



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

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

For reasons that are not important, I have recently learned that my birthday falls on National Onion Ring Day. In addition, that same day is National Chocolate Éclair Day. Those are mildly interesting facts, perhaps, but neither of those days is likely to cramp my style when it comes to celebrating.

When I was a kid, I had a crush on a girl whose birthday was on February 29. I've often wondered how having a date that officially only rolls around once every four years might complicate one's life. And perhaps you, like me, have friends who were born on Christmas Day or Thanksgiving. I'm sure that there are times when sharing your birthday with another celebration can get old.

I mention this because the Day of Pentecost is May 28. In addition to being National Brisket Day as well as Carpet Day (you'll have to travel to Turkmenistan to get the full effect of that celebration), Pentecost is right in the middle of Memorial Day Weekend in the USA. Of course, *officially* Memorial Day is a somber occasion on which we pause to remember those who have died in military conflicts. For many in our nation, however, it's an excuse to have a cookout (maybe with a Brisket) and take a long weekend to officially kick off the summer.

And all of *THAT* means that you may be thinking of a million things other than the "birthday of the church", the day of Pentecost. It takes place on the fiftieth day after Easter. Originally, it was a festival in which Jews (and remember, Jesus and all of his first followers were Jewish) celebrated the first fruits of the wheat harvest. The disciples had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate this festival when the Holy Spirit came upon them, equipping them to share the love and grace of Christ throughout the world. In terms of its importance for the actual history and movement of the church, you could make a case for Pentecost being a bigger deal than Christmas (because we don't really know when Jesus was born).

For all of these reasons, I hope that you will make plans to be in worship on Pentecost. If you are here in town, we'll be celebrating with the Lord's Supper, and we'll wear our Pentecost red. But if your family's plans call for you to travel, I want to encourage you to find *somewhere* to worship that day. In Acts, we learn that the Day of Pentecost was a day on which folk were sent, and learned new languages, and encountered different people. So if you are *not* in Pittsburgh on May 28, find a faith community near you and plug in. Pay attention to the practices and customs there that feed you. Notice what challenges you. And ask God's Holy Spirit to equip YOU to move gently though the world as a living reminder of the Kingdom of God. After all, no matter where you are, it's your birthday. Celebrate! I'll look for you in worship!



Pastor Dave

## Fellowship Opportunities

**Church Fellowship:** Pastor Dave began a new Sunday Morning discussion Sunday Mornings during the Fellowship Hour (9:45 a.m.). This gathering will help participants to gain an overview of the Christian Faith and be particularly attentive to what it means to be Presbyterian. This is an excellent opportunity for adults and teens who are interested in learning more about the possibility of church membership.

**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 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!

**New Faces in New Places:** The Open Door welcomes Hannah Ostlund and Julia Imler to new positions of leadership in a time of transition! When our former Executive Director left to pursue other opportunities, the Open Door Steering Committee moved quickly to ensure that our current programming, as well as the Cross Trainers Summer Camp, would be available to the community. We were delighted when our own Hannah Ostlund, for the past two years a seminary student intern at CHUP, agreed to come on board as our part-time Interim Executive Director. Beginning on April 1, Hannah has worked to organize volunteers, track communication, and reach out to partners in preparation for the summer camp. Hannah will stay at The Open Door through at least June as she anticipates beginning her new call in Indianapolis later in the summer. She will be joined on May 1 by Julia Imler, who will serve as the Site Coordinator for Cross Trainers in 2023. Julia has been on staff several years and has some unique insights and key relationships that make her a valuable addition to the staff this summer. These women may be asking you to help in some way – contribute a meal, or volunteer for a program, or share your ideas. We hope that you'll encourage them as they lead us in this important work!



## Open Door

**Youth Group:** The Youth Group continues to meet every Sunday (7:00PM to 8:30PM) in the 3rd floor youth room for 6th -12th graders. We've been averaging around 15-20 youth every Sunday. Each night includes crazy fun games, group songs led by Pastor Dave, and a Bible lesson led by any one of the advisors. At the beginning of this month we took our group on the road to Faith Ranch in Ohio for our Spring Famine Fundraiser Retreat. We gathered to raise money for relief in Turkey and Syria while also learning about how hunger impacts refugees and our own neighbors. As we look toward the end of our year, we will continue to meet on Sunday evenings but we also ask our youth to save the date of 5/21 from 1-4:30 for a fun day out! If you have or know a youth in 6th-12th grade, please have them join us on a Sunday evening to see what the fun is about. If you have any questions about the youth group please don't hesitate to contact Hannah Ostlund.

**Friday Night Rec:** Due to the low numbers of youth attendance for both sessions, we decided to change the time and combine the sessions for rec night from 6PM to 9PM for all grades K-12th until further notice. We are hoping this draws in some more youth who can play nicely with our younger crowd. Our volunteers are aware of this change and will make sure that everyone has a fair chance to play on the main floor and participate in the arts and crafts room throughout the evenings. The snack shack will also be open throughout the evenings. Friday Night Rec will continue until May 19th.

**Chess Club:** The chess club will continue to meet the last Wednesday of every month until May of 2023. We have been blessed to have a 14 year 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 lookout on our Facebook page and other communications for announcements to sign up on the website.

**Volunteers:** If you are interested in volunteering and hanging out with neighborhood youth in 2023 on a Friday night, please contact Hannah at 412-921-6153 x 204 or at [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org). High school students are welcomed to help volunteer as well. All volunteers must have updated clearances. Hannah can assist if needed, for those clearances. We are endeavoring to build up our volunteer base not only for Friday night Rec, but for upcoming Open Door programs and events. We hope that you will prayerfully consider being a part of our team. If you have a child, or know someone with a youth in K-12th grade, please encourage them to give Friday Night Rec a shot in 2023!

### Important Dates:

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

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

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

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

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



## Preschool



In April we explored a few classic stories and favorite teacher books. The 3 Little Pigs, Henny Penny, Strega Nona, Caps for sale were just a few of the books that we read. The children loved wearing character headbands to retell the stories. We were hopping down the bunny trail during gym class, walking on the balance beam, hopping through hoops and bowling, all for fun that keeps us moving!

Registration is going on now! We only have a few spots remaining. Tell your friends about our wonderful program.

Graduation will be on Tuesday, May 23 at 9:15 am. Join us in the sanctuary for a photo presentation of our great year !

## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Megan Salinetro 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)

## May Birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup>	Callan McNamara
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Lane Dennis Lane
6 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Donovan
8 <sup>th</sup>	Jared Fuhs Maisie Kistler Maryanne Richardson Marla Harkins
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tara Reed Julian
10 <sup>th</sup>	Eryn Mangan
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mikayla Walker
12 <sup>th</sup>	Erlina Mae Adler
15 <sup>th</sup>	Lil McConnell
16 <sup>th</sup>	Olive Donovan
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rachael Sam
21 <sup>st</sup>	Brandon Austin Trevin Powell
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Becky Kelly
26 <sup>th</sup>	Christina Nagy
27 <sup>th</sup>	Callan Schrenker
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tranter Butti
29 <sup>th</sup>	Stephanie Miller Wilson

## 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

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