



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

Well, before long, it'll be Sunday morning. Maybe you're the person in your home who gets up first. Perhaps you make coffee, flip through your social media accounts or look at the news, and perhaps prepare breakfast. And then it'll be time to make a choice: what will you do with the day?

The choices that are open to you in June 2021 are different than those available in June or January 2020. Perhaps you'll decide to attend worship at CHUP. Maybe you'll gather the family and livestream the service from your home. Perhaps you'll opt to participate via YouTube later in the day, or even later in the week. Or maybe you'll skip it altogether.

One of the effects of the pandemic has been the disruption of our daily, weekly, and monthly rhythms. Choices that used to be automatic are now weighed heavily as we consider the increasing number of options we have as well as the glut of information about the pandemic we've received.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, your pastor is asking you to consider this month as a good time to begin the transition back to in-person worship. As our rates of vaccination have risen, the case numbers have fallen, and the warm air means more open windows, it's safer now than it has been in more than a year. We haven't had a single case of transmission related to activities at CHUP, thanks to the diligence of our COVID team and the patience and perseverance of those who have gathered. We continue to take a rather conservative approach to virus mitigation (at this writing, we anticipate that we will continue to ask worshipers to remain masked and maintain some level of physical distancing inside the building). Unless you are in a household with some health challenges, it's probably OK for you to re-enter worship.

Here are a few reasons why I'd suggest that it's important to rejoin the gathered community:

- Weekly worship allows you to re-center yourself physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. You are "voting with your feet" (or maybe your bum) as you present yourself not only before the Lord but the community.
- Being "in the room where it happens" will enhance your ability concentrate on what's happening. I know that when I'm in a zoom meeting or even worse, a webinar, I find it very easy to multitask – to scroll through my phone, to do a crossword, or to catch up on email. I'm less likely to do that when I'm in the room with other participants.
- The congregation physically gathered provides the best opportunity any of us will have for meaningful intergenerational connection with folks who are not in our own biological family. If you have children, they need to see some of the old-timers at church. If you're an adult without meaningful family interaction, you crave seeing the kids you think of as "ours".
- Being present in worship allows our young parents the opportunity to take concrete steps toward spiritual formation in the lives of their children. Nobody expects that the kids will take in or appreciate everything on a given Sunday. Yet the richness of live music, welcoming conversation, and the awe of being in a beautiful space are simply not recreated at home.
- Weekly worship will allow you to share in the lives of others in a far more meaningful way. You'll make eye contact with folk you haven't seen in a year. You'll overhear prayer concerns in a new way. You'll notice when someone has a cast, or loses a tooth, or has some other special news to share.

James K. A. Smith in his excellent book, *You Are What You Love*, points out that embodied participation in activities such as worship has far-reaching effects, even when those are not noticed from day to day. According to Smith, our habits – our rhythms - shape our loves. Our loves shape who we become. Smith says that in order to cultivate virtue we must immerse ourselves in practices that inscribe them in our heart over time. He insists,

... [the best] Christian worship doesn't just dispense information; rather, it is a Christ-centered imagination station where we regularly undergo a ritual cleansing of the symbolic universes we absorb elsewhere. Christian worship doesn't just teach us how to think; it teaches us how to love, and it does so by inviting us into the biblical story and implanting that story in our bones (*You Are What You Love*, 85). *Continued next page*

Letter from the Pastor, continued from page 1

It won't be the same, of course. Because our children are not all eligible for vaccination, and because we're not in a position to determine the vaccination status of all worshipers, you'll probably be asked to use one of those annoying masks. For the same reason, as of now, we are unable to provide the same kind of child care that we employed 18 months ago. It may be that "your" seat is now occupied by the video equipment. For now – no coffee hour.

If you're a parent concerned about the fact that you'll be missing out on the "meat" of the service because you'll have more responsibility for your children, let me remind you that we've always welcomed kids in worship at CHUP, and if they need to get up and walk around a little bit, or stretch out on the floor in the back for a while, that's fine. And if there's a portion of the service you've missed, you can revisit that later via the YouTube or manuscript that available on the blog.

If you have a concern about coming back – if you're thinking, "I'd love to, but I can't come back because _____," or "I find it hard to bring the kids because _____," – then let me encourage you to share that concern with me or someone else in leadership. If there are barriers, we'd like to lower them – but I know that I can't see them all from where I sit.

It won't be perfect. But it'll be better. And I know that it'll be better if you're in the room with us. So I'll look for you in worship this month!

