



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

I have had the occasion lately to be looking at maps... real maps, printed on paper. We took a road trip, and we got some folding paper maps to share with the grandkids. We looked at maps of our state and of our campgrounds in an attempt to help our grandchildren get an appreciation for how to locate themselves in space.

In these days of “Google Earth” and satellite photos and navigational apps on our phones, it’s hard to imagine not knowing where we are, or not knowing what is out there. Yet in my consideration of maps, I also looked at some old maps – much older. About 100 years after the time of Christ, a Greek mathematician, astronomer, and geographer named Ptolemy published a map that included not just the parts of the world about which he knew, but what he termed *terra incognita* – Latin for “unknown land”.

That terminology survived in many forms. For instance, in 1544 a man named Cabot drew up a map of the Americas, and the whole of South America is given shape, along with Central America and the eastern seaboard of North America. But the west begins to simply disappear where California should be, and his line simply stops – as though there is neither land nor water present. “Terra Incognita” labels this expanse of the unknown. Other mapmakers used not only this phrase, but inserted drawings of sea monsters or ferocious beasts to warn travelers to expect the worst.



I can’t imagine it would be very comforting to use a map that employs labels such as “Terra Incognita” – after all, the reason we use them is to situate ourselves in our environment with some certainty. If we know where we are, we think, we know where to go next. And yet, I suspect that in our time of rapid cultural, political, economic, climate, and any other manner of change, we often feel as though we have been placed in the midst of *terra incognita*. Things are not how we remember them, nor are they how we imagined they might be. When we leave the house in the morning, no one actually says, “Here be dragons!”, but if we’re honest, we’re not always sure what kind of world it is that we’re entering.

The Psalmist considered all that he didn’t know and wrote, not a statement of fear or panic, but rather a song of praise to the God beyond all knowing. He sang,

I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous, your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,
Why do you bother with us? Why take a second look our way? (Psalm 8, MSG)

The posture he chose to take, in line with those of faith throughout Bible times and our own, is that God is present with and in and for us. In her recent volume *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, Rebecca Solnit says “... the world is wild... life is unpredictable in its goodness and its danger, [and] the world is larger than your imagination”. Thanks be to God for that! We need not be crippled by anxiety about what may or may not be ahead, because we have faith that God is calling us to join Him in being agents of discovery, imagination, and love. May we grow in our ability to imagine God in the new places and seasons of our lives.

As we get ready for school, for a new program year, for all the great unknowns that wait for us in the months to come, let us hold onto the fact that in Christ, we are known and we are cared for.

I’ll see you in Worship!

Pastor Dave

Fellowship Opportunities

All-Church Retreat: All-church retreat planning is underway! The retreat this year will be held September 8th-10th, held at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. We look forward to seeing everyone there again, and cannot wait for a weekend of conversation, reflection, and prayer together!

CHUP Work Day: Saturday, August 12th, from 8AM-12:30. We need you, and you, and you! Join us as we clean-up, wipe down and organize a variety of areas within the church buildings. The Fall Programming will start in September and we need your help getting ready. Join us for a few hours, because together, we can all make a difference!

CHUP Kitchen Registry & Celebration

The Church kitchen is key to fellowship with members of our congregation and the community. Some kitchen items are missing or worn, so the Deacons are requesting gifts to refresh the kitchen inventory! If you are interested in contributing or know someone who is, please visit www.Amazon.com/registries. The registrant name is CHUP Deacons, and the gift list title is CHUP Kitchen Gifts. Item prices start at \$8—with 37 items under \$25. Or, you can contribute \$1 or more to our kitchen fund. Any amount you give is welcome and appreciated. The Deacons, along with the Congregational Life Committee, plan to host a luncheon (tentative date of Sunday, August 27) to celebrate all contributions and put the new items to good use! Please contact Jessica Simcox or Nicole Zeller with any questions.

Ladies Fellowship: We had a great group gathering in July for lunch together! Ladies - join us on August 16th and BYOL (bring your own lunch). We'll meet at the pavilion behind Greentree library at 11:30 for lunch & fellowship. All are welcome! Any questions talk to Dani Anderson.



Open Door

As I write this, we are 5 weeks into Cross Trainers and I am 5 weeks into my role as the Executive Director! It has been a thrilling way to start a new job, if not a bit chaotic. My favorite thing has been coming in as “an outsider” to these kids and getting to know them all with a fresh start. With that being said, it’s given me the opportunity to see and experience things that I may otherwise have overlooked. Starting with our field trips.

At our first trip to the Zoo, I was stressed, worried about losing a kid, having someone jump over a fence, or any other number of nightmare scenarios. Of course nothing bad happened. Not only did nothing bad happen, but a lot of good happened. I saw friendships blossoming, compassion growing, and children having the time of their lives. A week later, we were at Urban Air, and I got to see kids come further out of their shells, trying new things, helping younger campers through obstacles, and again just having a great time. From making a literal leap of faith, to falling asleep on the bus ride home, there was a lot for me to remember as we move ahead.

