



The First
United
Presbyterian
Church
of Crafton
Heights

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May 2019

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The Runner

Beloved in the Lord,

Many of you will remember that in 2010 we were selected by the Lily Endowments to receive a grant allowing for a Pastoral Sabbatical. For three months, my family and I were away from Crafton Heights, seeking to renew and refresh our sense of call to the ministry and to this place. In some ways, it's hard to believe that it's been nine years since that time. You may be aware that the Session has granted me another 3 month sabbatical – this one will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For the sake of those who might be unfamiliar with the concept of a Sabbatical, I'll share some information published by our siblings in the United Brethren Church.

What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is a time to focus in-depth on things that are important to a person's work and life with the church. Sabbaticals for pastors are highly recommended in order to renew the calling and creativity of our spiritual leaders. Such sabbaticals should include intentional times for reflection, rekindling the spirit, and deepening spiritual life and family relationships.

Without time off, clergy are good candidates for burnout. Pastors are on call around the clock and are "among the last generalists," required to be orators, theologians, counselors, and administrators.

One study has shown that in a typical church, the pastor is required to wear at least 16 different and distinct ministry hats. Wearing all those hats is often what he's called—and paid—to do. But it's unrealistic to think a person responsible for such a huge spiritual role can do it without periodically getting away for an extended time of renewal. There is a need for fulltime ministry professionals to be refreshed and restored physically, emotionally, and spiritually for their ministry effort. Effective pastoral service requires a greater than normal commitment of time and effort, and families often suffer due to this huge responsibility. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing...

What's the Purpose of a Pastor Sabbatical?

In general terms, a sabbatical strengthens and further develops a pastor's ability to serve the church. This happens when a pastor experiences the results of a well-planned Sabbath. These results include the following:

- **New Perspective:** *Perhaps most significant, a pastor will gain a new understanding of the world in which his church ministers. This will deepen his own insight and positively affect his preaching and his service.*
- **Spiritual Renewal:** *One of the easiest places to dry out spiritually is in the pulpit. A pastor is constantly talking and teaching about the spiritual life. But because it is so much a part of his conversation and work, maintaining and developing his own spiritual life seems less important. So it is easy to neglect. A pastor sabbatical can be a time to renew spiritual disciplines that got lost in the busy-ness of life.*
- **Rest:** *Pastor sabbaticals are not vacations. However, intense stress needs more than a week or two to break away from. It will likely take a pastor a month just to unwind from the stresses of everyday ministry.*

(continued on next page)

Pastor's Letter

(continued from page 1)

- **Education:** *Whether or not he actually earns a degree or certificate, a pastor sabbatical is educational. He will learn from his travels, from his research, from new relationships, and from quiet times alone with God.*
- **Renewed Passion and Vision:** *All of the above results lead to this. A pastor will return from his sabbatical with a clearer sense of mission and the renewed energy to work toward accomplishing it.*

Why do We Want our Pastor to Do This?

- *Being an effective pastor involves continual spiritual growth.*
- *Parish ministry today is changing rapidly. Pastors need to retreat periodically to retool or refocus their ministry approaches.*
- *Pastors work long, hard hours without weekends off, and are rarely afforded the luxury of having two consecutive days off every week.*
- *Because of the stress of doing ministry in this changing culture and because of the long hours of work each week, without regular renewal time (a sabbatical) pastors risk facing symptoms of emotional burnout and poor physical health.*

How does the Congregation Benefit from the Pastor's Sabbatical?

- *A pastor will almost assuredly come back with refreshed energy and a clearer focus for ministry in our midst.*
- *The congregation's ministry will get even stronger, and one's pastor will be healthier and doing better ministry.*
- *With the pastor gone for a while, individuals in the church can use their individual gifts in new and different ways.*
- *A church will hopefully develop the awareness that they should not become overly dependent on their pastor.*
- *A sabbatical provides the congregation an opportunity hear a different voice in the pulpit for an extended period of time.*

Next month, I'll share more about the ways in which I hope to spend the months of June, July, and August. For now, I offer these thoughts in the hopes that you might think about ways that you can experience growth and renewal by trying something different in the practice of your own faith and ministry. If you'd like to talk about how and why a Sabbatical makes sense in our own context, I'd be delighted to share a cup of coffee and some time together. I am deeply grateful for the decades we've spent in ministry together, and look forward to building on that in the years to come. I hope that we'll see each other before the Sabbatical begins – I'll look for you in Worship!

Pastor Dave



Sabbatical Preacher for 2019

It is with joy that the Session welcomes Sonya-Marie Morley to CHUP! Sonya-Marie has agreed to fill the pulpit for most of the weeks that Pastor Dave will be on Sabbatical this summer.

