

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
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
is Sunday, August 20!!



FIRST CHURCH HERALD

Vol. 42, Issue 3

Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

SUMMER 2023 (JUNE-JULY-AUGUST)

FRUIT *of the* SPIRIT
{ LOVE }
JOY *Peace*
PATIENCE
kindness
GOODNESS
faithfulness
GENTLENESS
Self-Control
GALATIANS 5:22-23

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS – 9 AM - 1 PM (Monday-Thursday)

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 –

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

2023 CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Harris Bradley, Vice President; Brian Edling, Recording Secretary; Keith Edling; Carrie Ann Klinger, Treasurer; Kenny Klinger, President; Owen Owens; Rusty Searle; Penny Shade; Lora Yoder; & Peggy Zechman.

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.

CHURCH 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.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

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

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

CAN WE TALK?

Can we talk? Lately it seems people are inclined to shout, to argue, and to reject anyone with an opinion different than their own, but not to talk, which involves listening as well as speaking. Our political arena is anything but polite, as some of our leaders set poor examples for respecting others. Name-calling seems to be the norm as people are minimized and demonized, sometimes in the name of Jesus Christ, as if the diversity of people can be captured by a few limited categories. While many Pharisees disagreed with Jesus and some even conspired to have him crucified, the Gospels do not record Pharisees heckling Jesus while he taught in the Temple!

One of the reasons for this rampant conflict may be that we are not taught how to communicate clearly with one another. In school, emphasis is placed on basic skills when we are young, branching out into the sciences, advanced mathematics, digital technology, and other training for adult lives with careers. Little if any effort is directed toward helping us learn how to interact with one another through verbal, written, and non-verbal methods.

Perhaps this has led in part to the isolation many people feel. A recent study revealed 41 percent of Americans feel “nobody knows me well.” The structure of our work and family lives, and our use of social media, limits our interaction with others, making us feel as if we do not have close friends. We feel alone.

Jesus talked a lot about relationships, with God, and with one another. Through the summer, we will spend time listening to Jesus – because good communication starts with active listening – to follow his teachings to live in a way that honors one another as children of God, even when we disagree. God did not create a world of “us versus them” but a world where heaven can be found on earth, when we love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Shawn

While I am on vacation August 2 through 14, Rev. Ken McDowell and Rev. Kevin Fruchtl will provide pastoral care. Pastor Kevin Fruchtl is on call at 610-334-5130. Pastor Ken McDowell is on call at 610-207-4783.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Communion & Food Pantry Donations June 4, July 2 & Aug. 6

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.

Strengthen the Church June 11

All Together: The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the church. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will support leadership development, plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Your gift to "Strengthen the Church" may be offered in worship on June 11 or any time through ucc.org.

The Compassion Fund June 18, July 16 & August 20

This Special Offering is put in an emergency fund for church members' needs.

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) July 30

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

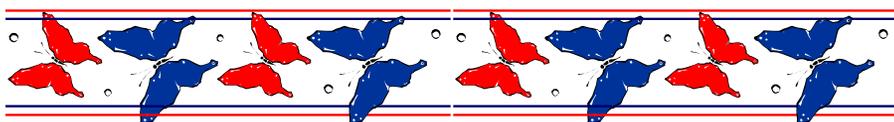
Weekender Food Program August 13

This program provides weekend food through the school year for children who are food insecure. Estimates for the 2022-2023 school year are that the program will cost an estimated \$13,440 to \$15,360. All monies collected through this special offering will be given directly to this Council of Churches program.

Special Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Car Show** (July 23) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC and help supplement the fundraising efforts of those who spend a lot of time and effort in making each fundraiser a success. (See pages 12 & 14 for more information on the Car Show.)

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.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is offered on request during Sunday worship. Please let the greeter at the door know that your child is interested. Thank you to Delia Edling for offering her education skills and resources to provide Children's Church to the congregation. *Children's Church will not be offered in July!*

CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Baptism – Stella Grace Donatti, daughter of Joshua & Ashley (Farr) Donatti, was baptized on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Eleanor Marites Bayliff, daughter of Timothy & Elysha (Bolschi) Bayliff Jr, will be baptized on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

Death – **Harold Schrader** passed away on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Harold is survived by a large extended family including his wife **Suzanne Schrader**, daughters **Bev Scott, Leanne Haeseler & Sharon Wagner**, and grandsons **Brandon Haeseler, Jake Haeseler, Richard Scott & Andrew Wagner**.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

Church Office Closed:

All Fridays throughout the Summer

Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day)

Monday, August 7 – Thursday, August 10 (staff vacations)

Friday, September 1

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)

Staff Vacations:

Jen will be on vacation Mon, July 3 – Thurs, July 6; Thurs, July 20 – Mon, July 24; Mon, August 7 – Thurs, August 10

Pastor Shawn will be on vacation Wed, August 2 – Mon, August 14.

