

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 (June, July, August) NEWSLETTER**  
is Sunday, May 12!

**FIRST CHURCH HERALD**

Vol. 43, Issue 2

Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

**SPRING 2024 (APRIL & MAY)**

# Seeing Jesus



# 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](mailto:firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net)

**WEBSITE** – [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org)

## **Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor**

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

(570) 385-5425    [firstuccpastor@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccpastor@verizon.net)    Cell (570) 617-7185

### **OTHER STAFF**

**Music Director – Jacqueline Engel**

**Church Secretary – Jen Semanco** (also Special Funds Treasurer)

**Church Sexton – Sue McGovern**

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

### **2024 CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

Harris Bradley; Brian Edling; Keith Edling; Rebecca Hillje; Carrie Ann Klinger; Kenny Klinger; Theresa Luckenbill; Penny Shade; Darren Walbridge; 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.

### **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.

## **SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN**

Happy Easter! Except Easter is over. But it isn't.

While Jesus's resurrection on a Sunday morning took place thousands of years ago, it happens every day of our lives, an eternal gift of salvation. For once and all time, Jesus gave his life that we might know God acts to save us--not to punish or condemn us--with a love that is as eternal as salvation.

Through his final words on the cross, Jesus spoke this truth, guiding us to live in such a way that we show our gratitude for God's grace and goodness. In the Seven Last Words, Jesus reminded us that forgiveness, salvation, community, righteousness, redemption, completeness, and unity with God are blessings we receive when we follow Jesus' teaching.

When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we realize he walks with us through every aspect of life. As bread from heaven and living water, he fills us whenever we eat and drink. As the light of the world, Jesus guides us in the dark. As the good shepherd, Jesus protects us from dangers in the field. As the resurrection and the life, Jesus leads us through death to new life. As the way, Jesus is the straight path through times of trouble. As the true vine, Jesus nurtures and sustains us so that we can bear the fruit of goodness, kindness, patience, faithfulness, self-control, love, joy, peace, and gentleness.

Just as God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, saying "I Am Who I Am," Jesus used the same words, "I Am" to assure us he was the Son of God, sent from God to show us a way to live that reveals who we are: unique individuals blessed with unique gifts who form the living Body of Christ through forgiveness, salvation, community, righteousness, redemption, completeness, and unity. As an Easter people, each day we discover resurrection life is eternal when we accept the gift of abundant life for today and forever.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Shawn*

While I am on vacation April 1-9, Rev. Ken McDowell (610-207-4783), St. Paul's Summer Hill, and Rev. Kevin Fruchtl (610-334-5130), St. Mark's Cressona, and St. John's Schuylkill Haven, will provide pastoral care.

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## **Sunday, April 7**

Music & Scripture with Chris Evans & Delia Edling!!

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## WORSHIP DURING EASTER

### Seeing Jesus

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 sent Jesus to save us and the world.

|                 |                                  |   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>April 7</b>  | <b>In the Room</b>               | Second Sunday of Easter<br>Music & Scripture with Chris Evans; Pastor Shawn & Jacqueie on vacation<br>John 20: 19-31<br>1 John 1:1-2:2                |
| <b>April 14</b> | <b>In Food and Drink</b>         | Third Sunday of Easter<br>John 6: 25-40<br>1 John 3: 1-7  |
| <b>April 21</b> | <b>In the Dark</b>               | Fourth Sunday of Easter; Earth Sunday; Spring Flower Sale Order Deadline<br>John 8: 12-19<br>1 John 3:11, 13-18, 23-24                                |
| <b>April 28</b> | <b>In the Fields</b>             | Fifth Sunday of Easter<br>John 10: 7-14<br>1 John 4: 7-21   |
| <b>May 5</b>    | <b>In Death</b>                  | Sixth Sunday of Easter; Sacrament of Communion<br>John 11: 17-27<br>1 John 5: 1-6   |
| <b>May 12</b>   | <b>In Times of Trouble</b>       | Seventh Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday; Mother's Day<br>Summer Newsletter Information Deadline<br>John 14: 1-12<br>1 John 5: 9-13<br>Acts 1: 1-11 |
| <b>May 19</b>   | <b>In Fruit-Bearing Branches</b> | Pentecost Sunday; Communion and Rite of Confirmation<br>John 15: 1-12<br>Acts 2: 1-21   |

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

### Communion & Food Pantry Donations **April 7 & May 5**

As we come to be fed at the Lord's Table, we remember those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. As more people seek assistance due to food insecurity, increased donations are needed at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, including all non-perishable foods, especially soup, vegetables, fruit; stuffing; cake mix; and juice. Thank you for caring for our neighbors!

