



The First  
United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Crafton  
Heights

David B. Carver,  
Pastor

50 Stratmore St  
Pittsburgh, PA  
15205-3640

412-921-6153

www.chup.org

chup@chup.org

February 2020

In This Issue:

- Pastor's Letter 1
- Calendar 2
- Meetings 3
- Preschool 4
- Prayers 5

# The Runner

February 2020

In 2011, an anonymous producer in Los Angeles released a spoof video featuring the image of artist Rebecca Black appearing to sing her song “Friday” (which became a “hit”, oddly enough, because so many people appeared to *dislike* it – but that’s a story for another month). The version of “Friday” to which I refer was the launch of what has become a real internet sensation: *Bad Lip Reading*. The premiere video features all of the images from the original video, but all of the lyrics have been replaced by a description of a gang fight.

After “Friday/Gang Fight” was released, it was followed by a number of other songs that were given the *Bad Lip Reading* treatment. In each case, the original artists appeared to be singing something that was nonsensical, incongruous, or even antithetical to the message of the original tune. And then in September of 2011, the producer behind these efforts struck gold when he matched portions of a speech given by Presidential hopeful Rick Perry with invented dialogue that seemed to fit his lip movements perfectly. After that aired on the *Ellen* show, a genre was born – or at least defined. If you were to Google “Bad Lip Reading”, you’d discover that every major and many minor politician has been the subject of these satirical barbs, along with the NFL, the royal wedding, *The Hunger Games*, and dozens of others.

The “recipe” for each episode is the same: video footage plays of a movie or a personality speaking, but the original audio has been removed and other dialogue inserted for comedic or sarcastic effect. Football players talking about getting ready for tea parties, Yoda singing to Luke Skywalker about the dangers of seagulls, and other such nonsense have been featured. I’m here to tell you that it’s a clever concept, and often quite well done... as long as it stays on YouTube, where it belongs.

Too often, I’m afraid, we settle for bad lip reading in other places in our world. One of those places, I’m sorry to say, is the church of Jesus Christ. How many times have we come into a room and it all *looks* like we’d expect, and there is a worship leader who appears to be speaking for the Divine... only instead of authentically echoing the Gospel call to reconciliation and community, the words that come out are saying, essentially, “Welcome to xxxx church, where we love everybody with the love of Jesus... EXCEPT FOR YOU!” A leader or a member of a congregation who is in a position to represent the amazing love and grace of God, and ought to be doing so, instead is saying, effectively, “We are so glad to have a church here that can be full of OUR KIND of people...”

The sad part of all of that is that while the original YouTube producer knew all along that he would be deliberately misrepresenting the dialogue on the screen, and indeed makes sure that every viewer is aware of this (the channel is called, after all, *BAD Lip Reading*), I’ve never encountered a bad lip reader in church who made any efforts to acknowledge that exclusionary or hateful speech, gossip, or innuendo was anything less than the truth.

Some, and perhaps most of the blame for this can rest with the speaker who either intentionally misrepresents the Gospel or simply misunderstands it. But some of it must lie with those of us who listen as well. We listen with half an ear, or we pick out what we think we want to hear, or we flat out don’t hear at all – but then we act like we do. And then we move ahead in life having acted on poor information or distorted reality.

My hope and prayer for us as we enter into a new season of “Ordinary Time” at church is that we each will be attentive to the words that we hear, speak, and repeat, and that we will make every effort to be *good* lip readers and authentic communicators of the welcoming love of Jesus Christ. I’ll look forward to seeing you in worship, where many of the words will be on the screen and, by the grace of God, we can hear them together!

Pastor Dave

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Youth Group 30 Hour Famine
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:30 pm Dartball @ CHUP 7:30 pm Preschool Board	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Officer/ Leader Retreat	<b>8</b> 8:30 am Officer/ Leader Retreat
<b>9</b> 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Youth Group Ice Skating 5:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Deacons	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:30 pm Dartball @ TLC II The Table	<b>12</b> 5:45 pm Session Dinner 6:30 pm Sess Worship 7:00 pm Session Mtg	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Presbytery Meeting @ PTS	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Texas Mission Begins
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Women's Grp 7:30 pm Dartball @ UCC	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Texas Mission Returns
<b>23</b> 8 am -1 pm Blood Drive 9:30 am Faithbuilders 11:00 am Worship 7:00 pm Youth Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Women's Grp 6:00 pm Preschool Raffle Drawing 7:30 pm Dartball @ CHUP	<b>26</b> Ash Wednesday 6:15 pm potluck Dinner 7:00 pm Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

# Meetings

## Session

February 12

5:45 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Meeting

## Deacons

February 10

6:30 pm

## Preschool Board

February 4

7:30 pm

## Ash Wednesday

February 26

Potluck Dinner 6:15 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

# News

## Lenten Dinners & Worship

Wednesday Evenings

February 26 – April 1

Pot luck dinner begins at 6:15 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.