CONSISTORY MEETINGS

6:30 PM, Second Tuesday

Tuesday, June 13 --- July, NO meeting --- Tuesday, August 8



CHURCH PICNIC

First UCC Pavilion



Sunday, August 27, Outdoor Worship (11 AM)

ACTIVITIES: *Guessing Games, BINGO, Water Balloon Toss, Volleyball, Wiffle ball and more!*

NOTE: Side dish & dessert food donations are needed, please sign up on the food donation sheet. Also, please bring a wrapped item worth no more than \$5 for BINGO.

**Help needed for setup and games!
PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

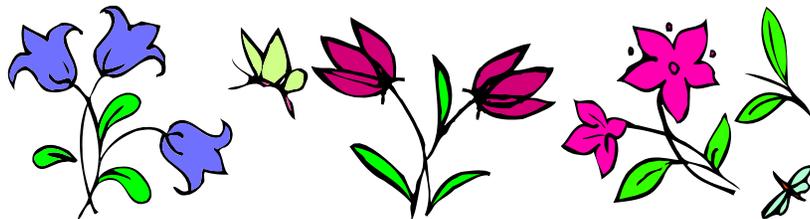
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Couples at First UCC who have been married 50 years or longer are an inspiration in faithfulness. We would like to recognize them in worship on June 25. We are aware of the following couples who have celebrated at least five decades together: **Don & Deb McCormick, Dave & Linda Williams, Jack & Anne Fisher, Bruce & Sally Krammes, Bud & Linda Lopez, and Harris & Joan Bradley.** If you know of other First Church golden couples, please call the church office.

MEAT BINGO

The profit from the March 11 Meat Bingo was \$4020.07 and the April 29 Meat Bingo was \$2987.62. Profits from bingo were placed in the church's general budget for everyday expenses. **Thank you for your support!!**

Fall 2023 BINGO dates will be announced later this summer or September.



MISSION

Servants to All Household Items Needed

In addition to clothing and food donations, Servants to All clients ask for curtains, towels, and bed linens. If you are replacing any of these items and your used items are still in good condition, please consider donating them to STA or dropping them off at the church office.

Weekender Food Program for Schuylkill Haven Elementary

The Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches, working with local businesses and organizations, provides over \$12,000 each school year so children may take home food for the weekend if their homes experience food shortage. The program's actual cost is closer to \$30,000 through Helping Harvest Food Bank. If you would like to support this program, you may donate to the Council of Churches, PO Box 303, Schuylkill Haven, PA, 17972, or donate through the church, designating your gift for the "Weekender Program." (Blue Mountain School District's Weekend Program is funded fully already.)

Stuff the Bus in July

Help the Schuylkill United Way give children the tools they need to succeed. Drop your donations of school supplies in the box in the Narthex no later than July 30. Volunteers are needed by UW on August 4 and 7 to sort donations.

Foster Families Assistance

Bridge 127 is a volunteer group which works with Schuylkill County foster families, donating needed items to families for free. Presently, they need twin mattresses, beds, and bedding of any kind. Please contact Paula Weinert at 570-573-3613. Bridge 127 is located at 19 N. Centre St., Pottsville. They will arrange to pick up donations at your home.

Call the church office 570-385-2049 when:

- Someone is admitted to the hospital (the hospitals don't call us)
 - You plan a meeting
 - You are moving
 - A new baby arrives or a death occurs
 - Your telephone number or address has changed
- If you get the answering machine, please leave a message.

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

What is the PSEC? How Can It Assist First UCC?

When someone mentions the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, what comes to mind? PSEC is a resource to assist your pastor and church. The best place to learn more is at psec.org. The home page has five top tabs: About Us—Missions & Ministries—Resources—Events & News—Associations, with more drop-down topics. The PSEC is your church, your Association, and YOU.

Are You Being Called to Ministry?

Have you ever had the experience of leading in worship and felt called to do more? Has anyone ever said to you that you should think about being a pastor? Discussions around these questions and what it means to be called will be answered at this one-hour gathering. Led by PSE Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley. Wednesday, June 21, 7 PM. To register: go to psec.org and click on the Events & News Tab, then click on June 21 on the "Calendar."