### The Compassion Fund **April 21 & May 19**

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

### OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) **April 28**

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

### Strengthen the Church **May 12**

ON HOLY GROUND: Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, people across the United Church of Christ support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church.

### Special Offering Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Pentecost Sunday** (May 19) and **Anniversary Sunday** (May 26) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC. The envelope offerings collected for **Meat Bingo** (April 14) will go to the general budget.

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 totals for February 2024, plus a comparison to 2023 & 2022.

|                             | <u>Feb. 2024</u> | <u>Feb. 2023</u> | <u>Feb. 2022</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES –            | \$ 45,306.71     | \$ 46,020.17     | \$ 49,917.85     |
| REVENUE –                   | \$ 12,469.48     | \$ 11,741.89     | \$ 12,013.23     |
| Resources from Kline Fund – | \$ 49,225.00     | \$ 31,400.00     | \$ 28,900.00     |
| TOTAL REVENUE –             | \$ 61,694.48     | \$ 43,141.89     | \$ 40,913.23     |
| Gain/Loss –                 | \$ 16,387.77     | \$ -2,888.28     | \$ -9,004.62     |

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**Church Office Closed:  
Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)**

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## CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

**Baptism** – **Rowan Elizabeth Uniman**, daughter of Max and **Liz Luckenbill-Uniman** and little sister of Briar, was baptized on Sunday, March 24, 2024. Rowan’s sponsors are **Ali Marmas** and Kevin Marmas.

**Deaths** – **Jack Fisher** passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 and his services were held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Jack is survived by family and friends, including his wife **Anne Fisher**.

**Patricia E. Painter** passed away on Sunday, March 3, 2024. Pat is survived by the extended Spotts family and friends, including sons **Randy Spotts, Glenn Spotts, Darrell Spotts and Craig Spotts**.

## CONFIRMATION

### Confirmation Class, Sundays until Noon

For the months of April and May, confirmation class will end at noon. The last class will be May 12 with the Rite of Confirmation on May 19. If a confirmand is ill or will miss church for any reason, please let Pastor Shawn know. Confirmands are asked to sell Spring Flowers for a fund raiser. Orders are due Sunday, April 21. Confirmands will complete their Spring Flower Sale after worship on May 5 when people can pick up their orders at the Shaup Garage behind the church.

### Rite of Confirmation, Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 9:30 AM

Please join our three confirmands, Franklin Costenbader Jr., Macy Marmas, and Matt Marmas, as they complete their two years of preparation to confirm their baptisms and their faith in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls, 4/2-5/21

Have you turned down an opportunity with family or cut down on a favorite activity because you might fall? This program is designed for ages 60+ to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. The course is facilitated by a certified leader at no charge. Tuesdays, April 2-May 21, 10 AM-Noon, Alvernia University Pottsville. Register with Diakon Services at 570-624-3017 by 3/29.

## 2023 KLINE TITHE RECIPIENTS

At the February 18 Congregational Meeting, five organizations were selected to receive \$3000 each: Bridge 127, Hillside SPCA, Schuylkill Haven Fire Houses (\$1000 each), Schuylkill Hope and Servants to All.

## FUTURE GRADUATES

Congratulations to all of our Future 2024 Graduates! To our knowledge we have any 2 high school graduates this year... **Cole Paul** (Blue Mtn) and **Dwayne Reichert Jr** (Schuylkill Haven). Please notify the church office if we have overlooked a graduate, including college and grad school!

## CONSISTORY

Carrie Ann Klinger has ended her time as treasurer of the church. We are grateful for the years of service she has offered to Jesus Christ through the church. Rusty Searle submitted his resignation as a Consistory member after many years of faithful service. Thanks to him for his continuing commitment to the church as our primary greeter on Sunday mornings.

