



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor
www.chup.org
July 2020

“Are we there yet?”

Are there any of us who haven't asked – or heard – that question a thousand times? We've left where we used to be and we're headed toward somewhere else and now we're just waiting. We're bored. We're antsy. Maybe we're sad about what we've left behind or the direction we're heading. Maybe we're tired of being on the move.

Are we there yet?

On our best days, we try to be soothing: “No, sweetheart, not yet. It'll be a while yet. Try to sleep. Try to read. Try to remember...” On days when we're less than our best, we fall short of that: “How many times do I have to tell you? I don't know when this accident will be cleared...I'm not in charge of the flight schedule...”

In so many ways, our congregation and our culture is in an “Are we there yet?” moment. We just want to KNOW what's going to happen in terms of school and work starting up again, or if there will be protests blocking the roads, or when we can come back to church, or what's going on in the government... We are tired of not knowing.

And beloved, let me tell you that I hear you. And it would be so much better if we could ask some of those questions while we were together in person. Only we're still not sure whether that's the most loving thing to do right now.

Your Session has empowered a COVID-19 Task Force to help us consider the issues related to congregational gatherings and building use in times of a pandemic. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to the survey. As of now, we have determined that the best practice is to focus on some smaller programs that put people who have critical needs together: allowing for the use of our building by the 12 step groups, arranging for youth and children's programming to take place under some stringent guidelines, etc.

Nobody wants to worship in person more than I do, but the reality is that we have not yet found trustworthy research that indicates that our style of worship (sitting indoors and singing loudly!) is safe. As I write this, the New York Times is reporting that five different outbreaks of Coronavirus this week can be traced to congregations in West Virginia. I hope that we'll find some way to be physically together, but in the meantime let's remember to check in with each other while we're still “on the way”.

Think about the people who sat in the pew ahead of you or behind you the last few times you were in worship. I bet that you didn't do a lot of phone calling with those folks, or emailing, but you checked in two or three times a month. You saw photos of new pets or heard stories of amazing children. You're not sitting with those people now. Will you call them, or text? Will you send a card and be connected somehow?

We are neither where we used to be nor where we are going. And yet... and yet... we are still us. Let us be the church even while the building is closed. If you are having trouble connecting to our online worship, or if you'd like to have a more personal connection with someone in the days to come please call or email and let us know. We'll get there, friends. Until then, I'm glad to journey with you.



Pastor Dave

News

Task Force

As we continue to learn more about the realities of life in the time of coronavirus, the Session has commissioned a COVID-19 Task Force to offer leadership and guidance on the best practices for our faith community.

While we are still prohibiting in-person worship and any large gatherings for the time being, we have been working toward making the building safe for some of our smaller ministries. The following guidelines have been adopted to enable approved small groups to use the building in a safe manner:

1. Upon entering building people must sanitize or wash hands
2. All groups must record attendance (for contact tracing if needed)
3. Masks must be worn unless prohibited by a medical condition
4. Any food or drink provided must be sealed/prepackaged/single serving
5. All areas used are to be sanitized after use with product provided by CHUP
6. Should anyone in a group be diagnosed with COVID 19 we request that someone from the group immediately contact Dani Anderson: 412-921-9821, and also notify any group attendees for the prior 2 weeks.

We will update the CHUP community often as we work through the safety considerations of returning to regular building use. Please refer to upcoming Runner issues, the weekly bulletin announcements, and our website for notifications. If you have questions about these guidelines or about your group using the building, please contact Dani Anderson 412-921-9821.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience!

Blood Drive Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported our very successful and much appreciated blood drive on June 7. Mark your calendars for our next blood drive on September 13. For more information, please email chupblooddrives@gmail.com.

School Lunches

The church is now a pick-up location for the meals offered by the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Breakfasts and lunches for anyone 18 and under are available while supplies last from 11 – 1 pm.

Cross Trainers

Cross Trainers summer camp will take place July 6-31, weekdays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Space is limited. To register, or for more information, please contact Mike Ball mike@chup.org.

Clean up at CHUP

Calling all members and friends who are available to help deep clean the building!

