



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor
www.chup.org
March 2021

In his delightful book *Tales of the Hasidim*, Martin Buber describes a scene in the Jewish community of Lublin, Poland. The rabbi of a neighboring community, Rabbi Shalom, has died. Two of his followers make their way to Lublin because they've heard wonderful things about Rabbi Yakov Horowitz. Horowitz who was sometimes called "the Seer of Lublin" because of his great perception and wisdom as well as his purported ability to see across time and distance. The men who had been disciples of rabbi Shalom were looking for a new rabbi to follow, and they thought that perhaps the great Seer of Lublin would be a proper teacher.

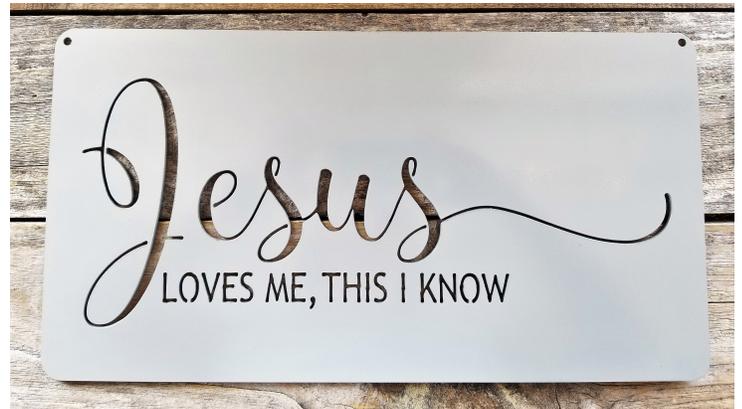
When the men arrived, they were ushered into the Seer's presence just as he was pronouncing the *birkat hachodesh*, "the blessing of the new moon." This is a prayer which invites the congregation to lay before the Lord the hopes and promises of the month that is to come. The newcomers were severely disappointed, however, when Rabbi Horowitz performed this service a little differently than had their previous teacher. The men didn't say anything publicly, but that evening they talked amongst themselves and decided that as this was not the exact manner of praying to which they were accustomed, perhaps Lublin was not the place for them. They made plans to leave town in the morning.

The next day they met the Seer as they were preparing for breakfast, and he looked at them and said, "A God whom one could serve only in one way – what kind of God would that be?" The travelers exchanged a glance and knew at once that they would remain in Lublin as this man's disciples.

At the beginning of March 2020, we each had our own "way" of worshiping God and fellowshiping with each other. When the pandemic and the lockdown hit, those ways were interrupted, we thought, for a while. And now here we are, on the 371st day of Lent 2020, and we're waiting for that interruption to end.

It seems to me that we have a choice to make. We can wait here, obstinately, for things to "get back to normal", or we can ask God to show us new ways of worship and fellowship. These are not necessarily the things we'd have chosen. Like you, I lament so many of the losses of the last year. And yet, praise God, we serve a Lord who is bigger than our own understanding of that God. As our worlds have shifted, waiting for what once was to return is not a viable option. We must seek new and fresh avenues of faithful practice.

Karl Barth is one of my heroes, and one of the most prolific theologians of the 20th century. His "signature work" is *Church Dogmatics*, a 13-book, six-million word statement of systematic theology written between 1932 and 1967. On his one trip to America in 1962, he was asked what was the most important idea contained in all of his writings. He looked for a moment, and smiled, and said, "When I was a boy, my mother used to sing me a song. 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so...'"



That has not changed. The form of our worship and much of our life together, however, has changed – yet our call remains the same. I hope that you will join me in Lent 2021 as we continue to seek new ways to live into old promises and truths. I'll look for you in worship!

Pastor Dave

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!

Per Capita

Even though our giving envelopes have changed, the work of the church continues. One of these responsibilities is Per Capita giving to Pittsburgh Presbytery. Per capita is the amount of support, per member, that our congregation remits to our Presbytery that is then sent onto our Synod and the General Assembly. This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

This year our Per Capita amount is \$34.79 per member. We ask that if you are able to make a contribution to offset any part of this cost, please note on your check or giving envelope.



