



The First
United
Presbyterian
Church
of Crafton
Heights

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The folks at dictionary.com recently published the results of a survey they'd done asking a simple question: what are the pandemic-related words or phrases that you are tired of hearing, and never want to use again? There were some worthy – or at least cringe-worthy – suggestions from their Twitter followers. They included the following: “abundance of caution”, “flatten the curve”, “uncharted”, “face mask”, “toilet paper shortage”, “essential worker”, and, oddly, “moist breathing.”

The number one answer, though, was this: “the new normal”.

I couldn't agree more. Aren't you just about finished with that one? True story: a friend of mine asked his social media followers, “Can someone please come up with a phrase to replace ‘the new normal’? I can't stand this phrase and I'm already tired of hearing it.” I literally laughed out loud when I saw a post he made less than 24 hours later, in which he indicated that he'd been tapped by his company to serve on a Task Force that they were calling “the RTNN” group. Yep: “Return To New Normal”. As he said, “You can't make this stuff up.”

On June 1, there will be a very, very subtle shift at the church that has absolutely *nothing* to do with the coronavirus. The Monday following the Day of Pentecost is the day wherein the church leaves the celebratory nature of Eastertide and enters into the season of Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is that part of the liturgical year that is not Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Easter, and Eastertide. Therefore, it's divided into two periods: the weeks between Christmastide and Ash Wednesday, and that between Pentecost and Advent. It is the longest season of the Christian year, usually comprising 33 or 34 weeks. You'll recognize the shift when you see the green paraments once more displayed in the sanctuary.

I'm not a fan of “the new normal”, but I like “ordinary time.” I know, I know – the “ordinary” in “Ordinary Time” actually refers to the fact that we are counting the weeks using “ordinal” numbers, not to the notion that there is somehow nothing remarkable about those weeks. But still – most of the time, there truly *isn't* anything remarkable about those Sundays. Those weeks, just like every other time in the year, are ripe with opportunity for us to engage in the adventure of discipleship and the journey of faithfulness. This year seems to be an appropriate time for us to claim the fact that the presence of COVID-19 does absolutely nothing to change the core reality of our calling to follow Jesus in love and service to the world. Our *practices* may indeed change to reflect the current practical and historical realities, but our mission remains the same.

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I know that many, if not all of you are missing the opportunities to which we'd become accustomed: walking into a room full of people and exchanging greetings; singing at the top of your voice; holding hands when you pray; and even sharing a ride with someone. Much of the change we've seen in recent months has been felt negatively.

And the reality, dear friends, is that there's no real optimism for a rapid resumption of such behaviors. As I write this in the middle of May, we are in "the yellow phase", but it's hard to imagine when either our governmental policy or our own common sense will permit us to engage in something like a crowded worship service, a pot-luck dinner, or a receiving line at a wedding.

Having said all of that, though, I want to remind you that we are still in Ordinary Time. We are still called to be the church, to do what the church does, and to follow where the Lord leads. As you mark the change to Ordinary Time on June 1, let me encourage you to think about some of the opportunities that recent changes have brought to us:

- The streaming and recording of worship means that anyone with an internet connection and a computer or smart phone has access to the gathered worship experience in Crafton Heights. Whether you're a young parent with an antsy child, an "essential employee" who gets called into work on a Sunday morning, a chronic oversleeper, or simply someone who loses track of the time – the worship services are there when you are ready for them. We are, in this fashion, more accessible than we've ever been.
- Similarly, we are also more inclusive than ever. You may not notice it because you can't actually *see* the pew next to you, but there's a good chance you're worshipping with someone who has never been to our building: our worship has been shared by international visitors, residents of our own neighborhoods who for some reason have not found it possible to be present previously, and former members who have moved out of state.
- The United States Postal Service has taken on a renewed sense of lifeline to people. Many of our friends have taken some of the time they'd normally be commuting and sent someone a card using paper and ink. It makes the world a better place.
- Similarly, this is an opportunity read more. Or to watch a series that stretches you. Or to share in the adventure of learning in a new way with someone who is close to you.

I look forward to the day when we can gather in person. Until then, I will join you in marching through Ordinary Time, when we as believers do those things that we've been called to do since "the new normal" included wearing togas on the chariot ride into the office: acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. I'm eager to catch you doing some of that!

Pastor Dave

News

The Open Door

May and June are a busy time at The Open Door! While health practices have altered some of our plans for the summer, we are committed to providing the kids in our community with the same sense of belonging and care that The Open Door has always been known for. Be on the lookout for information regarding **Cross Trainers**, which this year will take on a new format and structure, but which will feature the same joy, fun, and learning about God's love for each of us!

In this era of virtual communication and social distancing, it can be hard to get to know people, so Mike encourages any member of the Crafton Heights community and CHUP to reach out to him via email at mike@chup.org. Hearing from our community allows The Open Door to gain a better sense of where we have been in the past and where we should go in the future, so do not hesitate to introduce yourself if you have not already done so!

In addition, details on volunteering for summer clean up opportunities will soon be available! This is a great way to help The Open Door in its mission, which this summer will focus on making sure The Open Door's facilities are a clean, safe space for our community once again. Shoot Mike an email if you have any questions, and thanks again for your continued support, prayers, and commitment for The Open Door and its mission!

Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Mission Trip originally scheduled for August has been cancelled, as our partners at the service site have cancelled all summer programming.

New Website

We invite everyone to check out our new webpage at www.chup.org! You will notice a new feature under the button "Gallery," where we share photos of church events and people. If you would like to share any photos with us, please send them to Sarah Claassen at sarahbclaassen@gmail.com.

Summer Worship

Beginning June 7, we will shift our livestreaming of Worship on Pastor Dave's Facebook page to 10:00 am each Sunday. Please contact Pastor Dave at dave@chup.org if you need help finding the service.

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. As of now the building is closed and we will identify which areas of ministry and which programs are free to resume, with appropriate modifications, in the weeks to come.

Blood Drive

The CHUP Blood Drive on Sunday, June 7, IS STILL ON and we need your help more than ever!

Blood donation has been declared as an "essential function" for emergency support and care for patients. We are working closely with Vitalant to ensure everyone's safety throughout the donation process during these uncertain times. There are strict measures in place to ensure only healthy donors are giving blood, and we will be following social distancing recommendations to keep donors and staff safe. There is no inherent risk of getting coronavirus from the donation procedure itself. To minimize the risk of contracting it from others, the staff will follow rigorous safety and disinfection protocols.

Please consider making a lifesaving appointment today. Contact Michele or Gabe Kish at 412-922-1950 or email chupblooddrives@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Runner Articles

Information or articles for the July Runner are due to the church office no later than Sunday, June 21. You may email them to chup@chup.org or leave a message on the office phone 412-921-6153.

Preschool

As June approaches we look ahead to brighter days of warmth and sun and time with extended family and friends. We also look back at moments lost together. Events we thought would happen. We are heartbroken that we could not finish the school year, the sweet spot. Teachers look forward to the last months of school to see, and experience, their hard work coming together. All year we strive for children to become friends, negotiators, and masters of their abilities, confident in the skills that were being molded and nurtured throughout the year. It is a joy to watch classrooms become a hub of cooperation, conversations and confidence each spring. This year, it happened, we just did not see it at school, under the proud watch of dedicated teachers. It happened at home; parents & families got to witness firsthand the growth we love to see. Learning, independence, and confidence it is there, in your child, in “our kids”.



We had a virtual end of year celebration with our slideshow photo presentations of the school year, via ZOOM meetings. And, we had a drive-by pick-up, of the graduation packs. Each child’s art work from the year was compiled and given to each family in a custom, personalized tote bag made for each child by the 3’s teacher Mrs. Hughes. When I asked Mrs. Hughes why she wanted to make each child a personalized tote bag, she said, *“I love our kids. They’re worth it.”*

Yes, they are worth it. As we approach summer, be sure to smile in amazement at how wonderful “our kids” are.



Prayers, Joys & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

Members: Don Prevost, Cheryl Shaw, Kitty Kistler, Eva Neszpaul, Aliza Ciechanowski, Linnea Kunicky, 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: Teresa Stacy, 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.

June Birthdays

1 st	Tracy Eagan
2 nd	Evan Walker
7 th	Jimmy Fuhs
8 th	Virginia Czopek
11 th	Sharon Carver
12 th	John Fullwood
15 th	Charmaine Kososki
16 th	Miriam Bode
17 th	Samantha Eadie
19 th	Vivian Ciechanowski
21 st	Jason Dix
22 nd	Dave Carver Amiya Dreyer
25 th	Richard Yelley
27 th	Linda Piper
28 th	Carl Martelli Mike Keib
30 th	Judah Claassen Don Prevost

New Address

Carl & Peggy (Kimberland) Martelli
508 Giffin Ave
Canonsburg, Pa. 15317
724-916-4701

One Great Hour of Sharing

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we become the household of God. We extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat. God's household is filled with love and everyone is welcome.

Typically we receive the offering during the season of Lent. This year, with the Covid-19 restrictions preventing in person gatherings, the offering was not collected; but you still have an opportunity to give! You can mail a check for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to the church or give electronically. Be sure to include OGH in the memo line so we know how to designate it. See below for more information about electronic giving.

On Monday, June 8, between 2:00 – 4:00 pm, one of the Deacons will be on Clairhaven St. by the side door of the church to collect all of the One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks that the children received at the beginning of Lent. You can also drop off any donation at this time. We are very grateful for your contribution. When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you from the Deacons!

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!

Cards Appreciated

Teresa Stacy, 7 year-old great-niece of Mary & Ron Stacy, has begun a new round of cancer treatments.

Cards should be sent to
Teresa Stacy, PO Box 16293, Pittsburgh, PA 15242

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of Crafton Heights
50 Stratmore Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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U.S. POSTAGE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Act
Justly

Love
Mercy

Walk
Humbly

Micah 6:8

Online Worship

Join us on
Pastor Dave's
Facebook page
every Sunday

Worship time
moves to 10:00 am
beginning June 7

"The Runner"

A Monthly Newsletter
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Articles for the
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Are due on or before
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