

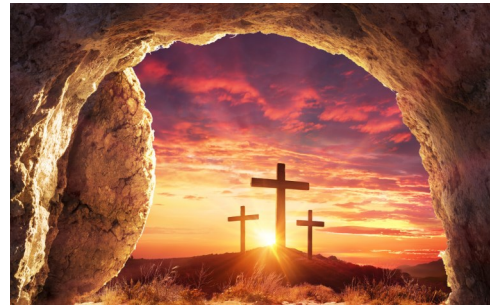


The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor  
www.chup.org  
April 2023

April begins (no fooling!) with Palm Sunday – April 2, 2023, we mark the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. As we do so, it's an acknowledgement that this is a day, much like Christmas, when we rehearse a story that we all know so well. At Christmas, at least, we like to think that the shepherds and wise men came and were changed – that they left for their homes in and around Bethlehem or in the East as changed people. But with Palm Sunday, we don't really have that luxury. Yes, we know that the sentiments of the mob change quickly, but it's no improvement.



Malcolm Guite is a British poet, musician, and priest who reflects on this notion in his sonnet entitled simply, "Palm Sunday". Consider these lines:

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,  
The seething holy city of my heart,  
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?  
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;  
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,  
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find  
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing  
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind  
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;  
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,  
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,  
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness  
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come  
Break my resistance and make me your home.

(From *Sounding the Seasons*, by Malcolm Guite, Canterbury Press 2012)

Since I started making the ashes for our Ash Wednesday services, I have a curious feeling as Palm Sunday approaches every year: I remember the smell of the fire and the fragments of palms in the bucket that didn't quite burn, and I think, "Already? Are we really doing these palms again so soon? Particularly this Lent, where we have focused on themes relating to repentance and making things right with our neighbors, I wonder when we will ever get it right.

I used to wonder at the crowds on Palm Sunday and think, "Why did they change their mind so quickly? How is it that they cried for the death penalty less than a week later?" But increasingly, I find myself asking, "What have we learned? Or when will we learn?"

We'll be in worship on April 2, and we'll have palms to wave... And that's great. But may we have, additionally, room in our lives to welcome Jesus in not just as a parade, but as the One who gives shape to our lives. I'll look for you in worship!

Pastor Dave

## Fellowship Opportunities

**Meeting Jesus at The Table:** For those who are interested in a little more spiritual “meat”, we’ll be walking through a Lenten study and discussion entitled Meeting Jesus at The Table on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Adults and teens are welcome to join in this conversation as the younger kids participate in Sunday school or child care.

**Youth Mission Trip:** The youth group is planning for their annual Mission Trip to the Seneca Nation of Indians in Western New York state in early August. You can support the group in this venture (and take advantage of another opportunity to eat at church!) by coming to the annual Baked Potato Luncheon after worship on March 26. We’ll have giant spuds with all kinds of fixings, available for you to share with your friends! We will even have some take-out containers for you to bless your friends. There are no tickets— just a donation of your choosing.

**Ladies Fellowship:** Ladies - You are all invited to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall as we continue our Lenten study - Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails". We spend time together sharing a light snack, conversation and prayer together, and all are welcome. After Easter, we will begin a video series by Rick Warren "God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions". If you'd like to know more about this group, please contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost. We hope to see you!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world.

**Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

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.

### **Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

***Please return your envelopes on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday and place in the offering plates. Thank you for your generosity.***

## Open Door

**Youth Group:** The youth group continues to meet every Sunday (7:00PM to 8:30PM) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor youth room for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. We've been averaging around 15-20 youth every Sunday. Each night starts off with crazy fun games and group songs led by Pastor Dave. We are excited to see the on-going spiritual growth in them as the youth leaders take turns every Sunday sharing Bible stories and Bible characters to the group. Then having thought provoking conversations on how they can apply various Christian principles to their lives to help them navigate situations that they face on a daily basis. If you have or know a youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, please have them join us on a Sunday evening to see what the fun is about. In addition, have them join us at our upcoming youth retreat in April or our annual youth mission trip in August. If you have any questions about youth group please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Friday Night Rec:** Since changing the time and combining the sessions for rec night from 6PM to 9M for all grades K-12<sup>th</sup> the numbers have steadily increased with several new youth showing up on Friday nights. Our volunteers from Waynesburg have adjusted and make sure that all of youth who come out get a fair share of play time on the main floor and participate in the arts and crafts room throughout the evenings. The snack shack opens up @730pm for the youth to enjoy snacks and a drink.