We are close to being done for the summer, but our work is just beginning. Every day is the start of a something great and something new that God is doing in the world, and I am glad to be a part of it here at The Open Door. — Brian Mack



Preschool



A few throwback pictures from last year. Above- The ps group wearing masks after learning about birds.



Above- Launching Bats using straws as part of our nocturnal lessons. Below- Moving & grooving with Hula Hoops during a gym class.



Preschool is preparing for another great year beginning in September. Our staff will start later this month with professional training development, curriculum planning, CPR certification, as well as cleaning the classrooms and getting them ready as we welcome our next group of learners. We'll meet the families before school begins during our **Preschool in the Park Play date on Thursday, August 31**. This is a fun way to interact with families, exchange information, and get to know the children before **preschool begins on September 5 & 6**.

This year we are bringing back our Hoagie Sales! The Italian or Turkey subs will be freshly made by Silver Star Meats. Sales will begin in October.

We are also excited to hold the **MAD MEX Dinner Fundraiser on October 3** at the Robinson location. This fun, event includes Fajitas, chips, salsa & guac, dessert, and drinks. Be sure to reserve your ticket, only 50 spots are available. See flyer for more details and talk to Cheri Mack for tickets and information.

Volunteers needed-

Would you love to be part of our vibrant ministry? We are looking for individuals who can engage with the children, help with transitions and classroom activities.

We will hold a volunteer **training on Tuesday, September 19 and Wednesday, October 11**. Talk with Cheri Mack if you would like to join us or need more information

Prayer Concerns

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

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).

August Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Luke Barnes |
| 3 rd | Ryan Lane Eleanor Arlet Hunter Ciechanowski |
| 4 th | Ella Fullwood |
| 6 th | Kitty Kistler Barbara Prevost Rucker Wolbert |
| 9 th | Florence Hall |
| 12 th | Carolyn Dunhoff |
| 14 th | Joe Knouff |
| 17 th | Lauren Mack Laurel Williams |
| 18 th | Madalyn Kistler |
| 19 th | Dennis Piper |
| 20 th | Madison Chlystek |
| 21 st | Brogan Adler |
| 23 rd | Mary Prather Kathleen Schaffer |
| 24 th | Nathan Abel Kati Ault |
| 26 th | Steve Imler Rachele Jacob |
| 28 th | Rebecca Mehl Henry Simcox |
| 29 th | Jessica Frick |

Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Services are Sundays at 10:00 am, throughout August.

Online Worship: Each Sunday at 10:00 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=PLU5XsLRABddh2dgu38_W9bbRu9wYaOB4

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.

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/>

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.

Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who came and donated at the CHUP Blood Drive. We collected **18 units** of blood that will in turn help **54 patients** in area hospitals. That's really awesome. Thank you!

Please mark your calendar for the next drive scheduled for, **Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 8:00 am - 12:30 PM.** Hope to see you there.

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!



CHC Preschool Benefit Dinner

October 3
2023

MAD MEX



Fajitas



chips & gauc

Join us for a Fajita Party!

Dinner includes- Mad Mex steak & chicken fajitas grilled with onions & peppers served with sour cream, guacamole pico de Gallo & tortilla. Includes Mexican Chocolate Brownies, Dos Equis draft or House Margarita.

Gratuity Included



Only 50 Tickets available

\$60 each - contact Cheri Mack to purchase



Mark your calendars, because you are invited to the
CHUP All Church Retreat
 September 8-10 at Crestfield Camp and Conference
 Center 195 Taggart Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Leadership will be provided by CHUP Church Members.

There will be no childcare or separate sessions for kids. We plan to enjoy one another's company with games and activities throughout the weekend, with a few times of devotions and singing.

Accommodations

Scott Lodge has hotel-like rooms with private baths. Linens and towels are provided.

All meals are included (breakfast only Sunday)

A deposit of \$50 is required to reserve your room.

Checks are made payable to the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights.

Because we want to encourage families of all sizes to participate, there is a \$300 maximum per family, and additional financial help is available. For more information, contact Erlina Mae Adler at 412-215-9711 or erlinamae.adler@puccs.org

Please detach the bottom portion and return with payment to Erlina Mae Adler by August 20th. You may keep the top portion as a reminder!

All Church Retreat Reservation Form (return with payment to Erlina Mae Adler by August 20)

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

| Lodging | # People | Price per person | Totals |
|--|----------|------------------|--------|
| Scott Lodge Adult Single Occupancy | | \$215 | |
| Scott Lodge Adult Double Occupancy | | \$140 | |
| Scott Lodge Adult Triple Occupancy | | \$125 | |
| Scott Lodge Child 6-13 years | | \$50 | |
| Scott Lodge Child 0-5 years | | free | |
| Additional Cot/ Mattress without bedding | | \$10 | |
| Additional Cot/ Mattress with bedding | | \$15 | |
| Day Use (come for the day only) | | \$50 | |
| Total | | | |
| Deposit | | \$50 | |
| Balance Due | | | |

First United Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights
50 Stratmore Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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