



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor  
www.chup.org  
April 2022

Sometimes when I read the Bible I get a kick out of the way that time is referenced. Some times are very specific. When Isaiah is talking about his call to ministry, he mentions that it came “in the year that King Uzziah died.” Zechariah received his call “in the eighth month, in the second year of Darius.”

Other times are more seasonally referenced. II Samuel 11 talks about “in the spring, when kings go off to war...” as if it’s something that everyone knows. Some feasts, like Purim, are held annually, but they fall on different days because the Hebrew reckonings of dates is different than that of our Gregorian calendar.

And, of course, many of the events in the Bible happen at a time that is non-specific. “And then...” or “Sometime later...”



I’m thinking of all of these things because I can’t help but describe of the major holiday of April 2022 as being “the third Easter of the pandemic.” Five years ago, that phrase would have been nonsensical to anyone. And yet as you read these words, you are shaking your head and saying, “Wow, he’s right. This is the third Easter of the pandemic...” By God’s grace, may it be the last Easter in the pandemic – but stay tuned. We’ll know more six months or a year from now.

In the meantime, I suspect that you, like me, are starting to think about some of the possibilities that are open to you in 2022 that seemed a little more remote in previous months. What does “new life” look like to you? Where has your reality changed?

The unusual story about Jesus having risen from the dead, along with some rather vague hope about life after death for each of us, seems to be the main message of Easter. Yet neither of those things, on the surface, seems to do more than scratch the surface of what the world needs right about now. Anxiety is at an all-time high; inflation has reared its ugly head; we are still grieving friends we’ve lost in the past couple of years. Things are hard.

New Testament scholar N. T. Wright penned, “For his first followers, when Jesus came out of the tomb on Easter morning it was the beginning of a whole new world. A world of healing and hope. This new world—visible in changed lives and a radically new community—bypassed the politicians and power brokers (much to their annoyance) and began to make waves. The movement spread rapidly, like the pandemic but with the opposite effect: people were healed, both physically and socially.” (Time, 04/02/2021)

One of the reasons that the movement spread was that people found themselves attracted to, accepted in, and eager to share the gift of community. The first Jesus-followers described themselves as “neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female”, but “one in Christ Jesus.” As the days lengthen and warm, my hope and prayer is that you would find yourself immersed in the practice of such community – whether it be through intentional and regular worship, or participation in a small-group ministry, or a deliberate practice of friendship and shared time with a few special people. Let us be the community that both grows out of and points toward the reality of an empty tomb and the hope that it brings right now. I’ll look for you in worship!

Pastor Dave

# SPRING FELLOWSHIP

## Fellowship Opportunities

- Our Tuesday Ladies group meets at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, as we continue our "Lent in Plain Sight" study! This will continue until after Easter Sunday - when we will begin a new series by Max Lucado "You'll Get Through This" (Hope and help for turbulent times). We gather for about an hour for coffee, tea and snacks, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend!
- Children of all ages are welcome Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM for our one-room Sunday School! We meet in the old choir room on the first floor.
- The Youth Group will once again be spending time learning about those around our world who engage in struggle. As in past years, we will have a Famine Fundraiser. During the season of Lent, the kids will be raising money for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Our Famine experience will culminate during the Spring Retreat on April 1-3, when we'll go without food for 30 hours while studying the impact of income inequality, natural disaster, and trade practices on human suffering. If you'd like to know more, please speak with Bruce, Hannah, or Pastor Dave!
- **Jesus Christ Superstar**—The Congregational Life Committee has purchased a block of tickets to Jesus Christ Superstar which will be performed by Pittsburgh Musical Theater at the Gargaro Theater in the West End of Pittsburgh. We will attend the April 10 performance at 6:30 PM. The cost of tickets is \$30 for adults and \$20 for students, payable to Barbara Prevost. The theater requires proof of vaccination, a photo ID and a mask. All are welcome !

## One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression 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. Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to help those in need through these three programs. You can give starting March 2 until April 17.