**Open Door Chess Club:** The chess club along with a rep from the Queens Gambit Chess Institute continue to meet the last Wednesday of every month (6:00 PM -7:30 PM) until May 2023. We have been blessed to have a 14 yr. old international chess champion come and teach neighborhood youth how to play chess the right way. There are also opportunities for the youth to try their chess skills in chess tournaments around the city. If you are interested in a night of chess with youth, be on the look out on our Facebook page for up to date information and other communications.



**Kids of Steel:** The Open Door is hosting the Kids of Steel running club again! Every Thursday from 6-7:15, kids in grades K-6 should meet at the Open Door for exercise, fun, and a delicious snack. On occasional Saturdays, we will meet at the Dunbar Park for a group run around the neighborhood. On Saturday, May 6th, the group will run the final mile of our marathon at the Chick-Fil-A Pittsburgh Kids Marathon. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessica Simcox for more details.

### Important Dates:

**Friday Night Rec, every Friday (6-9) until May 2023 for all grades**

**Youth Group is every Sunday (7-8:30) for 6th-12th graders, 3rd floor youth room at CHUP**

**Chess Club every last Wednesday of the month (6-7:30) in CHUP fellowship hall**

**Youth Retreat—March 31st-April 2nd at Faith Ranch**

**Open Door golf fundraiser May13th at Moon Golf Club**

**Cross Trainers Summer Day Camp—June 26th—August 4th**

**Youth Missions trip August 6th-12th**



*Easter*

*Lilies*

To order a lily for Easter, please use the form below and drop it with payment into the collection box. All orders must be pre-paid.

The cost is \$6.00 each.

**April 6** is the last day to order.

Please use a separate form for each lily.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_





## Easter April 9<sup>th</sup>

Join us for Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. A variety of breakfast casseroles including vegetarian and vegan options, will be served, along with fruit and pastries, coffee, tea, juice and milk.

Volunteers are needed for clean-up.

Please see Nicole Zeller or Barb Prevost for more information.

Communion Service 10:15 am in the Conference room.

Easter Service 11:00 am

## Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Worship Service 11:00am

Maundy Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>

Communion and Worship service  
7:00 pm



# Preschool



### WINNERS ALL AROUND!

Thank you to everyone who supported preschool at the art show and vacation raffle drawing! We had a wonderful evening celebrating our children through the art they created. We are grateful for the many families and friends that came out to our wonderful event. Individuals bid on their favorite pieces of art and went home with creative, unique pieces. Bria Bianco is the winner of the \$2,500 Litterini Vacation, she is looking forward to going on a cruise this spring.

All the funds raised go to supplementing tuition costs. Did you know the most a family will pay is \$1,170 of the \$2560 yearly tuition per child, which is \$130 a month September through May. Fundraisers, grants and donations allow us to provide a high-quality program to neighborhood hard working families.

## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Megan Salinetto Yelley's brother in law, Karren Sites, Tina Dame

**Friends & Relatives:** Sue Whitaker, Than and Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet, Jr., Lisa Myers, Teresa Stacy (niece of Mary Stacy), Helen Barto (Kitty Kistler's mother).

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU5XsLRAbBddh2dgu38_W9bbRu9wYaOB4)

## April Birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup>	Danielle Sites
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jennifer McNamara
4 <sup>th</sup>	Brittney Jacob
8 <sup>th</sup>	Joey Szumigalski
9 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Jacob
12 <sup>th</sup>	McKenna Mangan
13 <sup>th</sup>	Colton McNamara
14 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Wasner
15 <sup>th</sup>	Michele Evans
	Dolly Petagno
18 <sup>th</sup>	Larraine Elizabeth Ault
20 <sup>th</sup>	Keion Powell
22 <sup>nd</sup>	John McConnell
	Bethany Fullwood
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Aviva Gielarowski
	Jeremiah Fullwood
	Lindsay Frick
25 <sup>th</sup>	Samaiya Gielarowski
26 <sup>th</sup>	Michelle Imler
27 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Pearson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Salinetto

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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. <https://chup.org/>

## Blood Drive

Many thanks to everyone that donated at the CHUP Blood Drive on Feb 26th. We collected **18 units** of blood which is amazing. What is even more amazing is that **54 patients** will benefit from your generosity. That is huge! Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive scheduled for **Sunday, June 4th**. We hope to see you there. **REMINDER TO EVERYONE THAT DONATED OR ATTEMPTED TO DONATE ON SUNDAY IS ELIGIBLE FOR A \$10.00 AMAZON GIFT CARD. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS FOR YOUR GIFT FROM VITALANT.**

## 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](mailto:dave@chup.org) and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day. You are not alone!





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**

