



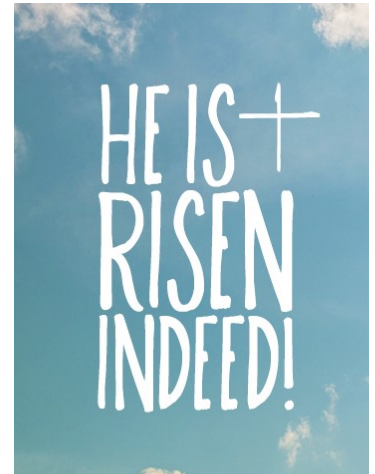
The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

On Sunday morning, April 4, our congregation will once again celebrate the joyful news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. And yet, as we did in 2020, we'll welcome this Easter in a different, and possibly more muted, fashion than we did in the years before the Coronavirus pandemic. We are not "back to normal" yet, and some of us can be forgiven for wondering if we ever will be.

All of this has me thinking not of the first Easter, but of the second or third Easters. Historians will tell us that the earliest recorded celebration of Easter took place in second century. We have fragments of a sermon preached by a man called Melito of Sardis that indicate that the church had begun to note Easter as a true festival and/or feast day. But that's more than a hundred years after the events described in the Gospels... and so I got to wondering – what did the church do on the FIRST anniversary of the resurrection? Clearly, they knew that Jesus had been raised; they could literally remember it having occurred. And yet there's no record of a large turnout at worship that week, or special forms to order lilies, or who was in charge of the breakfast (which certainly would NOT have included bacon!).



Here's what I think: at that point in the church's life it was important for them to simply be the church. Their numbers were small, their theology was continuing to clarify, and the application of the Gospel truth to their daily lives took precedence over ritual observance. More than that, I would imagine, is the fact that they saw their existence as precarious. Each week represented its own triumph; each assembly meant a new opportunity to proclaim the gift of life. In that way, I suspect the church was living into the words that Paul would later write to the believers in Corinth: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." For the early church, EACH WEEK was Easter.

There are a variety of opinions as to why the church came to embrace the Easter festival in the Spring. Some folks say that the Christians were eager to distract potential converts from a Pagan ritual; others point to a dissociation with the Jewish tradition. By the time we're into the second century, history and motives are murky. But this I know: on the first anniversary of Jesus' resurrection, small groups of folks huddled in various corners of the Empire and whispered to one another, "He is risen!", and replied by saying, "He is risen indeed!"

Easter is not about the crowd and the pageantry and the fashion; it's about affirming the fact that when we are at our lowest, God meets us and sees us through. As we engage in our second Easter of the Coronavirus pandemic, may we give thanks for the fact that we have never been alone. I'm grateful to our amazing worship team and the dedicated crew of volunteers and staff who makes this ministry possible. I may not "see" you in worship this Easter, but I hope to join you there somehow!

He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Dave

Preschool

This month's education pack was filled with ocean animal activities. The children were able to create their own ocean mobiles to help them practice their cutting and counting skills. The packs also included fun poems, sorting and categorizing activities, and writing and tracing worksheets.

REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN for the 2021/22 Preschool Year! 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. Additional scholarships may be available for qualified families.

We will follow all Covid 19 and CDC guidelines to ensure the wellbeing of our students, staff, and families, as well as other building guidelines including sanitizing toys and surfaces.

Please visit our web page <https://chup.org/preschool/> for an application and more information about our program, or contact Cheri Mack cherischool@comcast.net



The Open Door

We welcome a new Executive Director to the Open Door Youth Outreach. Mr. Bruce Blackburn is a long-time friend of this ministry: in fact, when he was working with the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation more than twenty years ago, he was among those who developed the Cross Trainers Summer Camp. Bruce is a graduate of Langley High School who has received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Geneva College, a US Air Force veteran, and has served in a number of ministry and social service agencies in and around Pittsburgh. He is an elder at the Allegheny Center Alliance Church, and he and his wife, Sherita, make their home in the Chartiers City neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Bruce and Sherita have two children, David (16) and Ben (19).



Prayer Concerns

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

Sympathy

To Fay Reynolds, on the death of her husband of 72 years, **Bill Reynolds**. Cards may be sent to 203 Old Chapin Road, Apartment 129, Lexington SC 29072-2083.

Electronic Giving

Go to <https://chup.org/giving/> for easy options. Thank you for supporting our many ministries!

April Birthdays

- 1st Danielle Sites
- 2nd Jennifer McNamara
- 4th Brittney Jacob
- 8th Joey Szumigalski
- 9th Debbie Jacob
- 13th Colton McNamara
- 14th Barbara Wasner
- 15th Michele Evans
- Dolly Petagno
- 20th Keion Powell
- Bob Walters
- 22nd John McConnell
- Bethany Fullwood
- 23rd Aviva Gielarowski
- Jeremiah Fullwood
- Lindsay Frick
- 24th Hailey Eadie
- 25th Samaiya Gielarowski
- 26th Michelle Imler
- 27th Linda Pearson
- 29th Rachel Salinetto
- Eric Eadie

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?list=PLU5XsLRABddh2dgu38_W9bbRu9wYaOB4

Easter Week Worship

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday: 11:00 am

All Worship Services will follow the guidelines listed above. Those who wish to attend in person must pre-register by emailing the office. Services will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page, and again posted on our YouTube channel. All links are listed above.

Food Pantry Needs

Apple Juice, Granola/fruit bars, Rice, Instant potatoes, Pasta and sauce, Tuna, Noodles/Rice packets, and Peanut butter/jelly. We also accept donations for grocery gift cards.

Meetings

Session
 4/21
 7:00 pm

Deacons
 4/11
 1:00 pm

Preschool
 4/5
 7:00 pm

Steering Committee
 4/8
 7:00 pm

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