PSEC Addiction Task Force Training for Prison Pen Pals

Visiting with men and women who are in prison is one of the least practiced traits of discipleship. This is for a variety of legitimate reasons: ignorance of the mostly hidden population, institutional restrictions, and privacy issues. Yet the call of Christ to visit those in prison still exists. The PSEC Addiction Task Force is working to raise awareness of the people held in prison and to remember that they too are children of God by offering an email "Pen Pal" program (pun intended) through a secure App, sanctioned by the Department of Corrections. No personal information would be exchanged. If you are interested in learning more about this act of discipleship, attend an informational/training event led by Rev. Russ Gates, former prison chaplain. Register at psec.org, click on the Events & News Tab, then click on the calendar, then on June 25, 3:30pm.

160th Anniversary Day at Bethany Children's Home

Saturday, August 19, 11 AM – 9 PM

Bethany Children's Home, 1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, will celebrate 160 years of service to youth in need with special music, carnival games, food, rides, activities, and vendors. The event is geared towards people of all ages. Volunteers are needed to assist for two-hour time slots. Monetary donations are welcome to support Bethany's ministry to youth who need a safe place to live, where they learn to be self-sufficient while receiving love and care.



PICNIC

Two Worship Services and Annual Picnic Sunday, August 27

Those who prefer indoor worship may gather in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM. Around 11 AM we will meet at the Nice Pavilion for worship, followed by a picnic. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided along with beverages. Church members are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share. Help is needed to organize games and activities. Please sign up in worship. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Bring lawn chairs so that you can sit in comfort. If possible, please sign up in advance to provide a rough estimate of attendance. If you can't sign up in advance, come anyway!

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Senior Citizen Appreciation Picnic Tuesday, June 6, 4-8 PM Island Park

All people 50 years or age or older who are members of the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches are invited to attend.

Monthly Food Pantry 3rd Friday, 1 PM June 16 – July 21 – August 18

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, July 20, 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.

Council of Churches Meeting Tuesday, July 25, 7 PM St. John's Lutheran Church, 24 Church Road, Friedensburg

Meetings are open to all church members. The Council offers a monthly food pantry, assists with utilities emergencies on a limited basis, provides community worship services, and sponsors the Weekender Program for the Schuylkill Haven Area Elementary Center. Two First UCC representatives are needed for the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn for more details. The Council's website is www.schuylkillhavencouncilofchurches.org.

STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY, TALENT, & TIME

Car Show. August 5 we will host a car show. Planning meetings are underway. If you would like to help with planning the car show, please contact Kenny Klinger at 570-205-5465.

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 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. To date, the church has received \$9,602 toward our goal. Mark your gift "Boiler Donation" when you submit it to the church or look for specially marked envelopes in the Narthex.

Adopt A Flower Bed. Sharing care for the flower beds around the church allows us to keep weeds under control. If you would like to adopt a bed, please call the church office. And thank you!

Summer Offering. As you are on vacation this summer, you will be remembered and missed in worship. While it is essential for us to take time off, God's work continues throughout the summer to share the gospel, to feed the hungry and to care for people in need. Please consider mailing in your offering when you are on vacation or schedule your offering as a regular payment through your bank bill pay. Thank you for your support of and commitment to Christ's ministry at First UCC *as we serve God through Christ and serve others with love.*

Shank's Vanilla. 8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$7 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. (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.



SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

Worship 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!

SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)

SOUL Now for All Adults

June 13 – July 11 – August 8

SOUL meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1 PM at Perry Restaurant, 11 Bellevue Avenue, Shoemakersville. Perry will be a permanent eating site with occasional exceptions. One of those exceptions will be August 8, when we will travel south to meet with Doris Ney. Details are pending. Check Sunday bulletins for additional details. Connect with Iris Weller for reservations, 570-366-0897.

THANK YOU NOTES

Notes expressing thanks to the church for a variety of generous gifts have been received from church members, the recipients of the Kline Tithe, and Seeds to Grow Mission gifts. They are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children are welcome to attend Vacation Bible School at nearby UCC churches.
Stompers & Chompers: Building Dino-sized Faith in God, June 12-16, 6-8 PM, Salem Hetzel's, 261 Hetzel's Church Rd. Pine Grove, hetzelskids@gmail.com.
Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light, June 19-23, 6-8:30 PM, St. Paul's UCC, 1235 Summer Hill Rd. Auburn, stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com.
Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through, June 27-29, 6:30-8:30 PM, St. Mark's UCC, 30 Pottsville St. Cressona, stmarksressona@gmail.com.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UCC Disaster Ministries

Disaster recovery work is needed throughout the nation. Visit ucc.org/disasters if you would like to volunteer your time to help with recovery. You may also donate online at ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