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### CONSISTORY MEETINGS: 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 16 (please note change in date); Tuesday, May 14

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## MEAT BINGOS

### Meat BINGO & Basket Raffle ---- Saturday, April 13

### Meat BINGO ---- Saturday, May 18

Please donate baskets, basket fillers, food items to sell and/or donate your time to help with the events. Doors open at 11 AM; games begin at 1 PM. Admission is \$20 which includes a game packet for the regular 20 games. Extra game packets, specials & raffles are extra. Food and refreshments are available. Profits from the bingos are placed in the church’s general budget to be used towards the everyday expenses. 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.

## SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)

**SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)** meets on the second Tuesday each month at 1 PM. 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.

April 9 – Ruby Tuesday’s, Pottsville; May 14 – Hoss’s, Cressona

## PENNSYLVANIA SE CONFERENCE

### **“You Are Not Alone” Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Saturday April 20, 1-5 pm, Free Event  
Calvary Reformed United Church of Christ, 640 Centre Av., Reading, PA 19601  
Learn about resources, connections and support for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Snacks & drinks provided, supervised children’s activities throughout the program, and handicap accessible. Hosted by PSEC Addiction & Recovery Task Force

### **Proposed Keystone Conference: Together We Are Stronger**

There is growing anticipation for what the four United Church of Christ conferences in Pennsylvania can accomplish together. Our **Together We Are Stronger** affirmation continues to drive our thinking and empower our spirit. For information, visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by the PSEC at [psec.org/keystone/](http://psec.org/keystone/). Share questions and comments by email at [Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com](mailto:Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com) or direct mail the Pennsylvania SE Conference Office. Remember to **Save the Date** for the joint meeting of all four conference areas, **June 7-9** at State College. Registration details and a Communications Booklet are available to prepare for the event.

## SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

### **Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting, May 5, 3-5 PM**

St. Peter’s UCC, Orwin, 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. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is searching presently for a chaplain, if you know someone who might be interested.

## 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. To date, the church has received \$10,367 toward our goal. Mark your gift “Boiler Donation” when you submit it to the church or look for specially marked envelopes in the Narthex.

## SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### **Clothing Giveaway**

**Saturday, April 13**

St. John’s UCC, 121 E. Main Street, Schuylkill Haven, is offering FREE summer clothing to the community on Saturday, April 13 (rain date Sunday, April 14) from 9 AM to Noon. If you would like to donate clean, gently used clothing, call St. John’s at 570-385-3080 Tuesdays and Thursday, 9:30 AM – 3 PM for drop off dates. Thank you from the St. John’s Mission Committee.

### **Monthly Food Pantry**

**April 19 & May 17, 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.

### **Bloodmobile**

**Thursday, May 9, 1-6 PM**

**Jerusalem Lutheran Evangelical Church, 252 Dock St.**

You must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be healthy to be able to donate blood. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.

### **Council of Churches Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 28, 7 PM**

St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, 1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, will host this meeting open to all church members. The Council offers a monthly food pantry for people in need, hosts a bloodmobile every other month, and assists with utilities emergencies on a limited basis. Ask Pastor Shawn for details.

## THANK YOU NOTES

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. There are also thank you notes for our support of the Summer Chaplaincy at Locust Lake State Park in 2023 and our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing!!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in Lenten and Easter worship services as worship leaders, liturgists, and musicians; who provided Easter dinner for two families; who prepared potato filling; and who thanked and praised God for Jesus Christ, who saves us and lives that we may live fully.