## CHUP Blood Drive

Many thanks to everyone that donated at the CHUP Blood Drive on February 27. We had another successful drive. We collected **27 units** of blood which is amazing. What is even more amazing is that **81 patients** will benefit from your generosity. That is huge! Thank you for supporting our blood drive and for helping our neighbors in need.

Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive scheduled for **Sunday, June 5** from 8:00 AM—12:30 PM. We hope to see you there.

## The Open Door

*Grounded in principles of the Christian faith, but open to all, The Open Door Youth Outreach exists to improve the lives of neighborhood youth through programming that supports strong self-identity, resiliency and behavioral competence. We are intentional in purposeful community engagement through academic assistance, social interaction and athletics, with caring adult volunteers in an environment of safety and fun.*

### Friday Night Rec

Friday Night Rec continues to be the spot and a safe place for young people to hang out with their friends and trusted adults on Friday nights. In the midst of flying dodge and kick balls and the pitter patter of little sneakers running around the Open Door building, several youths find refuge in the upstairs arts and crafts room. There they have opportunity to relax and chat while tapping in to their artistic side. Many interesting creations from glued popsicle sticks to Legos to coloring pages reside in the room after the night is done. This is also an opportunity for adult volunteers to hang out and build relationships with youth while also being creative. The lounge area is still in the planning stages of being prepared for use for those who just want to hang out and chat with their friends. If you are willing or you know someone who is willing to volunteer a few hours a month at Friday Night Rec or any of the other programs of the Open Door, please don't hesitate to contact me for more details.



### Chess Club

Chess night at the Open Door in conjunction with the Queens Gambit Chess Institute continue to meet on the last Wednesday of each month. It is open to all ages who like to play chess or want to learn how or want to improve their game. It is a nice opportunity for young thinkers and senior mentors to hang out and build relationships. As this develops, it is my prayer that the Open Door Chess Club will continue to grow and encourage chess enthusiasts to join us at the Open Door. Chess nights will be put on hold for the summer months. But until then we will be here ready to teach, play and learn the game of chess. If you are interested in giving chess night a try, look for our next sign up on our website or contact Bruce.

### Benefits of Chess



Sharp Memory  
Calculated  
Concentration  
Innovative  
Creativity  
Self Dependent



**There are many reasons to choose chess. It makes kids smart, it helps kids to focus. It helps them visualize what their opponent is going to play. They have to think ahead.**



## The Open Door *Continued*

Mark your calendar for these upcoming important dates for the Open Door and CHUP Youth Group in 2022:

- Friday Night Rec will pause for the summer after Friday, May 27
- Open Door Chess Club on Wednesday night's: March 30, April 27, May 25
- CHUP/Open Door Youth Retreat @ Windy Ridge – April 1-3 , 2022
- "Kids of Steel" (K-5th) running program for the upcoming Pittsburgh Kid's Marathon on April 30
- Open Door Golf Outing June 10, 2022 @ 1pm at Quicksilver Golf Course
- Cross Trainers Summer Camp June 27 - August 5
- CHUP/Open Door Youth Missions Trip – August 8-12
- Friday Night Rec resumes September 9 through December 16, 2022

Check out our website at [theopendoorpg.org](http://theopendoorpg.org) for up to date information, financial donations, event registration and volunteer sign ups. If you are interested in helping out, in any way, or want more information please contact Bruce at [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org) or at 412-921-6153 Ext. 14.





### Preschool

We have continued our animal theme into March learning about the African Savanna animals. The children were eager to share their knowledge of elephants, hippos and lions with us as we explored the great Savanna. We danced with rain sticks, as we moved like the animals. We enjoyed making hand puppets and using colorful shaving cream to create fun paintings.

Enrollment for the 2022/23 school year is going on now. We have an Open House Tour scheduled for April 20 from 1:00-2:00pm . Please tell your friends to visit us and see what we're all about!

Our last hoagie sale of the year is due April 17. Order an Italian or Turkey hoagie for \$8 each. Pick up day is April 27 between 4:45 & 6:00 PM.



VENMO



## Crafton Heights Community Preschool

2022/23 ENROLLMENT GOING ON  
NOW!

Do Not Delay—We anticipate full enrollment before May.