6/1- Nick & Alycia Semanco (2022)
 6/1- Craig & Lori Spotts (1985)
 6/3- Rich & Bev Scott (1989)
 6/3- Greg & Jen Semanco (1995)
 6/9- Hank & Audrey Hummel (1979)
 6/10- Gary & Carla Keller (1989)
 6/15- Dion & Maggi Fessler (2002)
 6/18- Jack & Anne Fisher (1960)
 6/21- Joe & Deb Mattera (1975)
 6/27- Herm & Nadine Morgan (1987)
 6/28- Bob & Tina Kluge (1997)
 7/1- Bruce & Sally Krammes (1972)
 7/5- Bud & Linda Lopez (1969)
 7/17- Todd Roberts & Penny Shade (19)
 7/27- Bill & Heather Corby (2002)
 8/1- John & Linda Pritiskutch (1992)
 8/2- Corey & Tricia (Moyer) Mentzer (08)
 8/3- Christopher & Justene Frushon (12)
 8/4- Matt & Jeniva Unger (2007)
 8/6- Rob & Mel Wensel (1988)
 8/10- John & Tina Pettit (1997)
 8/11- Brian & Delia Edling (2001)
 8/14- Keith & Lisa Edling (2012)
 8/16- Jeff & Donna Spotts (1986)



ANNUAL CAR & TRUCK SHOW Saturday, August 5, 2023

Registration: 9 AM — 12 PM

Show: 12-3 PM; Awards: 4 PM (must be present)



First United Church of Christ
110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven
FREE ADMISSION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE

Music by: SpinJammers

*** Vendors by Invite *** No Alcohol *** Food & Drinks Available ***

Parking available at Penn State Schuylkill

For more information call Kenny @ 570-205-5465

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

6/1- Jocelyn (Rainey) Semanco (1999)
 6/3- James Miller (1941)
 6/5- Dave Williams (1949)
 6/7- Leroy Boyer (1970)
 6/8- Mackenzie Nye (2001)
 6/9- Hank Hummel (1951)
 6/14- Anne Fisher (1935)
 Josh Semanco (1997)
 Zack Semanco (1997)
 6/15- Betty Wingle (1946)
 6/16- Amy Buffington
 6/18- Kris Sonon (1979)
 6/20- Al Deatrach (1958)
 June Schoffstall (1934)
 6/23- Malaki Nye (2003)
 6/24- Larry Morgan (1953)
 6/25- Blanche Koehler (1931)
 6/28- Steve Murray (1951)
 6/30- Alex Alexander
 7/4- Bryce Moyer (1998)
 7/6- Kera Paul (2003)
 7/7- Kelti Ludwig (2010)
 7/8- Kenny Klinger (1957)
 Tommy Wensel (1996)
 Bill Wingle (1970)
 7/11- Hilda Offutt (1933)
 7/12- Marshall Frushon (2015)
 7/13- Liz (Luckenbill) Uniman (1989)
 7/14- Delia Edling (1977)
 Theo Stripe (2022)
 7/15- Tina Pettit (1971)
 7/17- Leanne Haeseler (1972)
 John Pettit, Jr. (1998)
 Jordan Pettit (1998)
 7/18- Doris Ney (1927)
 7/20- Brandon Haeseler (1996)
 7/21- Rebecca Hillje (1975)
 7/22- Sally Krammes (1950)
 7/23- Collin Fultz (1998)
 7/23- Bev Paul (1939)
 Deb Spotts (1957)
 7/24- Sharon Wagner (1977)
 7/25- Sharon Stidham (1956)
 7/26- Amy Moyer (1975)
 7/30- Brittany Bradley (1991)
 7/31- Pam Sonon (1979)
 8/1- Susan LaScala
 8/2- Gavin Fry (2003)
 8/5- Larry Beck (1957)
 Jeff Harner (1968)
 8/6- Lori Spotts (1962)
 8/8- Janene Ditzler (1970)
 8/11- Ryan Hillje (2009)
 8/12- Mark Dreibelbis Jr. (2008)
 8/14- Jared Lopez (2001)
 Lindy Unger (2008)
 8/15- Harris Bradley
 8/16- Max Bayer (2013)
 James Shaup (1956)
 8/17- Cathy Burian
 Nadine Morgan (1960)
 Wilbur Shaup (1929)
 8/18- Sylvia Beury (1947)
 8/19- Robert F. Shaup (1933)
 8/20- Randy Spotts (1954)
 8/22- Mike Donati (1969)
 Tracey Rondeau (1967)
 8/24- Robin Alexander
 8/28- Patricia Hipp (1951)
 8/29- Kyle Donati (2001)
 Wyatt Rondeau (2008)