Sonya-Marie is a Deacon at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is nearing the completion of her studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. For the past year she has worked with the First U.P. Church in Rennerdale as a Seminary Intern and she is also a support group facilitator for Healing Hearts Bereavement Group. Prior to her theological studies, Sonya-Marie worked in the Financial Services industry; she also has significant experience in the field of Social

Work.

The Session is convinced that Sonya-Marie will bring an important voice and presence to the congregation during this important time in the life of our congregation. Her first Sunday with us is May 26, which also marks the final 11:00 worship service for the spring. We will worship at 10:00 in the months of June, July, and August.

Please join us for the CHUP All Church Picnic Sunday, June 23 2:00—5:30 pm Big Pavilion at Crafton Park

Bring a dish to share

CHUP will provide
chicken & drinks

Snacks and apps served
all afternoon

Dinner will be ready at 4

Group games from
2:30-3:30

For more information,
please speak with a
Congregational Life
Committee Member: Jess
Simcox, Don Prevost,
Stacey Donovan, Joann
Mikula, Gabe Kish, Cheri
Mack, Ray Schaffer, or
Barb Prevost.



Sign ups are on the board
in the back of the
Sanctuary.

We hope to see you there!

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am Exercise	2 6:30 pm West Branch Meeting @ Carnegie	3 9:00 am Exercise 6-8 pm Cross Trainers Signups	4
5 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	6 9:00 am Exercise 6:00 pm Stewardship	7 8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group	8 9:00 am Exercise	9 6:30 pm Steering Committee Afterschool Ends	10 9:00 am Exercise	11
12 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	13 9:00 am Exercise 7:00 pm Deacons	14 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Preschool Board The Table	15 9:00 am Exercise 9:45 am Preschool Graduation 5:45 pm Session Dinner 6:30 pm Sess Worship 7:00 pm Session Mtg	16	17 9:00 am Exercise Friday Night Rec	18
19 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	20 9:00 am Exercise	21 Election Day 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group	22 9:00 am Exercise	23 6:30 pm Congregational Life 6:30 pm Presbytery Meeting @ Hampton	24 9:00 am Exercise	25
26 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:00 pm Youth Group	29 9:00 am Exercise	30	31 9:00 am Exercise	

Meetings

Session
 May 15th
 5:45 pm Dinner
 6:30 pm Worship
 7:00 pm Meeting

Deacons

May 7th
 7:00 pm

Steering Committee

May 9th
 6:30 pm

Preschool Board

May 7th
 7:30 pm

News

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- Apple juice
- Beef Stew
- Chicken Helper
- Giant Eagle Gift Cards

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 Ron Gielarowski or Dani Anderson for more information.



Gabe Kish, Sonya-Marie Morley, Dani Anderson

Preschool

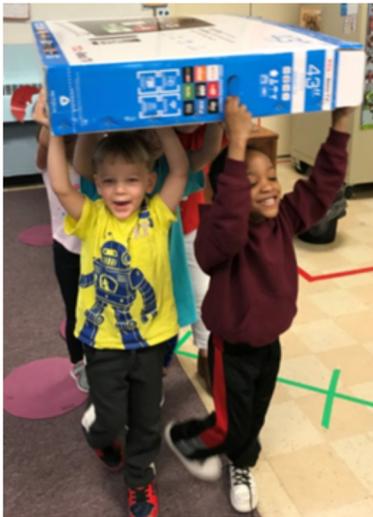
Spring has Sprung at Preschool!

We made an assortment of bugs to eat. We used cucumbers, carrots, peppers, oranges, apples, strawberries & bananas. We were also creative using pretzels, cheerios & raisins! We were busy learning about ants, caterpillars and butterflies. The PK kids were strong like ants carrying big boxes, and moving heavy bins. They practiced their counting skills counting ants at the picnic, and caps to make caterpillars. We created bug cities as we continued to learn about an assortment of bugs.

Would you like to see more pictures of our busy days? Follow us on Facebook!

Join us for our last day of school program on May 15 at 9:45 am. The children will sing a few songs and we'll have a photo slide show of the year!

Do you know a child who needs to be part of this? We only have a few spots left for school in the fall, call now for an application!



The Open Door

Community Kickball Fundraiser

Saturday, June 1

2:00-8:00 pm

Westwood Elementary

Join us as we raise money for our awesome summer camp and look to bring all of our neighbors together! The event will be complete with a kickball tournament (teams must be pre-registered), an excellent selection of local food vendors, auction items, and activities for the kids. All proceeds will go towards funding Cross Trainers. Here's why:

- It costs **\$47,998.80** for six weeks of camp.
- It costs **\$799.98** per camper to attend camp.
- We only ask funding directly from campers for **\$1,800** of the total **\$47,998.80**.

Why? Because no child should lose access to life-changing experiences due to financial burden.