We want to take advantage of this time while the building is closed to clean out some areas, deep clean other areas and all around redd-up. We will start at 8:30 am on Wednesday, July 1. We will work safely within CDC guidelines and we ask you to bring a mask (some will be available if needed). If you are willing to help – for an hour or for the morning – please let Dani Anderson or Cheri Mack know you'll be there.

Electronic Giving

Online giving: Go to www.chup.org and click "Donate."

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.

Thank you for your continued support!

Need Help?

Do you need help of one kind or another? If you are in need of food, or someone to run an errand for you, or a friendly voice with whom to speak, or prayer... please let us know! Email dave@chup.org and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day. You are not alone!

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Members: Linda Schramm, John Fullwood, Don Prevost, Erlina Mae Adler, Cheryl Shaw, Kitty Kistler, Eva Neszpaul, Aliza Ciechanowski, Linda Piper, John Fullwood, Linnea Kunicky, Gabe Kish, Marge Freeman, Barbara Wasner, Eleanor Arlet, Alice Schnelbach, Tina Dame, Maryanne Richardson, Cheryl Reed, Joey Szumigalski & Family, Justin & Eric Barth, Joe Connor.

Friends & Relatives: Teresa Stacy, Patricia Sullivan, Dwayne Orris, Riki Connors, Kate Kuhn, Ann Wolbert, Joe Petagno, Dawn Sedlock, Elmer Trunick, Frieda Jones, Pauline Whitaker, Tim Murray, Janie Hervert, Laurie Trunick, Ellie Musolino, Lorraine Barth, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Eadie Children, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern.

July Birthdays

3 rd	Emma Pearson Carl Schrenker
4 th	Terry Blachek
7 th	Bill Reynolds Jeff Jacob
11 th	Madge Seidel
12 th	Susan Barth
14 th	Kelly Dix
15 th	Paul Reed Debbie Dolence
16 th	Stacey Donovan
17 th	Ed Schrenker, Sr.
18 th	Joe Connor Jacob Jones
20 th	Karren Sites
21 st	Jessica Weaver Declan Adler
22 nd	Joann Mikula Carly Barnes
23 rd	Thad Ciechanowski Karlana Mehl
24 th	Aliza Ciechanowski
25 th	Alison Kate Fisher
26 th	Jim Fuhs
27 th	Jessalyn Gielarowski
31 st	Cheri Mack

Freedom Rising

Freedom Rising was created to tackle high unemployment, mass incarceration, substance abuse and other problems that disproportionately affect African American males. The initiative is named "Freedom Rising" in honor of the late Rev. Eugene Freedom Blackwell, founder of The House of Manna Faith Community. This was created in partnership with the Pittsburgh Presbytery NCD and other Church communities to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyday people in Homewood. Rev. Blackwell worked to bridge racial, economic, and educational gaps in his surrounding community and was the co-author of the 222nd General Assembly overture; "On Taking Specific Action to Address the Worsening Plight of the African American Male."

Here are some of the Freedom Rising Core Values:

Evangelism & Discipleship: Grow, proclaim and live out our faith in Jesus Christ by working with our partners, here and around the world, to build communities that witness to the gospel of Christ's love for the rich diversity reflected in all humankind.

Servant Leader Formation: Seek, develop and energize diverse leaders who are answering God's call to equip the church to be a welcoming place of worship, mission, and spiritual nurture for all of God's children, especially those who have been marginalized.

Justice and Reconciliation: Galvanize the church to act on issues of racism, violence and poverty as a prophetic witness to Christ's transforming justice by speaking and living out God's truth and compassion as we call ourselves and the work to account for injustice and oppression.

The Deacons are asking for help to raise \$1,000.00 in donations to support the Freedom Rising initiative. We will start off this donation goal by contributing \$300. We are asking for your support to help us achieve the \$1,000.00 goal. Please make your checks out to the Deacons. If you are unable to contribute monetarily at this time, we are asking that you take the time to pray for this initiative.

Yours in Faith, Board of Deacons

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

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Online Worship

Join us on
our Facebook page
every Sunday at
10:00 am for a
Worship Livestream

Or visit our website
for information
www.chup.org



July 2020

"The Runner"

A Monthly Newsletter
Published by
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Articles for the
August Runner
Are due on or before
Sunday, July 19