



The First
United
Presbyterian
Church
of Crafton
Heights

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February 2019

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The Runner

Think about all the movies you've ever watched... and then try to recall one that was profoundly spiritual. What films have you seen that are deep with meaning and convey a sense of the Holy? Where has Hollywood helped you get a glimpse of something real and profound? As I stitched together a list like that in the comfort of my warm study last month, a few came to mind for me: *Children of Men*, *Hotel Rwanda*, and of course *Cool Hand Luke*. If you know me well, that list won't surprise you. One such list that *did* surprise me, however, was when the British newspaper *The Independent* labeled a 1993 film as "the most spiritual film of all time."

I'm here to tell you that none of the movies on my list got that attention from *The Independent*. I would suspect that *The Independent's* selection might also surprise you: *Groundhog Day* – a film ostensibly about, to quote Phil Connors, the "one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather."

Yet as you watch that film, I suspect that you can get a glimmer of what the editors of *The Independent* were saying – that it's not really a film about a groundhog, or about a town – it's about discovering the nature and meaning of life well-lived.

The tradition of Groundhog's Day stems from a much older celebration in the Christian church: that of *Candlemas*. February 2 is 40 days after Christmas, and it is the day on which the church has noted the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple by his parents. On that day, an ancient prophet named Simeon held the baby and proclaimed that this child would be "a light for revelation" to all the people on earth.

Some 1600 years ago a church leader came up with the "bright" idea (see what I did there) of marking the halfway point of winter with a service that combined remembering the prophecy of Simeon about Jesus being the light of the world AND the dedication of the year's candle supply for church and home use.

My point here is that Candlemas is a day for celebrating promises we can't necessarily see or prove. An old man holds a baby in the temple, not knowing how close that baby would come to being wiped out by Herod's goons... a congregation lights a candle, hoping that the flame will withstand the breeze and the dark... you and I get up in the morning and trust that in the midst of the dark and cold, God is still there with us and for us.

Many folks find that February, in spite of being the shortest month in terms of days, is one of the longest in terms of our experience. In fact, naturalist and writer Joseph Wood Krutch said, "The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism, but February... Spring is too far away to comfort even by anticipation, and winter long ago lost the charm of novelty. This is the very three a.m. of the calendar."

This month, remember that we are a people who hold a promise, and who are given the great gift of this day in which to celebrate, to follow, to love, and to learn. One of the most revealing scenes in *Groundhog Day* is where Phil asks a man at the bar, "What would you do if you were stuck in one place and every day was exactly the same and nothing that you did mattered?" Thanks be to God, there are candles to light, promises to make, and hope on the horizon. I'll look for you in worship!

Pastor Dave

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 am Exercise	2
3 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Youth Group Skating Party	4 9:00 am Exercise	5 8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Preschool Board 7:30 pm Dartball @ CHUP	6 9:00 am Exercise	7 6:30 pm Steering Committee 6:30 pm West Branch Mtg @ Bethany	8 9:00 am Exercise	9
10 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Annual Meeting 2:30-4 pm Malawi Meeting	11 9:00 am Exercise 7:00 pm Deacons	12 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Dartball @ TLC II The Table	13 9:00 am Exercise 5:45 pm Session Dinner 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Session Mtg	14	15 9:00 am Exercise	16
17 8-1 Blood Drive 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Coffee Hour	18 9:00 am Exercise	19 8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Dartball @ UCC	20 9:00 am Exercise	21	22 9:00 am Exercise	23
24 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	25 9:00 am Exercise	26 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Dartball @ CHUP	27 9:00 am Exercise 6-7:30 pm Preschool Family Fun Night	28 6:30 pm Congregational Life		

Meetings

Session

February 13th

5:45 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Meeting

Deacons

February 11th

7:00 pm

Steering Committee

February 7th

6:30 pm

Preschool Board

February 5th

7:30 pm

News

Annual Meeting February 10

There will be a Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights on Sunday, February 10 following the 11 am service of worship.

This meeting has been called for the purposes of

- 1) receiving the reports of the Session and Ministry Teams and Groups of the church;
- 2) remembering those who have passed from our midst in 2018; and
- 3) any other such business as is properly brought forth for this gathering.

