

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
Summer 2022 NEWSLETTER
is Sunday, May 15!!



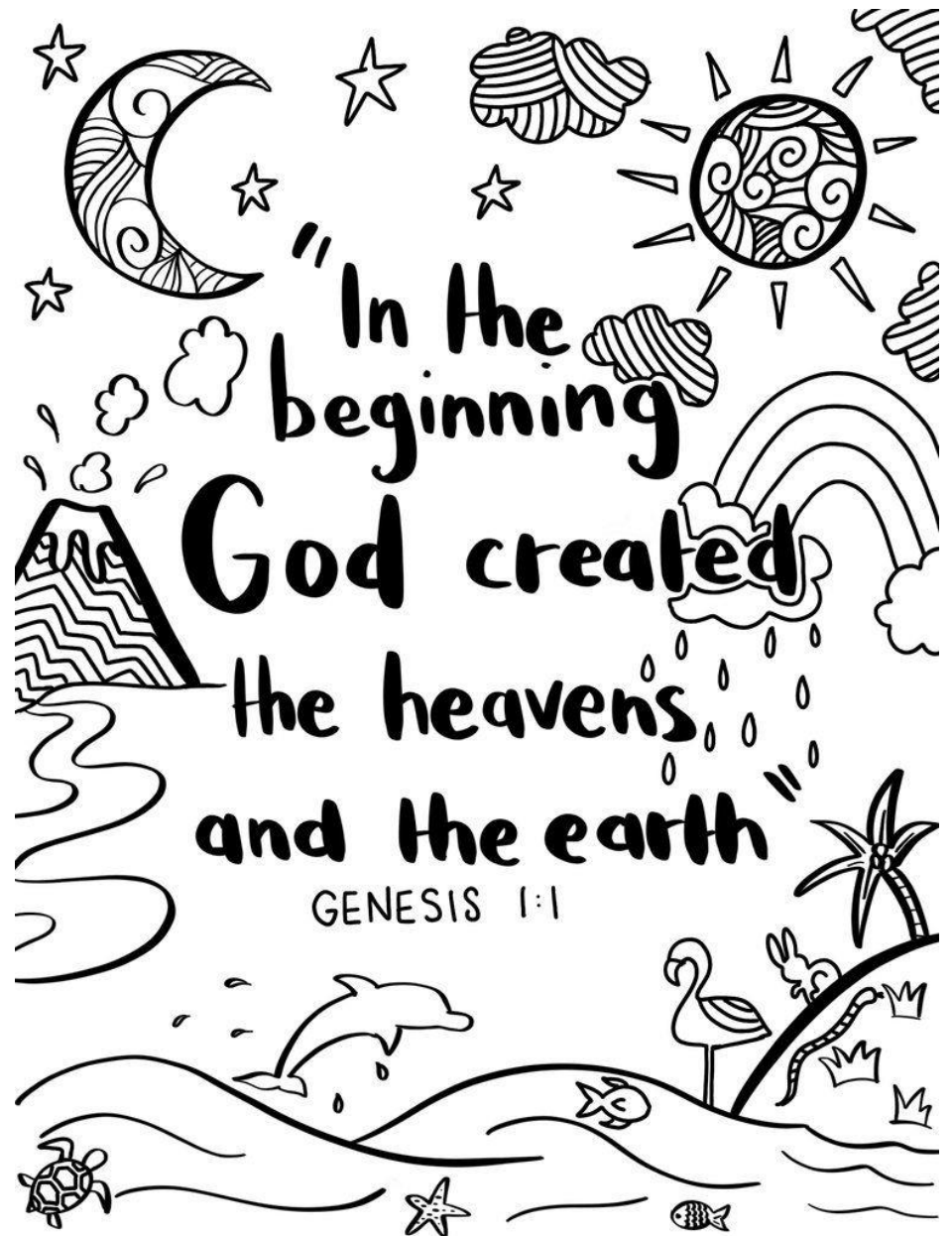
FIRST CHURCH HERALD

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Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

MAY 2022



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

Music Director – 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.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

During the summer months (June, July & August), the church office will be open **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9 AM – 1 PM.**

If any days need to be changed throughout the summer, it will be noted in the Sunday bulletin. As always, if we are not in the office, or stepped away from the phone, please leave a message on the answering machine and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN

SOLI DEO GLORIA

In the early nineteenth century, European immigrants settling in Schuylkill County believed it important to thank God for their new home, asking for strength for the challenges they faced in the young United States of America. Utilizing the local schoolhouse, on December 23, 1820, the first minutes and constitution of the United Lutheran and Reformed Congregations in Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, were recorded. The writings open with the words, "SOLI DEO GLORIA." Solely to God Glory. Glory to God alone.

People gathered for worship on the infrequent occasions when an ordained pastor was available. Then on March 11, 1822, the Reformed Congregation recorded its first official service. Appropriately, the first communion recorded for the Reformed congregation was on Whit Sunday, May 26, 1822, which we today celebrate as Pentecost, the birth of the church.