## Leadership Retreat

February 7 6:30-8:30 pm and

February 8 8:30 am-3:30 pm

All Elders, Deacons, and Committee leaders are invited to attend our Annual Leadership Retreat. On Friday, February 7, from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, and again on Saturday, February 8, from 8:30 am-3:30 pm, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for Worship, meals, fellowship, and to consider where God is calling us in 2020.

## Food Pantry Needs

Cereal, apple juice, apple sauce, peanut butter & jelly, canned chicken, pasta, tuna and chicken helper, mac & cheese, rice and pasta sides, and snack bars. Please speak with Mary Stacy 412-922-7655 or Terri Dorman 412-921-7124 with any questions.

## Blood Drive

February 23

8 am—1 pm

The next CHUP Blood Drive will take place on **February 23** from 8:00 am– 1:00 pm. To schedule your life-saving appointment, please email [chup-bloodrides@gmail.com](mailto:chup-bloodrides@gmail.com) or speak with Michele Kish 412-922-1950.

# Preschool



Join us February 25 from 6-7 pm for the Preschool Fundraiser Vacation Drawing and Art Show! We are excited to see who will be the lucky winner of the \$2,500 vacation package provided by Litterini Travel. A huge thank you for the preschool families who sold out of tickets in less than 2 days! Our preschool children have been exploring art since the middle of January as they create group art for the art show! We will continue to learn about famous artists and unique art forms as they make one-of-a-kind masterpieces for the art show.

January was a fun month learning about what animals do for during the winter. Some hibernate, some migrate and some adapt to the cold weather. The children loved the animal pelts and displays we borrowed from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Seeing the resources up-close gave the children the opportunity to touch the thick fur of the fox, rabbit and raccoon and have the ability to examine the squirrels to see their claws, feel their ears and measure how long they were.

Registration is going on now for the 2020/21 preschool year. Children must be three years old before December 2. Space is available in the preschool class and the pre-k class. Please contact Cheri Mack for more information and an application.

---

## **Annual Meeting March 1**

There will be a Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights on Sunday, March 1 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 2019; and
- 3) any other such business as is properly brought forth for this gathering.

We will precede the meeting with a 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.

# Prayers, Joys & Concerns

## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Cheryl Shaw, Kitty Kistler, Eva Neszpaul, Aliza Ciechanowski, John Fullwood, Linnea Kunicky, Gabe Kish, Fran Andrews, Glenn Mack, Clare Weaver, Marge Freeman, Barbara Wasner, Eleanor Arlet, Alice Schnelbach, Tina Dame, Maryanne Richardson, Cheryl Reed, Joey Szumigalski & family, Justin & Eric Barth, Joe Connor, the homebound, and those in caring facilities.

**Friends & Relatives:** Dawn Sedlock, Elmer Trunick, Frieda Jones, Pauline Whitaker, Tim Murray, Janie Hervert, Laurie Trunick, Ellie Musolino, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Lorraine Barth, Eadie Children, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern.

### Do you have prayer needs?

Send your joys and concerns to [prayer@chup.org](mailto:prayer@chup.org) and everyone on our email prayer chain will be notified.

If you would like to receive prayer notifications, there are three ways to sign up:

*Visit* [www.chup.org](http://www.chup.org),  
*Email* [chup@chup.org](mailto:chup@chup.org),  
 or *Call* the church office  
 412-921-6153.

### More Ways to Give

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

**Online giving:** Go to [www.chup.org](http://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

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

## CHUP Online

Did you know that you can view the Runner in full color on our website? Back issues, too! Please visit

[www.chup.org](http://www.chup.org) to find newsletters, sermons, prayer concerns, giving opportunities, announcements, and information on how you can become involved in our many ministries.

Articles for the March Runner are due by Sunday, February 16.

First United Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights  
50 Stratmore Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 862**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**A S H**  
**WEDNESDAY**

**6:15 pm Potluck Dinner**  
**7:00 pm Worship Service**

**February**  
**2020**

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

*"The Runner"*  
A Monthly Newsletter  
Published by  
The First United  
Presbyterian  
Church of Crafton Heights  
50 Stratmore Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Articles for the  
March Runner  
Are due on or before  
**Sunday, February 16**