We will precede the meeting with a soup, salad, and dessert luncheon. We anticipate that printed copies of the Annual Report will be available prior to the meeting. If you'd like to have one mailed to your home, please contact the church office at 412-921-6153. Thank you.

Join us for soup, salad and dessert immediately following Worship as we discuss the business of the church.



Preschool

God created all the creatures in the sea, on the land and in the sky. That was the bible lesson we were learning as we explored the oceans. The children loved discovering new fish, sharks and creatures living in the salty waters. Our bulletin boards came alive with the assorted fish we were making. February will bring us a fun month of dinosaur discovery!

Join us for our Family Fun Night “Super Science Spectacular!” We will need volunteers to help us on Wednesday, February 27, from 6-7:30 pm. Let Cheri Mack know if you’d like to be part of our “Glow in the Dark” fun and science experiments! cherischool@comcast.net

Mark your calendars for Preschool Sunday. On March 3, we will celebrate this ministry during Worship by welcoming Preschool families, and displaying the children’s art work and photos. Come share the joy!



The Open Door

Help Wanted! We are in the process of replacing our old doorbell technology at the church. In the meantime, we are looking for dedicated volunteers to come and read a book for a few hours while opening the door and signing in visitors during After School. If this sounds like an easy job right up your alley, contact marla@opendoorpgh.org to fill in for a day or two!

Have you thought about **volunteering with our After School Program**? It's one of our most intimate programs, and it's always our goal to give as many kids personalized attention as possible-- which means we always need loving adults (or teens) to come and make a connection with a special child. If you are interested, but not quite ready to commit, contact marla@opendoorpgh.org and ask to receive weekly emails about what's going on in After School and where we could use some extra hands and extra prayers.

Mark your calendars for the Youth Group’s **Annual Baked Potato Luncheon**, currently scheduled for Sunday, March 17th! Look for our ad in the March Runner.

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Members: Joanne Holt, Alice Schnelbach, Tina Dame, Ed Kososki, Maryanne Richardson, Cheryl Reed, Joey Szumigalski & family, Justin & Eric Barth, Joe Connor, the homebound, and those in caring facilities.

Friends & Relatives: Laurie Trunick, Tyler Schrenker, Bill Gracey, Ellie Musolino, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Lorraine Barth, Eadie Children, Betty Hartlep, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern, Elijah Todd.

Lenten Dinner & Worship

Wednesday evenings March 6 – April 10

Pot luck dinner begins at 6:00 pm

Worship service begins at 7:00 pm

Bring a dish, pizza or dessert to share
Everyone is welcome!

We are in of Helpers to set up for the dinners, make coffee, set out utensils and Clean up Helpers too. Please contact Cheri Mack or Barb Prevost to learn more about how you can participate.

New Ways to Give

There are several new, convenient ways to financially support the ministries of CHUP.

Online giving: Go to www.chup.org and click the "Contribute" tab.

App Giving: Go to the App store or Google Play and search for "Give Plus Church" to download for FREE.

Mobile Giving: Text \$amount to 412-888-0842.

All three options allow for one-time giving, or you can set up regularly scheduled automatic withdrawals. Contact the Stewardship Team for more information.

February Birthdays

1st Timothy Durkin
2nd Marcy Davis
6th Jonathan Mack
Jackson Dix
Hazel Donovan
7th Becky Schrenker
10th Nicole Zeller
11th T. J. Schramm
12th Denise Musko
14th Jonathan Walker
16th Paige Neidbala
17th Katie Phelps
18th Glenn Mack
Sharon Niedbala
19th Cori Shrader
21st Paul Creely
22nd Linda Schramm
23rd Brittany Schrenker
25th Bob Mikula
Levi Veltman
27th Leslie Fisher
28th Gabe Kish

Sympathy

To the Munro/Lightell families on the death of **Charlene Hoffman**, who passed away on December 31.

Congratulations

To Joe & Delia Connor on the birth of daughter **Arya Jane** on January 21. Joe is currently serving in the USAF.

Articles for the March Runner are due by Sunday, February 17.

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*Worship
Schedule*
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Faithbuilders
All ages
9:30 am
Worship
11:00 am



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A Monthly Newsletter
Published by
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Sunday, February 17