Our program is Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:00 AM -12:00 PM and we offer both Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Our nurturing teachers and stimulating curriculum foster social, academic, and physical skills. Our goal is to provide the personal and educational foundations necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Check out our FACEBOOK page and look at the albums to see all of our great learning activities.

Call for more information and an application. 412-921-6153

### Preschool Staff Highlight

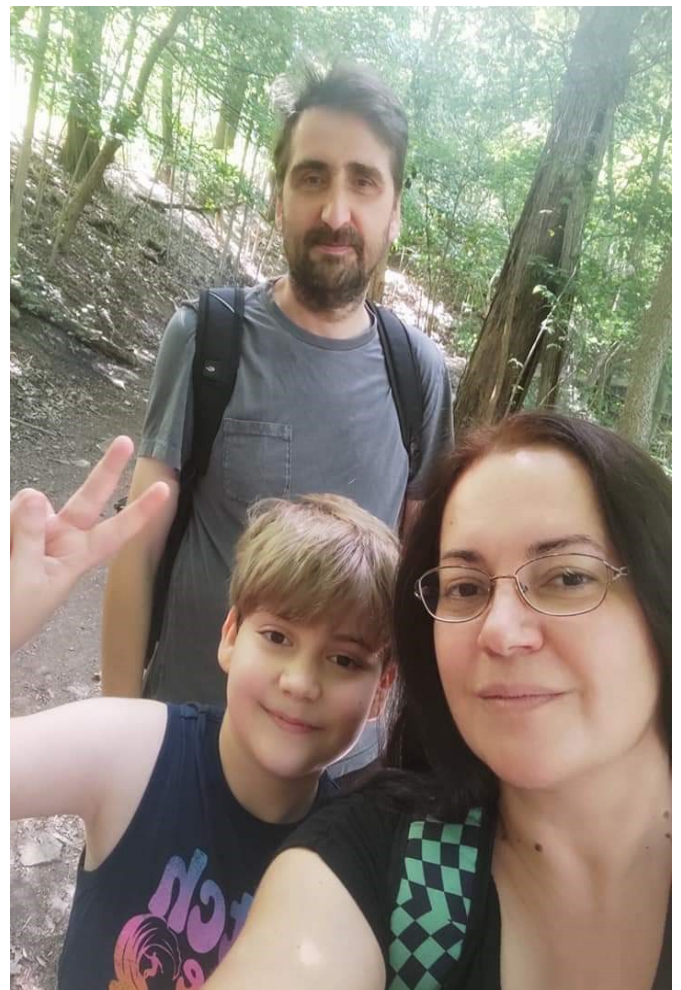
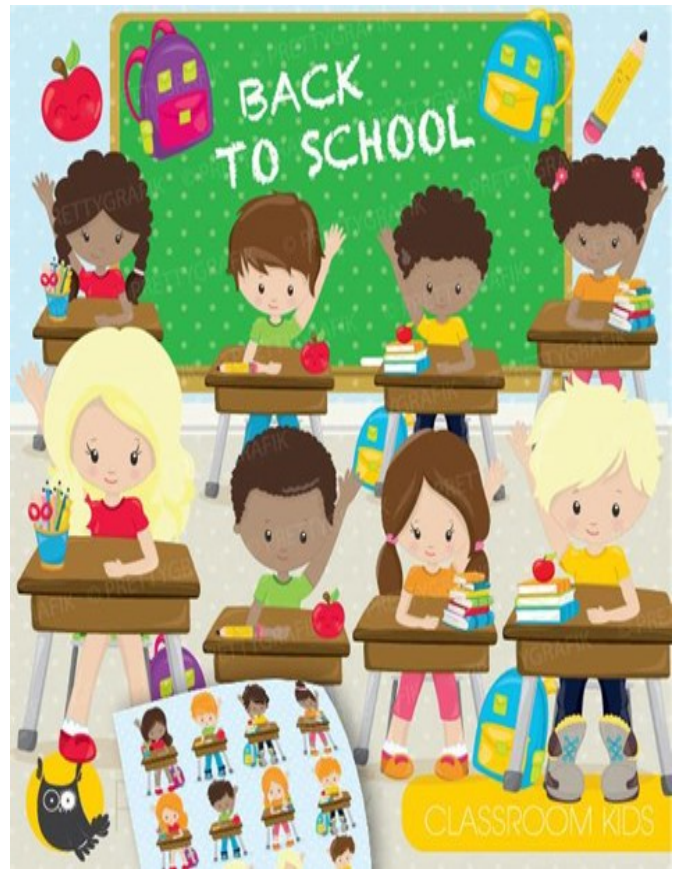
I'd like to re-introduce my teaching staff at Crafton Heights Community Preschool. It's been a long COVID season and we are busy teaching, learning, and growing on the 3rd floor of this old building. Mrs. Popovic works in the Blue Room. The children call her Ms. Zee.

