savings Time begins

"Spring" your clock one hour ahead before you jump into bed on Saturday, March 12, so we won't miss you at 9:30 AM worship on Sunday, March 13.

March 13 2nd Sunday in Lent Heaven on Earth

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Pressing to the Goal

Luke 13:31-35

Lament over Jerusalem

March 20 3rd Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher: Rev. Karl Jones

Give us this day our daily bread

March 27 4th Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher: Rev. Karl Jones

Spring Filling Orders Due

Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors

April 3 5th Sunday in Lent Free Delivery

Sacrament of Communion

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Breaking with the Past

John 12:1-8

Anointing Jesus

Worship Tech Team Needed

Three or more volunteers are needed to set up equipment around 9:15 AM to record Sunday worship for Facebook and YouTube. Ideally volunteers would serve once a month. Please call the church office or talk to Pastor Shawn.

WORSHIP DURING LENT & EASTER

April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday Going Up

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Obedient Servant

Luke 19:28-40

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

April 14 Maundy Thursday Amen

7 PM Worship; Sacrament of Communion and Tenebrae

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The First Passover

Luke 22-23, selected verses

The Last Days

THE SEASON OF EASTER:

April 17 Easter Sunday Nonsense

8 AM & 9:30 AM Worship; Sacrament of Communion

9-9:30 AM Fellowship in the Narthex

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

The Last Enemy

Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

April 24 2nd Sunday of Easter To End is to Begin

Revelation 1:4-8

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is offered during worship Sunday mornings. Children ages 4 through fifth grade are invited to join with teacher Delia Edling to learn Bible stories that help them understand their own lives.

THE SEASON OF LENT – The Lord's Prayer

3/6 What is prayer? How should I Pray?

3/13 Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed Be Your Name

3/20 Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done on Earth As in Heaven

3/27 Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

4/3 Forgive Us Our Debts As We Also Forgive Our Debtors

4/10 Palm Sunday: And Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil

4/17 Easter Sunday Worship at 8 and 9:30 AM; Egg Hunt at 9 AM

4/24 Reviewing the Lord's Prayer

OFFERING

Communion & Food Pantry Donations **March 6 & April 3**

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 **March 20 & April 24**

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

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) **March 27**

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

OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) **April 3**

Around the world, gifts given to One Great Hour of Sharing weave together a tapestry of faith, hope, and love in action. The tapestry we weave includes help following disasters, assisting communities with survival resources, or helping children with educational needs. Through our generous gifts, we show that love remains, despite all obstacles. *Faith, hope, love remain, but the greatest is love.*

Special Offering Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Ash Wednesday** (March 2), **Palm Sunday** (April 10), **Maundy Thursday** (April 14), **Good Friday** (April 15), and **Easter Sunday** (April 17) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC. The envelope offerings collected for **Meat Bingo** (March 13) will go to the general budget.

Lent Offering Envelopes

Lent offering envelopes will be sent out as part of a special mailer. The envelope offerings collected for the **Lent Offering** 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.

CONSISTORY MEETINGS

6:30 PM, Second Tuesday

Tuesday, March 8

Tuesday, April 12

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The year-end totals for December 2021 and totals for January 2022.

	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$235,345.05	\$ 30,456.11
REVENUE –	\$ 72,947.66	\$ 8,160.70
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$172,895.00	\$ 18,200.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$245,842.66	\$ 26,360.70
Gain/Loss –	\$ 10,497.61	\$ -4,095.41

ANNUAL FINANCIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG

The 2021 Financial Report and 2021 Special Funds Report were mailed to 201 church members in early February. Ballots were included with the reports to determine whether they would be approved and to select charitable recipients for the 2021 Kline Tithe. Through the 70 returned ballots, both financial reports for last year were approved as were the actions of consistory for 2021. The HVAC Expenditure for the Control Software Update (\$29,627) was approved with 60 votes (there were 4 no votes and 6 opposed). The following five charitable organizations were approved to receive \$2800: Bethany Children's Home, Hillside SPCA, My Father's House (Servants to All), Schuylkill Haven Fire Department, and Schuylkill Hope Center (formerly SWIC).

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Easter Candy **Donation Deadline: Palm Sunday, April 10**

Individually wrapped candy or small toys able to fit in plastic Easter Eggs are needed for the children's Egg Hunt on Easter. Call the church office if you plan to drop off your donations at the door. You may also place your donations in the marked box in the Narthex by Palm Sunday, April 10. Thank you!

Easter Egg Hunt (tentative) **Sunday, April 17, 9 AM**

We hope to hold an Easter Egg Hunt. If the hunt is held indoors, masks will be needed. Please follow the church's Facebook page and worship announcements for more detailed information as we near Easter.



CHURCH FUND RAISERS

Filling Sale

Orders due Sunday, March 27

Do you need filling for Easter dinner or do you just need to restock your freezer? Filling can be picked up Saturday, April 9, 9 AM – 12 PM. Cost is \$8 per container. Each container holds 2 pounds, so that's only \$4 per pound.

Annual Car Show

Saturday, August 6

Planning for the car show will begin in March. Talk to Kenny Klinger if you would like to help organize this fund raiser.

Shank's Vanilla

8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$7 per bottle.

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. (Don't hand in 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.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Church Office Closed:

Monday, March 21 – Friday, March 25 (Staff Vacations)

Friday, April 15 (Good Friday)

Monday, April 18 (Easter Monday)

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.

Staff Vacations

Jen will be on vacation Monday, March 21 – Friday, March 25.

Pastor Shawn will be on vacation Friday, March 18 – Sunday, March 27.

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation follows Bell Choir practice, meeting until 12:30 PM. The confirmands are learning about key Old Testament characters and their connection to Jesus' teachings. During Lent the confirmands will complete worship worksheets each Sunday to learn about this essential faith practice.

Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser

Buy flowers for Mother's Day that will last all summer! The confirmands are selling bedding plants and hanging baskets. Order forms will be available in the Narthex in March. The order deadline is Sunday, April 24. Flowers will be available for pick up Sunday, May 8 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.

200th ANNIVERSARY

First UCC is 200 years old! To celebrate 200 years of service to God, on Saturday, May 21, 10 AM-3 PM, we will invite the community into the church for tours and refreshments. Sunday, May 22, all church members past and present, are invited to 9:30 AM worship, with a message from the Rev. Bill Worley, Pennsylvania SE Conference Minister. After worship, a full luncheon will be provided with seating at tables set up outside to enjoy the beautiful flowers in bloom (weather permitting). A basket raffle will be offered both days.

Anyone interested in planning for the weekend may contact Penny Shade at 570-573-1449.

SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)

Seniors Out to Lunch meets on the second Tuesday of the month at noon. This includes everyone over 50 years old (but other adults are welcome). Call Iris Weller at 570-366-0897 if you would like to attend.

March 8 – Roman Delight, 1240 Center Pike, Orwigsburg

April 12 – Friedensburg Country Restaurant, 1305 Long Run Rd



LENT AND EASTER

Lent is the Season before Easter, when we think about what the death of Jesus means to us. For forty days (since Sundays are not included in Lent) we are invited to grow closer to God. In this season of reflection, we may give up something dear to us, our small sacrifice to remind us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of dying that we might live. Adding a spiritual discipline is another way to observe Lent. Some ideas to consider:

- Call or visit the person you always put off calling or visiting.
- [Adopt](#) a shelter animal.
- Donate food and clothing to the food pantry and Servants to All.
- Leave bigger tips.
- Start fewer sentences with "I."
- Refill the ice cube tray and replace the toilet paper roll.
- *Help the church prepare to celebrate its 200th Anniversary!*

Some people end their Lent with a prayer vigil on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, observing the time Jesus hung on the cross and/or was in the tomb. Easter is a movable holy day! Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Easter can fall any day from March 22 to April 25.