Preschool

During our classroom ZOOM meeting, the children shared pictures of contraptions they made from their WQED Education Kits. Constructing a marble maze was a fun way to see gravity and motion in action and this catapult was able to fling pom-poms across the room! We also built simple ramps and tested what objects would slide the best and farthest, and which ones could roll across the floor and hit the target. Thank you to the WQED Education Team, Gina Masciola and Michelle Imler for providing the education kits each month.

REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN for the 2021/22 Preschool Year! We are expecting to re-open with full enrollment in the fall. Classes will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Monthly Tuition is \$120 with a one-time registration fee of \$75. Please visit our web page <https://chup.org/preschool/> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Crafton-Heights-Community-Preschool-139844839409785/about/> for an application and more information about our program.

The Open Door

The Open Door Learning Hub offers a caring place for children to go for internet connection, help with homework, school lunches, warmth, and socialization during this time of remote learning in the public school systems. *Pictured at Right: Learning Support Specialist Mollie Sam welcomed Pittsburgh City School Board Representative Veronica Edwards, who visited the Hub on February 10.*

Mission Opportunity

The Deacons are asking for help to raise \$1000.00 in donations to support the mission of The Open Door. The Deacons kicked off this fundraiser with a gift of \$300.00. Can you help them reach their goal? Checks can be made out to the Deacons, or you can donate to the Open Door directly. If you are unable to contribute monetarily at this time, we are asking that you take the time to pray for this mission. Thank you for your support!

Ladies' Group

Our Tuesday Ladies' Group will begin meeting again on March 2nd. We will meet in the conference room at 10:00 for study and prayer. During March, we will have a video series from Andy Stanley titled, "Why Easter Matters" for discussion. We will follow all COVID protocols. Please wear a mask & bring your bible. We look forward to being together again!

Food Pantry Needs

Apple Juice, Granola/fruit bars, Rice, Instant potatoes, Pasta and sauce, Tuna, Noodles/Rice packets, Peanut butter/jelly



Prayer Concerns

Members: John McConnell, Marcy Davis, Mikayla Walker, McConnell Family, Cheryl Shaw, Arlene Donovan, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Aliza Ciechanowski & Family, Peter Veltman, Kitty Kistler, Maryanne Richardson.

Friends & Relatives: Cindy Tirpak, Margie McClure, Debbie Beatty, Tom Musko, Rich Boyle, Steven Ball, Judy & Ed Moskovitz, Patricia Sullivan, Dawn Sedlock, Teresa Stacy, Ellie Musolino, Lorraine Barth, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Eadie Children, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern.

Sympathy

To the McConnell Family, on the passing of Lillie's sister, **Martha Waleski**

To the Family of **Miriam Bode**

To the Family of **Gert Clokey**

To Susan Barth, on the passing of her brother, **Tim Murray**

March Birthdays

- 1st Tim Prepelka
David Salinetro
Julia Imler
- 2nd Fred Sam
- 3rd Linda Dawson
Cheryl Reed
Carter Padula
- 5th Shayden Butti
- 6th Joanne Holt
- 8th Jayden Musko
- 9th Eric Barth
- 10th Don Weaver
- 12th Fay Reynolds
- 14th Michelle Salinetro
- 17th Marge Freeman
Cody Schrenker
- 18th Season Ciechanowski
- 19th Rebecca Weaver
- 21st Mya Austin
Josh Mehl
Megan Yelley
- 26th Jeffrey Voeltzel
- 27th Caleb Connor
- 28th Justin Barth
Erika Locke
- 30th Arlene Donovan
- 31st Everett Dix

Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Seating is currently limited to 30 for our 11:00 am Sunday Worship service. If you wish to attend, please register yourself and each additional family member, with contact information, at chup@chup.org before 12:00 noon, Friday of each week. A full list of safety guidelines can be found on our website: <https://chup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/in-person-worship.pdf>

Online Worship: Each Sunday at 11:00 am, our Worship service livestreams on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CraftonHeightsChurch/> And then later on Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1111111111111111)

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study gathers via Zoom at 7 pm every Wednesday in Lent to consider Amy-Jill Levine's work *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. A guide book is available. If you are interested in receiving one, call or [email the church office](mailto:email@chup.org). This group will meet online (with an in-person option). Each week, the Zoom Code will be the same: <https://zoom.us/j/93630304198> (Meeting ID: 936 3030 4198)

Online Lenten Resources

Busted Halo Lenten Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo1mjuy1NA0&feature=emb_logo
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary devotionals: https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1
Presbyterians Today devotionals: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>

Meetings

Session
3/23
7:00 pm

Deacons
3/8
6:30 pm

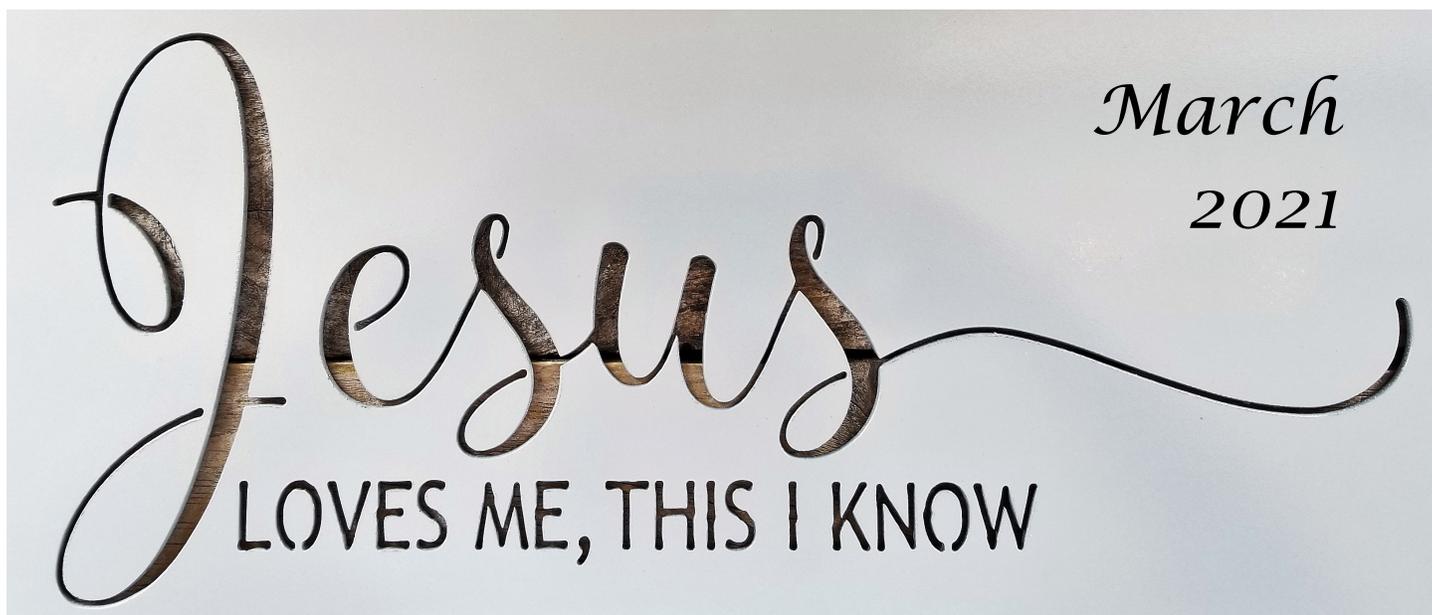
Preschool
3/2
7:00 pm

Steering Committee
3/11
7:00 pm

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