This church has served God faithfully through a remarkable history. With the nation, we have survived a Civil War, as well as two world wars, the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and whatever we are experiencing now. In the last half century, the world has transformed rapidly through the development of digital technology, the internet, and social media. The promise of new beginnings with a new millennium was quickly replaced by the threat of terrorism, growing distrust of others, a pandemic and ensuing turmoil. The teachings of Jesus Christ are needed now more than ever.

Through these 200 years, we have known God’s blessings. As the Body of Christ, we have cared for one another through war, flood, fire, and hardship with gifts of food, prayer, and compassion. Our trust in God has deepened, teaching us to put aside fear for we know God is in control. Indeed, God is with us always.

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the church on May 21 and 22, our mission continues. God has guided us through incredible change over two centuries. Remembering Jesus’ Great Commandment, to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we look forward to serving God for the next 200 years. May we seek God’s purpose, hearing Christ’s words, grounded in scripture and grace, dedicating ourselves to faith in action, as we serve God with heart, mind, soul, and strength. In all that we strive to do, may we proclaim glory to God alone. SOLI DEO GLORIA.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Shawn

WORSHIP DURING MAY

Six Good Days

Just as God created the heavens and the earth, God initiated a new creation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are blessed with new life each day as we grow in the promise that God is with us always.

May 1 3rd Sunday of Easter Separating Lights and Darks

Genesis 1:6-8 Water and Sky
 Revelation 5:11-14 Worthy is the Lamb
 John 20:19-31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples

May 8 4th Sunday of Easter Yielding Seeds

Mother's Day
 Genesis 1:9-13 Earth, Sea and Vegetation
 Revelation 7:9-17 The Great Crowd
 John 21:1-14 Jesus Appears on the Beach

May 15 5th Sunday of Easter Large, Small, Good

Summer Newsletter Information Deadline
 Genesis 1:14-23 Light, Darkness, Water and Sky
 Revelation 21:1-6 The New Earth
 John 21:15-19 Jesus Talks with Peter

May 22 6th Sunday of Easter

200th Anniversary Celebration
 Rev. William Worley, Pennsylvania SE Conference Minister

May 29 7th Sunday of Easter The Breath of Life

Strengthen the Church Offering
 Genesis 1:24-31 Creatures of Every Kind and Humans
 Acts 1:1-11 Jesus Ascends to Heaven
 Luke 24:44-53 Jesus Ascends into Heaven

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.



OFFERING

Communion & Food Pantry Donations

May 1

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

May 15

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

Special Offering Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Anniversary Sunday** (May 22) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC.

Strengthen the Church

May 29

This offering re-imagines and builds the future of the United Church of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults, building up the Body of Christ. Your gift to "Strengthen the Church" may be offered in worship on May 29 or any time through ucc.org.

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, May 10

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The year-end totals for March 2021 and totals for March 2022.

	<u>March 2021</u>	<u>March 2022</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$ 47,046.72	\$ 67,901.61
REVENUE –	\$ 9,584.86	\$ 16,313.77
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$ 34,300.00	\$ 47,100.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$ 43,884.86	\$ 63,413.77
Gain/Loss –	\$ -3,161.86	\$ -4,487.84

200th ANNIVERSARY

It's Time to Celebrate 200 Years of Service!

Thanks to God, First Church is celebrating 200 years of service to Christ and community. We will host an Open House on Saturday, May 21, from 10 AM-3 PM. A basket raffle will be offered for church members and visitors throughout the anniversary events.

On Sunday, May 22, at 9:30 AM worship, the Rev. Bill Worley, Pennsylvania SE Conference Minister, will preach, congratulating us on the past and challenging us to commit to another 200 years of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. Following worship, a fellowship dinner will be held. Please sign-up or call the church office to let us know you will attend.

Please share the hospitality of the church with our neighbors by offering an hour or two of your time on Saturday, May 21, to help with building tours and refreshments. A group of people are preparing for both days. If you are interested, please talk to Penny Shade.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

THE SEASON OF EASTER

- 5/1 God's Creation and You
- 5/8 God's Family and Yours
- 5/15 God Saw Everything Was Good

May 15 will be the last Sunday for weekly Children's Church until next fall. Please check the summer newsletter for updated information about children's Christian education opportunities from June through August.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class, Sundays after Bell Choir until 12:30 PM

The last class confirmation class of this year will be May 15. If a confirmand is ill or will miss church for another reason, please leave a message at the church for Pastor Shawn, text her, or send a Facebook message. In addition to weekly participation in worship and confirmation class, confirmands complete their Spring Flower Sale after worship on May 8 when people pickup their orders.



CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Births – **Kayden Parker Semanco**, newborn son of **Nick Semanco & Alycia Enders**, was born on Saturday, March 19. Kayden is the grandson of **Greg & Jen Semanco** and nephew of **Zack & Josh Semanco**.

Theodore Christopher Frushon, newborn son of **Chris & Justene Frushon**, who was born on Tuesday, March 22. Teddy is the brother of **Marshall, Claire & Reese**, grandson of **Jay & Diane Newswanger** and nephew of **Danielle Guldin**.