MEAT BINGOS

Plans are underway to have Meat BINGOs again!! The dates for Spring 2022 are: **Saturday, March 12 and Saturday, May 7 OR 14** (tentatively). Profits from the bingos are placed in the church's general budget to be used towards the everyday expenses. Doors open at 11 AM; games begin at 1 PM. The prizes will be packages of meat. There will be 20 games for **\$20**. Specials & Raffles are extra. Food and refreshments will be available. We are also looking for helpers age 13 and older.

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.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Used Stamps Still Have A Purpose

Eastern Star collects used, cancelled stamps as a fund raiser for charity. Please keep at least one quarter inch of envelope surrounding the stamp. Place the stamps in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the hall next to the sanctuary.

MUSIC MINISTRY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sundays after Worship for 45 Minutes

The choir is practicing music for Lent and Easter. New members are always welcome. If you have questions about the music program, contact Jacquie Engle, our Music Director, 570-971-4195 or email her at jengel800@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP – 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.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PENNSYLVANIA SE CONFERENCE UCC

Thank You for Your OCWM Support

Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC Conference Minister, thanked First UCC for helping the PSEC exceed its 2021 goal of \$771,910 for Our Churches Wider Mission.

SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION UCC

Part-time Summer Chaplain Needed at Locust Lake

Clergy or lay with a love of God, God's creation and people, interested in leading worship and visiting with campers, is welcome to apply. Learn more at www.pachurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/OPPORTUN2020.pdf.

NATIONAL MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF

With a \$33 million purchase in Ohio, the UCC's campaign to relieve medical debt exceeded \$104 million. The UCC announced Feb. 14 that 10,757 households in 70 Ohio counties had their medical debt abolished. The UCC debt buy was the latest in a two-year effort with the help of New York-based RIP Medical Debt.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Monthly Food Pantry

3rd Friday, 1 PM

March 18 & April 15

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, March 10, 12:30-5:30 PM

Jerusalem Lutheran Evangelical Church, 252 Dock St.

Every two seconds someone in the USA needs blood. A person can donate blood every 56 days. The donor's body replenishes the fluid lost from donation in about 24 hours. Anyone 17 years or older and in good health is eligible to donate. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Council of Churches Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 7 PM

St. Paul's UCC, Summer Hill

The Council provides emergency housing for homeless people, assists with utilities for families in need on a one time basis, and organizes a monthly food pantry for our community, as well as supporting a bi-monthly blood drive. First Church is in need of lay representatives to serve on the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested in community ministry.

THANK YOU

Thank you to: the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts to the church staff and for your kindness toward people in need at Christmas. You provided gifts for children through the Salvation Army and Bethany Children's Home, and Christmas gifts and dinner for two families.

Seeds to Grow, the church's mission committee, gave \$100 to provide Christmas food for two local families; \$1200 to the Pottsville Salvation Army; \$1100 to the SH Council of Churches Food Pantry; \$1100 to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry; \$1000 to SH Fire Houses; \$1000 to Toys for Toys; \$500 to Avenues; \$500 to the SH Fire Police; and \$500 to Servants to All.