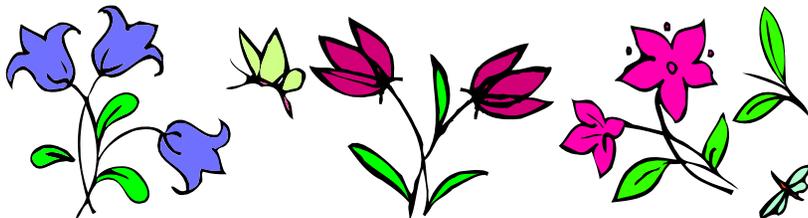
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 4/1- Lynn Moyer (1955)<br>4/4- Kaede Fessler (2003)<br>Reese Frushon (2020)<br>4/10- Iris Weller (1941)<br>4/11- Michael McCormick (2001)<br>Robyn Porter (1967)<br>4/15- Corey Spotts (1991)<br>4/17- Corin Paul (1980)<br>4/19- Daniel Devlin (2020)<br>Shawn Pritiskutch (2000)<br>Macy Marmas (2012)<br>4/20- Jake Haeseler (2000)<br>4/23- Emerson Spotts (2007)<br>4/28- Melissa Fox (1975)<br>5/1- Bobbie Donati (1961)<br>5/4- Megan Moyer (2000)<br>Richard Scott III (1999)<br>5/5- Wally Foose (1940) | 5/6- Steven Spotts (1982)<br>5/7- Kim Quinn (1970)<br>5/8- Brendan Fox (2001)<br>5/12- Claire Frushon (2017)<br>5/15- Misty Bressler (1963)<br>5/16- Rachel Sonnon (2001)<br>5/17- Anna (Fultz) Haller (1975)<br>5/18- Riley Bradley (2010)<br>Mary Alice Ross (1932)<br>5/19- Linda Spotts (1956)<br>5/20- Jacob Kluge (2000)<br>Pat Sprague (1936)<br>5/22- Ali Marmas (1984)<br>5/24- Maleca Tuite<br>5/25- Diane Newswanger (1959)<br>5/28- Brian Moyer (1968)<br>Briar Uniman (2020) |
|--|---|

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4/7- Don & Deb McCormick (1973)<br>4/15- Dwayne & Treasure Reichert (00)<br>4/20- Kris & Pam Sonon (2013)<br>4/27- Brad & Angela Moyer (1997)<br>5/3- Bill & Mandy Coffey (1986)<br>5/3- Ed & Ruth Ann Deschler (1997)<br>5/6- Dave & Linda Williams (1972) | 5/10- Ernie & Lynn Moyer (1975)<br>5/10- Jack & Corin Paul (2003)<br>5/19- Craig & Terri Luckenbill (1979)<br>5/22- Kevin & Ali Marmas (2010)<br>5/22- Tom & Mary Stewart (1999)<br>5/24- Tim & Cathy Burian (1997) |
|---|---|

*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.*



## 2024 SPRING FLOWER SALE

Orders are due by Sunday, April 21. Payment is due with the order.  
 All flowers can be picked up on Sunday, May 5, after worship,  
 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.

|   | <b>Color Choice</b> | <b>Amt. Ordered</b> | <b>Total Cost</b> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>11" Hanging Baskets -- \$16</b>  |                     |                     |                   |
| Nonstop Begonia   |                     |                     |                   |
| Calibrachoa   |                     |                     |                   |
| Fuchsia   |                     |                     |                   |
| Geranium  |                     |                     |                   |
| Lantana   |                     |                     |                   |
| Petunia – Trailing Type   |                     |                     |                   |
| Sun Patiens   |                     |                     |                   |
| <b>5" Zonal Geraniums -- \$5</b>  |                     |                     |                   |
| <b>5" Gerbera Daisies -- \$5</b>  |                     |                     |                   |
| <b>5" Dahlietta -- \$5</b>  |                     |                     |                   |
| <b>Bedding Plants</b> Flat=\$16    Half Flat=\$9    (smallest order allowed = ½ flat) |                     |                     |                   |
| Ageratum  |                     |                     |                   |
| Alyssum   |                     |                     |                   |
| Begonia   |                     |                     |                   |
| Impatiens   |                     |                     |                   |
| Marigold  |                     |                     |                   |
| Petunia   |                     |                     |                   |
| Salvia  |                     |                     |                   |
| Snapdragon  |                     |                     |                   |
| Vinca   |                     |                     |                   |
| Zinnia  |                     |                     |                   |
| <b>Grand Total:</b>   |                     |                     |                   |

The proceeds will benefit the Confirmation Class of 2024. Please give your order & payment to a Confirmand, Pastor Shawn or the Office.