Pastor Dave

PS to those who are unable to attend worship due to health concerns or physical distance, please know that there are no plans to discontinue the livestreaming and recording of worship!

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!

Graduates

Please join us in congratulating these recent graduates on their hard work and accomplishments!

Maddy Chlystek, graduating from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, is planning to attend Penn State University to major in Biobehavioral Health and participate in the NROTC program.

John Fullwood has received his PhD in Instructional Leadership and Management from Robert Morris University.

Karlana Mehl, graduating from Robinson Township Christian School, is planning to attend Duquesne University for Pharmacology.

Rayna Neszpaul, graduating from Montour High School., is planning to attend Muskingum University.

David Salinetro has completed an Associate's Degree at CCAC in Health and Physical Education.

Danielle Sites, graduating from Brashear High School, is planning to attend UPMC Mercy School of Nursing.

Evan Walker, graduating from Carlynton High School, planning to attend The University of Pittsburgh for Pharmacology.

Preschool

We ended the year with our last zoom meeting and WQED education pack delivery in May, along with a “basket of fun” for the children we served this year. We are glad to have had the opportunity to stay connected with so many families this “un-school” year. The zoom meetings were filled with smiles and stories of busy days, songs, laughter, books, and activities. We were always greeted by the children proudly showing one of the activities they had done or a picture they drew. Families were grateful for the connections that were sustained and support that was given during this year. We will continue to stay in contact with families throughout the summer, assisting with food donations, school questions and hopefully a park playdate for all.

As we look ahead to the 2021/22 school year we are challenged with supporting our budget, while keeping our tuition costs affordable for the community we serve, and offering additional scholarships for families in need. The cost to run our program exceeds what tuition brings in. We will continue to be creative with our fundraisers and we will be seeking monthly donations from friends and alumni of the preschool. We are expecting to serve 32 children in the fall, bringing them a high quality early childhood education along with valuable social interactions and developmental learning. If you would like to support a child’s tuition this fall, or would like additional information, please contact preschool@chup.org.



Electronic Giving

Go to <https://chup.org/giving/> to find easy options for sending your donation electronically. Feel free to contact the office chup@chup.org to find out more about how you can designate where you would like your donation to go: the Church, the Preschool, the Open Door, the Food Pantry... the list goes on! Thank you for supporting our many ministries and enabling us to spread God’s love in our community and throughout the world.

The Open Door

The Youth Group has been active this month! We offered a chess night to see if anyone would be interested in learning the game, and to our amazement, 10 students teamed up with adult leaders to receive instruction and have some fun. We are pretty sure that nothing like this has been done before in the youth group, and we couldn't be more pleased. We are looking to start an Open Door Chess Club in the near future and eventually enter in some chess tournaments. Please contact Bruce Blackburn opendoor@chup.org if this is something of interest to you.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated to our Famine Fundraiser this spring. With your help, we were able to raise an astounding \$3912.99 to go toward covid-related famine relief efforts in Malawi and South Sudan. Thank you!



Prayer Concerns

Members: Mehl Family, McConnell Family, Cheryl Shaw, Arlene Donovan, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Aliza Ciechanowski & Family, Peter Veltman, Kitty Kistler, Maryanne Richardson.

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

Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Services are Sundays at 11:00 am. Please read our updated safety guidelines before attending in person worship: <https://files.constantcontact.com/7a16d75f001/80d3381d-f76d-4188-8553-c263835f868e.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?list=PLU5XsLRAbBddh2dgu38_W9bbRu9wYaOB4

New Address

Fay Reynolds has a new address: 1330 India Hook Rd, Apt 322, Rock Hill, SC 29732

June Birthdays

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

Sympathy

Our sympathy to the Moskovitz family. Long-time friend of the congregation **Ed Moskovitz** died on May 9.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Virginia Jones**, who passed away on May 18.

Runner Articles

Information or articles for the July Runner are due Sunday, June 20. You may email them to the church office chup@chup.org

CHUP Online

Did you know that you can view the Runner in full color on our website? Back issues, too! Our website is mobile friendly and easier to navigate than ever.

Please visit www.chup.org to find online newsletters, sermons, prayer concerns, giving opportunities, announcements, online worship links, and clickable information on how you can become involved in our many ministries.

Meetings

Session
6/16
7:00 pm

Deacons
6/13
1:00 pm

Preschool
6/1
7:00 pm

Steering Committee
6/11
7:00 pm

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