Many organizations wrote to the church to thank you for your generous gifts in 2021. The letters are posted in the office hallway.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3/1- Gail Kerschner (1957) | 3/30- Robert Shaup |
| 3/2- Justene Frushon (1987) | Jeff Spotts (1959) |
| Jeniva Unger (1975) | 3/31- Adam Mattera (1985) |
| Andrew Wagner (2015) | 4/1- Roger Hubert, Jr. |
| 3/3- Danielle Guldin (1985) | Lynn Moyer (1955) |
| Peggy Zechman (1945) | 4/2- Lillian Coover (2013) |
| 3/5- Craig Spotts (1964) | 4/3- Tyler Schaeffer (1996) |
| Matt Unger (1973) | 4/4- Kaede Fessler (2003) |
| 3/6- Leo Houck (1937) | Reese Frushon (2020) |
| 3/8- Theresa Luckenbill | 4/8- Craig Beck |
| Pat Painter (1938) | 4/9- Robert McCord, Sr. (1934) |
| 3/10- Bob Gordon, Sr. | 4/10- Josh Siluk (1993) |
| Kadence Sonon (2014) | Iris Weller (1941) |
| Rhonda Thompson (1965) | 4/11- Michael McCormick (2001) |
| 3/11- Allen Ebling (1972) | Robyn Porter (1967) |
| 3/12- Deb Mattera (1956) | 4/12- Jeff Paul (1972) |
| Abigail Schrader (2009) | 4/13- Matthew Mabry (2000) |
| 3/13- Brad Moyer (1971) | 4/14- Jill Minakowski (1989) |
| 3/14- Carson Pritiskutch (2000) | Mallory Brennan (1989) |
| David Shaup | Robert Shaup |
| Dave Schrader (1971) | 4/15- Corey Spotts (1991) |
| 3/17- Cheryl Stripe (1988) | 4/17- Corin Paul (1980) |
| Landon Stripe (2020) | 4/18- Sarah DeCaluwe (1989) |
| 3/18- Carole Lee (1947) | 4/19- Daniel Devlin (2020) |
| 3/20- Andrew Schnell Jr (2015) | Shawn Pritiskutch (2000) |
| 3/23- Austin Boyer (1999) | John Lang (1969) |
| Calandra Henninger (1993) | Macy Marmas (2012) |
| 3/24- Carla Keller (1967) | 4/20- Jake Haeseler (2000) |
| Rachel Crumrine (1984) | 4/23- April Rohrer (1995) |
| Billy Wingle, Jr. (1992) | Emerson Spotts (2007) |
| 3/29- Lew Hummel (1947) | 4/28- Melissa Fox (1975) |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3/01- Bill & Rhonda Thompson (1996) | 4/7- Don & Deb McCormick (1973) |
| 3/08- Al & Linda Deatrich (1986) | 4/9- John & Carol Donati (1965) |
| 3/15- Michael & Sharon Wagner (2003) | 4/15- Dwayne & Treasure Reichert (00) |
| 3/16- Harold & Suzanne Schrader (1963) | 4/20- Kris & Pam Sonon (2013) |
| 3/18- George & Tracey Rondeau (2018) | 4/27- Brad & Angela Moyer (1997) |

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.

EASTER FLOWERS – 2022

The season of Lent is here. Orders are now being taken for Easter Flowers that will adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17. Please return this form, **along with payment**, to the church office. Additional forms are available in the Narthex.

Deadline – Sunday, March 27

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ORDER.

Name _____

Phone # _____

TYPE OF FLOWER

LILIES _____ **DAFFODILS** _____

In **HONOR** of _____

In **MEMORY** of _____

BY: _____

Please use the exact wording you want to appear in the Flower Bulletin.

COST: \$13/plant & PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER!!!

Please return your order and payment to the church office by mail or place the order and payment in the Church Secretary’s mailbox located by the offices or in the offering plate.

Please check one of the following:

- _____ I will take my flowers home.
- _____ I do not want my flowers. The church can use them.

If you cannot pick up your flowers, the flowers will be kept in the church for 1 week. Flowers can then be picked up during the regular office hours (Weekdays, 9 AM – 1 PM). Any flowers that have not been claimed will be given away.

SPRING POTATO FILLING SALE

Sponsored by:

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

Order Deadline: **Sunday, March 27, 2022**

Pickup: **Saturday, April 9, 9 AM – 12 PM**

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

_____ Containers @ \$8 each = \$ _____
Each Container holds 2 pounds of filling.
That’s \$4 per pound.

PAYMENT IS DUE WITH YOUR ORDER FORM