We are collecting as much money before June 1st as we can, by:

- Partnering with local businesses for sponsorships, and advertising for them in return.
- Seeking a special donor who can sponsor us for the fee of our great event space at Westwood.
- Recruiting teams of adults who will raise money while playing kickball for a great cause.
- Asking for donations toward tangible things at our donation table, like new dodgeballs.
- Raising awareness in our community for the difference makers all around us.

Do you know a local business owner who would love to support a good cause in their community, and who would benefit from getting their name out there? Would you like to make a donation toward something worthwhile, and be able to see exactly where your money is going? Do you want to have a hand in making this neighborhood a great place to be? Contact marla@opendoorpg.org for information about sponsorships, donations, kickball tournament participation, volunteering for the event, or anything else under the sun!



How to donate:

- use PayPal on our website, or
- make out a check to The Open Door with "Kickball Fundraiser" in the memo, and mail it to 50 Stratmore Street, Pittsburgh PA 15205



Important Dates

- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 3 | Cross Trainers Summer Camp (K-5)
Sign Up Night
6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall
(during Friday Night Rec) |
| May 9 | Last Afterschool |
| May 17 | Last Friday Night Rec |
| June 1 | Kickball Fundraiser |
| June 17 | Cross Trainers Begins |
| July 26 | Cross Trainers Ends |

Deacons

One Great Hour of Sharing

Before I moved to Pittsburgh almost 10 years ago, I lived in a town called Findlay, located in northwest Ohio. 12 years ago, multiple days of rain caused the local river to flood its banks spanning two counties. If you have never experienced a flood, I can tell you that the flood is not over when the waters recede. It takes years to recover.

Our friends in Malawi are now finding themselves recovering from a massive flood. A tropical cyclone slammed eastern Africa in early March, bringing 5 straight days of rain. And let me tell you, their situation is much worse than northwest Ohio 12 years ago. With 17 out of 28 districts affected, Malawi has been forced to declare a State of Disaster. Nearly a million people have been displaced, livestock have drowned, buildings and crops destroyed, and 56 souls were lost. Blantyre and Mulanje are two of the regions hit the hardest.

Southern Malawi already has organizations in place to help manage disasters. One of the many helpers is the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, or PDA. This is the same organization that our adult Texas mission team works with.

Friends, two times a year, we here at CHUP take part in special offerings meant to help the greater Presbyterian church. At Easter, we collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS). The Board of Deacons has decided to split OGHS donations 50/50. 50% will go directly to flood relief in Malawi, and the other 50% will be directed to the PC(USA) for their work with hunger relief, disaster relief, and development of people. The Deacons have already given a contribution to help with flood relief directly.

We thank you for all the generous donations this year. With your help, we were able to collect over \$1800 for the OGHS. If you would like to learn more, please speak with any Deacon.

Thanks!

-Matt Adler, Deacon



Prayers, Joys & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Members: Aliza Ciechanowski, Barbara Wasner, Eleanor Arlet, Lil McConnell, 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: Janie Hervert, Diane Miller, Laurie Trunick, Tyler Schrenker, Bill Gracey, Ellie Musolino, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Lorraine Barth, Eadie Children, Betty Hartlep, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern, Elijah Todd.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brian and Elyse Buckley on the birth of their daughter, Claire Irene Buckley, on April 7.

Congratulations to Susan Chacon and Devon Taylor, who exchanged vows of marriage on April 14.

Congratulations to Kristie Connor and Dave Powell on the birth of their son Keion, on April 20.

Congratulations to Corie Bres and Christian Martine, who exchanged vows of marriage on April 27.

Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Ruth Kutz, who passed away on April 18. A memorial service will be held Thursday, May 23, at 11:00 am at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies near Bridgeville. Contact Funeral Director Jim Stover 412-921-0213 for details. Cards may be sent to Janice Jenkins (daughter), 333 Powell Rd, Smithville, TX, 78957.

May Birthdays

1st Callan McNamara
 4th Jacob Lane
 Dennis Lane
 6th Brian Donovan
 7th Mason Jameson
 8th Jared Fuhs
 Brittany Mankie
 Maryanne Richardson
 Marla Harkins
 9th Tara Reed Julian
 11th Mikayla Walker
 12th Erlina Mae Adler
 13th Raymond Schaffer
 15th Lil McConnell
 16th Olive Donovan
 18th Rachael Sam
 21st Brandon Austin
 Trevin Powell
 23rd Becky Kelly
 26th Christina Dame
 27th Callan Schrenker
 28th Tranter Butti
 29th Stephanie Miller
 Wilson



*Dave Carver, Sonya-Marie Morley,
Erlina Mae Adler*

Articles for the June Runner are due by Sunday, May 19.

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May
2019

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

"The Runner"
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