Death – **Joey Donati** passed away on January 31, 2022. Joey is survived by his wife Tina, daughter Adrienne, grandson Dante Curran, parents John & Carol Donati, brother Mike Donati, sister Anna Haller and the extended Donati family.

CHURCH FUND RAISERS

Annual Car Show

Saturday, August 6

Planning for the car show has begun. 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, May 30 (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.

GRADUATES

Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 22

Congratulations to Our Graduates! This coming spring, several of our young people are scheduled to graduate from high school, and college. Graduates will be recognized in worship on Sunday, May 22 as part of our 200th Anniversary Celebration. Please notify the church office if we have overlooked a graduate.

We pray for God's blessings for our high school graduates during their final months of study ... **Gavin Fry** (Blue Mountain); **Olivia Lang & Riley Moyer** (Schuylkill Haven); and college graduates ... **Matthew Mabry** (Penn State Schuylkill). ***Congratulations!!***

MEAT BINGO

The profit from the March 12/13 Meat Bingo was \$2,549.02, plus \$200 collected in offering envelopes. Profits from bingo are placed in the church's general budget for everyday expenses. ***Thank you for your support!!***

Our next Meat BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. 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. Please call the church office if you are able to volunteer.

Fall 2022 BINGO dates will be announced over the summer.

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

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sundays after Worship for 45 Minutes through May 15

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.



PENNSYLVANIA SE CONFERENCE

2022 PSEC ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4, West Chester University

"Living the Jesus Life—Contemplatives in Action" is planned as a time of soulful recovery and revival amid the exhaustion created by the pandemic and the new realities to which we have had to adapt. Spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, scripture study) and active living (ministering to the needs of our communities) unite us for a weekend of living together the Jesus life. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you would like more information.

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

SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting, May 1, 3-5 PM

Zion Blue Mountain UCC, Strausstown, in person and on Zoom. Registration and fellowship begin at 2:30 PM. Ask Pastor Shawn for details.

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!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)! We appreciate your commitment to stand with our local and international partners as they care for people fleeing their countries due to wars and other conflicts, provide food and water to poverty-stricken communities, provide emergency relief to communities rebuilding after disasters, and empower women with opportunities that provide resources for their families Love responds! Through your gifts to OGHS, you bear witness to the words found in 1 Corinthians 13:13 "now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love!"

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.

May 10 – Ruby Tuesdays, Rt. 61 Pottsville

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Bloodmobile **Thursday, May 12, 1-6 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.

Monthly Food Pantry **May 20, 1 PM**

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.

Council of Churches Meeting **Tuesday, May 24, 7 PM**

First UCC will host this meeting, open to all church members. The Council offers a monthly food pantry for people in need on the third Friday each month. The Council assists with utilities emergencies on a limited basis. Talk to Pastor Shawn for more details.

STEWARDSHIP

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.

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.

THANK YOU

Notes expressing thanks to the church for a variety of generous gifts 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5/1- Bobbie Donati (1961)
Joel Spotts | 5/17- Anna (Fultz) Haller (1975) |
| 5/3- Nicholas Spotts (1989) | 5/18- Riley Bradley (2010)
Tautia Darcangelo
Mary Alice Ross (1932) |
| 5/4- Alicia Kimmel (1993)
Megan Moyer (2000)
Richard Scott III (1999) | 5/19- Linda Spotts (1956) |
| 5/5- Wally Foose (1940) | 5/20- Jacob Kluge (2000)
Pat Sprague (1936) |
| 5/6- Steven Spotts (1982) | 5/22- Ali Marmas (1984) |
| 5/7- Kim Quinn (1970) | 5/24- Katie Fox (1995)
Maleca Tuite |
| 5/8- Brendan Fox (2001) | 5/25- Diane Newswanger (1959) |
| 5/12- Claire Frushon (2017) | 5/28- Brian Moyer (1968)
Briar Uniman (2020) |
| 5/13- Robin Bayliff | |
| 5/15- Misty Bressler (1963) | |
| 5/16- Rachel Sonnon (2001) | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5/3- Bill & Mandy Coffey (1986) | 5/12- Harry & Pat Painter (1991) |
| 5/3- Ed & Ruth Ann Deschler (1997) | 5/19- Craig & Terri Luckenbill (1979) |
| 5/6- Dave & Linda Williams (1972) | 5/22- Kevin & Ali Marmas (2010) |
| 5/8- Gil & Sylvia Beury (2004) | 5/22- Tom & Mary Stewart (1999) |
| 5/10- Ernie & Lynn Moyer (1975) | 5/24- Tim & Cathy Burian (1997) |
| 5/10- Jack & Corin Paul (2003) | 5/31- Harry & Beth Eckert (1980) |

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.



MEAT BINGO

Saturday, May 14, 1 PM

Doors open at 11 AM

Tickets - \$20

Raffles & Specials are extra; Food & Drinks are available