My name is Zorica Popovic, and I have been with CHCP for a few years now, first as a volunteer, and since 2018 as a classroom aid.

This year I was given the responsibility of being the assistant teacher in the blue room.

My favorite things about working in the preschool environment are having meaningful conversations with kids, playing with them and inspiring them to create art. I also enjoy crafting and preparing learning and playing activities for them.

My husband Vlad and I have been living in Crafton Heights since 2009. We have a son Stefan who turned 10 in March. He likes Legos, science, and video games. During Spring and Summer we enjoy gardening and visiting parks and pools around Pittsburgh. We also like taking trips to Lake Erie and, when we get a chance, to the beach.



## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

As Lent continues, we celebrate the fact that these young people have made their public profession of faith and that Session has welcomed them as Covenant Members of the church. We celebrate God's faithfulness in the lives of these Youth Group and Confirmation Class members!

Ethan Chacon  
126 W. Prospect Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA

- A student in the Montour district, Ethan is a curious, energetic, and empathetic young man. He enjoys sports, reading, drawing, and cooking, and looks forward to more involvement at CHUP with Youth Group and other ministries.

Jacob Chacon  
126 W. Prospect Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA

- Like his younger brother, Jacob is a student at Montour. He is an avid wrestler who also loves to learn about animals. He has appreciated the Youth Group at CHUP as well as the hospitality he has seen here.

Isabella Fabiann  
1260 Clairhaven St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

- Isabella is active in many different places: she loves softball, plays video games, enjoys reading, and is a dedicated member of her Girl Scout Troop. She enjoys arts and crafts, and was received upon profession of faith and baptism.

Eryn Mangan  
102 Palomino Dr.  
Oakdale, PA 15071

- Eryn is fairly new to Western PA, having moved here with her sister in 2021. If you've been to worship since then, you've seen Eryn with her sister and mom (Terri Mulkerrin). She has already volunteered as a Sunday School teacher here, and in her free time enjoys reading, making art, and video games.

Lydia Veltman  
1268 Clairhaven St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

- Lydia is a long-time member of the CHUP community who enjoys dance, baton twirling, and reading. She is a student at Pittsburgh CAPA, and appreciates the musical ministry that the CHUP Worship Team offers so faithfully each week.



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Cheryl Shaw, Ray Schaffer

**Friends & Relatives:** Adrienne Parris Reynolds, Sue Whitaker, Than & Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet, Jr., Peter Veltman, Lisa Myers, Wayne Arlet, Joe Mehl, Teresa Stacy

## April Birthdays

1st	Danielle Sites
2nd	Jennifer McNamara
4th	Brittney Jacob
8th	Joey Szumigalski
9th	Debbie Jacob
12th	McKenna Mangan
13th	Colton McNamara
14th	Barbara Wasner
15th	Michele Evans Dolly Petagno
18th	Lorraine Ault
20th	Keion Powell
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



## Runner Articles

Information or articles for the May Runner are due by Monday, April 18.

You may email them to Marissa at the church office: [chup@chup.org](mailto:chup@chup.org)

## 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)

## 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.

Please visit [www.chup.org](http://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.

## Mark Your Calendar!

The next CHUP Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, June 5 from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. We 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](mailto:dave@chup.org) and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day.



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



*"The Runner"* A Monthly Newsletter published by The First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights